

***SUBJECT: ARE SIN, DISEASE,
AND DEATH REAL? - 10/13/13***

***Sin, sickness and death popular
gods?***

Can you imagine how outrageous this sounds to those who spend their lives serving those who are struggling with sin, sickness, and death, to those who are trying to understand how better to deal with them, with little attention to God – a terrible blow to their pride!!

This is so radical, and yet so perfectly sensible on the basis of God is good, and God healeth – and that "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

"If Christian Science takes away the popular gods, — sin, sickness, and death, — it is Christ, Truth, who destroys these evils, and so proves their nothingness."

Science and Health p 347:23-25

DESTROY – not learn to live with! Does this mean we become less compassionate -- it had better not!! We should be far more compassionate, entering the sick room or memorial service with a strength and dominion and compassion that is palpable, healing, instead of pitying and mourning.

I was brought low...

"I was brought low, and He helped me." "For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling." Ps. 116:6, 8. I couldn't get past this one this morning. This is what God has done for me - and for so many others. It fills me with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for such a Great and Good God. We owe Him our all. *****

Thank both you and the Bible Lesson author for this reminder. This is truly the only way to "look back" while keeping our hand on the plow without turning into a pillar of salt (apologies for mixing metaphors here).

Remembering past healings with a thankful heart, or recalling, with ever-growing appreciation, how God helped us overcome some personal weakness or sin, or gave us strength to transcend difficult, humanly impossible circumstances – imparts confidence to trust God to bring us through any present trial, regardless of how challenging it seems. This kind of recollection helps to heighten awareness of the presence of God-with-us in this now-moment. God, please help me, help us all, whenever reflecting on the past, to think in this way --- above all. *****

The only true healer!

"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved." Jer. 17:14.

The text rings out loud that only the Truth (Christ) really heals. This is so true because when I had worries about many things, nothing really took away my fears until the Christ activity through Science changed my understanding and took my fears away replacing them with the spiritual truths that are real.

Many get their symptoms "healed" either through self-will or their belief in some material remedy, but the fears often remain. Am I really healed if my fears of the claim still lurk around? *****

Jer. 17:14 (above) tells me there is only one way to have health, life, harmony and peace. Man has sought out many

inventions, created many human systems, drug treatment plans, fads etc. But they only change the outward appearance of matter. So the cause of the problem is NOT healed but covered over.

God is the only healer because Truth destroys error. Light illumines and eliminates darkness - leaving God's man perfect.

This is healing - the removal of sin and the presence of good. Anything else isn't healing. *****

When passing by the blind man, Jesus' disciples asked him "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus' answer set forth an invaluable principle. Nobody sinned! "But that the works of God should be made manifest in him." Here, Jesus made it clear that disease has no legitimate cause, so don't go looking for it. Too often I am tempted to wonder, "Where did this pain come from?" In *Science and Health* p 253: 11-14 "there is no cause (outside of erring, mortal, material sense which is not power) able to make you sick or sinful..."

This is why Christian Science is the sovereign panacea. You don't have to spend years in medical school to learn that disease is an illusion, the work of the devil, and that the remedy is to turn to Truth (God) with all your heart to eradicate the illusion ("the works of God should be made manifest in him").

Dear Mrs. Eddy implores us to "dispute the testimony of the material senses with divine Science." God is the only healer!

SUBJECT: DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT - 10/20/13

Spiritual vs. human thinking

It struck me this morning when reading the Bible Lesson that here was an example of how wrong human thinking is and our need to get rid of it. Last week it was brought out that the human mind needs not

to be redeemed, but gotten rid of. In Matt.16:17, Jesus praises Peter for his declaration that Jesus is the Christ (because revealed to him by God through spiritual sense); then in verse 23, he rebukes the human thinking when Peter says Jesus should not suffer the things that have been ordained, because this was just human emotion and reasoning, and is totally wrong. Jesus rebuked the devil, Satan, and put it out! *****

Excellent observation! A perfect example of how the same person can be divinely inspired one moment, and a voice of the devil the next. God is no respecter of persons! Only Mrs. Eddy has been able to explain this. We are nothing of ourselves, no separate mind or self - we are either expressing the divine Mind or "listening to" and accepting aggressive mental suggestion. *****

The human condition is always afraid of confrontation, destruction; always stuck in the belief that life is in this material body and therefore it must be protected at all costs. Not so Jesus. He was willing to "lose his life" so to speak, to teach the world that life is spiritual, not in matter. In spite of all his teaching and healing, his disciples didn't really get it until after his resurrection. They must have caught glimpses of it all along, but it required Jesus' resurrection to get them out of the human mind forever. This was God's will for mankind; hence Jesus' rebuke of Peter's desire to prevent it. Had his disciples been out of the human mind before the crucifixion, they would not have abandoned Jesus on the cross and the course of human history may have been very different. But they weren't. It was up to Jesus, alone with his Maker, to prove to the world that life is spiritual, not material.

Jesus' willingness to put all sense of self on the altar, to rebuke "human" goodness, to "lose his life" for God's sake, is the real demonstration of man's oneness with God,

for which "we owe him endless homage."

Revelation Interpreted by Rev. Kratzer
- an excellent publication available on
Amazon... covers the seven seals well -
"the Root of David, hath prevailed to open
the book, and to loose the seven seals
thereof." Rev. 5:5:
First Seal: The Militant Christ
Second: Human Will and Ambition
Third: Human Selfishness and Greed
Fourth: Materiality and Sensuality
Fifth: Revenge and Discouragement
Sixth: False Doctrine
Seventh: A Vision of the Millennium

And on p. 237, read about: Spiritual
Aspiration vs. Materiality and Sensuality
Spiritual Reason vs. Sensuousness and
Psychism and Spiritual Intuition vs. Worldly
Wisdom.

This book will help get the student off
"dead-center" on the subject of this thread.

Purge your conscience

"...How much more shall the blood of
Christ, who through the eternal Spirit
offered himself without spot to God, purge
your conscience from dead works to serve
the living God?" Heb. 9:14. To me this is
what the Atonement lesson and Mrs.
Eddy's chapter on Atonement and
Eucharist is all about – it purges my
conscience! Sometimes not a pleasant
process...I think it is interesting and timely
that the latest "Newsletter" quotes Mrs.
Eddy as saying from *Miscellany* that we
need to turn to this chapter on Atonement
in order to understand her demonstration of
Christian Science. She clearly and rightfully
so, identified with the sacrifices of "our
Lord." The question then becomes, "Am I
partaking of his cup – even in a small
degree?" "Am I rising up out of dead works
and am I willing to serve the living God in
the way that Jesus and Mrs. Eddy set

forth?" Ah, thus begins the purging of one's
conscience! *****

Of all the lines in this lesson, this struck
me the most. It reminded me of Jesus
saying, "Follow me; and let the dead bury
their dead." I need to ask myself: How
many works am I performing each day that
are inherently dead? How many ways am I
failing to serve the living God?

With honest reflection I can see that I
need to keep striving, and to do that I need
to first lift my thought as Gilbert Carpenter
wrote in [500 Watching Points](#): "If you
should fall through the ice, you would
become further imprisoned if you attempted
to swim at once for the shore. The first
thing to do is to rise."

What better way to rise than to purge
my conscience from dead works to serve
the living God? *****

Old theology?

Jesus died for our sins... Mrs. Eddy did
not shy away from this statement, but
addressed it head on. And so must we -
hence this lesson twice a year.

Atonement has been a central part of
the Jewish religion for thousands of years.
How to atone has evolved, but not the need
to. "How much more shall the blood of
Christ, who through the eternal Spirit
offered himself
without spot to God, purge your conscience
from dead works to serve the living God?"
Heb. 9:14. Ah! The elimination of perennial
guilt SO THAT WE CAN SERVE THE
LIVING GOD!!!

Oh may we never lose sight of this
purpose for Jesus' sacrifice, and Mary
Baker Eddy's uncovering what has been
hidden for 1800 years - all this teaching,
this truth, this self- immolation, etc. is not
just so we can have a life of harmony, but
SO THAT WE CAN SERVE THE LIVING
GOD!!! Who is this living God? Not the God
of our fathers, carved out in previous

generations for us to inherit without effort! No, it is our own individual highest understanding of God, yes, gleaned from previous enlightenment, but which evolves as we grow in Spirit - it is Life, Truth, and Love as we are faithful to our highest understanding of them.*****

Thank you, this is helpful to me. The desire to serve the living God is the only pure and innocent desire. The definition of Lamb of God: "innocence and purity; sacrifice" implies that one desire. And wasn't Jesus' mission to be an example for all of us? Isn't that why God made each one of us to serve Him? *****

What's with the Lamb?

I have always found it difficult to appreciate fully the Lamb symbolism. The following helps me a lot: "Divine Science shows how the Lamb slays the wolf. Innocence and Truth overcome guilt and error." *Science and Health* p 567:31-1

The wolf is guilt and error! The tyrannical tendency is extreme insecurity, it forfeits divine help, is essentially fraudulent, darkness. Innocence and Truth are like light to the darkness.

This is a powerful position to take in our watches! *****

When I read the Golden Text (John 5: 29) the words "Lamb of God" jumped out to me. Then, why would John call Jesus the Lamb of God? Thanks to our Bible studies, I remembered that in Jewish tradition, lambs were often used as sacrifice since way before Jesus time. What would the lamb symbolize – purity, innocence, sacrifice? "Lamb of God: The spiritual idea of Love; self-immolation; innocence and purity; sacrifice." *Science and Health* p 590:9. Jesus certainly expressed all of this!

I looked up "immolation" in Webster's 1828 Dictionary. It said, "to offer sacrifice." What could I offer as sacrifice? ...Be willing to let any error be exposed and destroyed?

(Easy for me to say, but not so easy or willing to do) Then I thought...willingness to give your (my) all for God. *****

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world... The Lamb of God represents innocence and purity. In innocence and purity there is no sin. Innocence dispels guilt because it is guiltless, just as light dispels darkness because there is no darkness in light. Our safety lies in our innocence, in our likeness to God, divine Love. We must be a transparency for Love and as such, we must reflect God and be obedient to Him, obedient to Love. So, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise"...we must reflect these things. *****

Why is there such a tendency to eliminate self-immolation and sacrifice from the definition of Lamb of God, and to cling to innocence and purity? Similarly, why do Christian Scientists love to cling to atonement being "at-one-ment" and ignore everything else Mrs. Eddy wrote about it?

I have seen the Christ-spirit in operation and I can assure you that there is nothing nice or passive about it!! The innocence and purity is a total reliance on God, with absolutely no concern about what people will think, or evaluation of risk, etc. The error is terrified by it, and the Christ-spirit takes no prisoners.

From definition of Jesus: "rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality." *Science and Health* p 589:16

From the definition of Christ: "to destroy incarnate error." *Science and Health* p 583:10

NOBODY is going to experience at-one-ment without taking up the cross - without giving up the desire to be liked, accepted, except in the eyes of God!!*****