

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 38

SUBJECT- MIND - 02/22/15

Dwelling in Mind

To me this lesson captures the spirit of the 91st Psalm--dwelling in the secret place of the most High--in Mind!

I find it to be a perfect illustration of the Comforter. Thank God for Mary Baker Eddy's revelation. It is immensely comforting to identify myself as an idea of the One Mind--and not as some helpless mortal thrust upon earth having to deal with the unknown--false goods that a secular society spends all its time trying to sell us.

This lesson beautifully illustrates how God keeps us, how we are in the hand of God. We have to do our part by trusting in the Lord and obeying Him (ahh, this last one, the obedience part, I learned here at Plainfield!).

Through thick and thin, these words have always been a favorite source of comfort:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3: 5-6

I love this Bible lesson! Heartfelt thanks to the inspired lesson writer. *****

So right Trust and Obey. It reminds me of a song we used to sing, didn't mean too much then but what a great admonition it is:

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey. John H. Sammis,
1887. *****

Which Mind?

Deepest gratitude for this excellent lesson. Mrs. Eddy's pointed advice in Science and Health (p. 83): "it is wise earnestly to consider whether it is the human mind or the divine Mind which is influencing one." is a clear direction which will be very helpful to use in living each day. Unspeakable gratitude for the rich blessings in every chapter of her wonderful textbook. *****

Laura Sargent gave thanks not to God, but as God. It has been on my mind a few days, also. Let that Mind be IN you that was also in Christ Jesus really means: let that Mind be you. Mrs. Eddy teaches that the word IN is obsolete if used with reference to God. So, the Bible text from Acts: For in Him we live, we move, and have our being, really should read: For AS Him we live, move and have our being.

Mind is infinite, so it follows it is the only Mind, so we must Be this Mind or be nothing really..as mortal mind is nothing, no thing..but a delusive mental state. Not part of being. *****

This one Mind is what Christ Jesus expressed throughout His healing work; that has to be why He

only saw the perfect man.

When we realize that there is one Mind, the divine law of loving our neighbor as ourselves is unfolded; whereas a belief in many ruling minds hinders man's normal drift towards the one Mind..... *Science and Health*, p. 205:22-25 emphasis added.

I find this one of the most important truths we MUST all practice. It's easy to say it but am I really living it? Am I knowing my neighbor that I am indifferent to, has this same mind, in truth? Do those people who look different have this same mind? And the list goes on... *****

Because there is only One Mind, the rule of loving our neighbors becomes easier. I work daily to practice this rule. I thought I was loving my neighbor, but since working and praying at the Plainfield church, I have come to realize that this has to be a consistent priority. I don't have to "worry" what a person is thinking when I concentrate on the One Mind in operation... All-in-all. *****

Mind the Synonym for God

I, too, am grateful to have the Lesson this week on Mind. I read and reread 151:15-19..".The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness.....The straight and narrow way is to see and acknowledge this fact, yield to this power, and follow the leadings of truth."

What a relief to yield to God's ever present love and let Him control my life and family.*****

Be Not Wise

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

This statement was a command to me that I shouldn't think I know anything. I need to be humble and get rid of pride by going to God for all my answers. I need to be afraid of disobeying God. To me this is departing from evil.

Thank you lesson writer. Wonderful lesson.

Your Sleep Shall Be Sweet

Prov. 3:24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

There is no kidding myself anymore that I just could not sleep. Studying Christian Science laid it bare that when I could not sleep something was going on in thought! There was always some worry, anxiety, which are forms of fear.

But here this scripture is an example of the Truth, which assures a sweet sleep, if I cease to be afraid.

These verses from the Bible and *Science and Health* prove we need not continue to suffer; Truth is here, we simply must practice it to live the benefits it has to comfort mankind! *****

Don't Blame the Women!

In Science, we know that there is nothing apart from our consciousness. And we understand the great Truth that God is governing everything in our entire sphere of thought.

When "strange women" (any suggestion that God is not All and man is separate and capable of sin) rise up, the Scientist removes the mask of error and sees God and man in His image and likeness. This is how we express our dominion.

Solomon had fallen away long before the strange women appeared. He had already let his mental guard down. Possibly he accepted as real, many other subtle suggestions over time, dulling his senses, draining his oil little by little. The watchman let his house get vandalized. *****

I love this - so glad the women are not being blamed. And no doubt by that time Solomon was neck high into materialism and susceptible to all kinds of suggestions. It is also true error comes to us in many disguises. While in one instance we may see it for what it is and be able to resist - while in another instance someone not alert can get blindsided. What is the name of that song - "the devil had a blue dress on."? As Mrs. Eddy says

error is neither person, place or thing - in belief however it is very cunning and would play upon the weaknesses of pride and ego in order to spin its web. *****

SUBJECT - CHRIST JESUS – 03/01/15

Church

Jesus never built a church building, nor do we have any record of his telling his disciples to build a church. Yet he gave us the basis of his church, the "spiritual foundation of Christ-healing." (S&H) The early Christians built churches and met together and healed. That is why the movement flourished. It was only after a few hundred years that the "organization" lost its spiritual foundation of healing and became a mere human organization.

Mrs. Eddy established a church after taking her text book to many of the established Christian churches of the time and getting shot down. Her church was established on the same basis as that of Jesus - the recognition of the Christ spirit which heals both the sick and sinning. The Christian Science movement also flourished in its early years as many came to its doors and were healed.

The independent Christian Science movement is now gathering followers who are finding healing. May I never lose sight of the basis of the true church. Mrs. Evans used to say that a church is like a chain, and only as good as its weakest link. I like to think that I am not in the church, but that the church is in me. It was certainly in Peter, and in many of Jesus' other disciples. *****

Yes, the structure of what? Truth and Love. When there is a weak link, we can clasp hands or hug this link, so that the chain does not break. *****

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Bicknell Young's article on church in his 1937 College, p. 81-91 is very helpful on the right idea of church. *****

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

This from the lesson is significant: they had no church building but it says "the Lord added to the church daily," which could mean the spiritual unity demonstrating the structure of Truth and Love.

As we strive to "live" church the Lord will add to this church. *****

I love what it says in the Manual under Historical Sketch – "In the spring of 1879, a little band of earnest seekers after Truth went into deliberation over forming a church without creeds, to be called 'Church of Christ, Scientist.' They were members of evangelical churches, students of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy in Christian Science, and were known as 'Christian Scientists.'

At a meeting of the Christian Scientist Association, April 12, 1879, on motion of Mrs. Eddy, it was voted, - To organize a church designed to commemorate the word and works of Our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." (p. 17)

Sometimes it is good to go back to basics, the root of it all, the purest sense of church – "without creeds" and to remind ourselves of the real purpose of our church for it is in commemorating the "word and works of our Master and to reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." Thank you Mrs. Eddy for your divine idea - may God enable us to be equal to the task! *****

Thank you for the reminder of the historical roots of our church. In the lesson Acts 2: 46 it talks about singleness of heart, and that defines Plainfield for me. This beautiful Lesson has given me a new understanding of Pentecost and what really happened. The disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost not so much for their own comfort, but to go out into all the world and to all creatures to preach about God's love and to heal. Matthew Henry says,"

Let us all be of one accord, let us agree to love one another." *****

Fear of The Lord

Isaiah 11

2. And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3. And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4. But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

The “fear of the Lord” as mentioned here doesn’t feel like it has the same meaning here as does in other parts of the Bible. This “fear of the Lord” feels more like a parent’s concern for a child. The concern that sent Jesus to show us the way. The concern that led Jesus to leave the instructions, “Feed my sheep.” The concern that gave us Mary Baker Eddy, Christian Science, and everything that makes this church useful to God.

God wants us to be free of belief.

7. *Science and Health*, p. 494:

But mortals did need this help, and Jesus pointed the way for them.

I am so grateful that Principle is not indifferent! God is Love and has not left me in this state of belief without the tools and constant guidance I need. Because of this, I have felt a slow transition away from being fearful about doing something wrong, into a concern that I do the work I am given as perfectly as possible, so that whomever it reaches, it reaches in the right way as God intends.

Now, I am not scared of God. The only thing I fear is turning from Him, because I know right where it leads, right back to that “dark, impenetrable cloud

of error” that Mrs. Eddy wrote about in Pond and Purpose. I am so grateful that God brought me to this church, and that He has found a use for me. There is no going back. *****

All the People Need

When Jesus was questioning his disciples as to who he really was (and not coming up with the right answer), “Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered that “flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” and upon this rock – this recognition, Jesus would build his church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Mrs. Eddy is quoted as saying,

“All the people need, in order to love and adopt Christian Science, is a true sense of its founder. In proportion as they have found it, will our Cause advance.” These statements are of such huge significance for us today. To hold the right concept of Christ Jesus and of Mrs. Eddy is essential. Error would try more than anything else to discredit Mrs. Eddy and her Revelation in anyway it possibly can – all you have to do is look on the internet!

Our work is to cherish the true sense of “its founder” in our own hearts and to know the Truth will banish the lie. Thank God for the Carpenter books, for giving us such a clear and accurate portrayal of Mrs. Eddy – and if you read “Discerning the Rights of Man” by Richard Oakes you can appreciate how once again animal magnetism did all it could to suppress and destroy Carpenter’s works. We have been given much – and “unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.” (Luke)

For more information visit: www.painfieldcs.com or write to :

Plainfield Christian Science Church
PO Box 5619
905 Prospect Ave
Plainfield NJ 07061-5619