

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Probation After Death –
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The Second Death

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation) Sometimes I get questions as to what is the second death. Mrs. Eddy addresses this in her chapter “Unity of Good.” On page 3 she writes, “They upon whom the second death, of which we read in the Apocalypse (Revelation xx.6), hath no power, are those who have obeyed God’s commands, and have washed their robes white through the sufferings of the flesh and the triumphs of Spirit. They have reached the goal in divine Science, by knowing Him in whom they have believed. This knowledge is not the forbidden fruit of sin, sickness, and death, but it is the fruit which grows on the ‘tree of life.’ This is the understanding of God, whereby man is found in the image and likeness of good, not of evil; of health; not of sickness; of Life, not of death.” And I love this found on page 41, “The sweet and sacred sense of the permanence of man’s unity with his Maker can illumine our present being with a continual presence and power of good, opening wide the portal from death into Life; and when this Life shall appear ‘we shall be like Him,’ and we shall go to the Father, not through death, but through Life; not through error, but through Truth.” *****

"In Science"

“Nothing can interfere with the harmony of being nor end the existence of man in Science.” (*Science and Health*). I remember Mrs. Evans teaching us that as long as we stay “in Science”—keep ourselves in the Truth, hold strongly to right, live in obedience to God to the very best of our ability—there is safety. But when we turn away from God and permit ourselves to be led astray,

that’s when the devil is waiting to cause chaos—in our lives, in our nation, in our world. Staying “in Science” will help lift the thought of all humanity to accept the Word of God and have the courage to stand for right. *****

Man Is, Not Shall Be

“The admission to one’s self that man is God’s own likeness sets man free to master the infinite idea. This conviction shuts the door on death, and opens it wide towards immortality.” *Science and Health*, p 90:24-27 Man is, always has been, and always will be, God’s own likeness. This conviction—with our whole heart, soul, and mind—is power. This is true for everyone. What a blessing! *****

All That Will Ever Be Lost

“It is impossible that man should lose aught that is real, when God is all and eternally his. The notion that mind is in matter, and that the so-called pleasures and pains, the birth, sin, sickness, and death of matter, are real, is a mortal belief, and this belief is all that will ever be lost.” (*Science and Health*). Sometimes when people become interested in Christian Science they become fearful they will have to give up or lose something good. All of this “God-stuff” can’t be much fun! That suggestion is a ploy of the devil. In fact the exact opposite is true. Christian Science enables your life to become better in every way because you will find it in God. Mrs. Eddy says, “The individuality of man is no less tangible because it is spiritual and because his life is not at the mercy of matter. The understanding of his spiritual individuality makes man more real, more formidable in truth, and enables him to conquer sin, disease, and death.” (*Science and Health*) All we ever have to give up is sin, disease, and death – and isn’t that wonderful?! *****

Believeth Thou This?

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Science and Health, p 582:1,2 Believing: Firmness and constancy; not a faltering nor a blind faith, but the perception of spiritual Truth.

The fact that Jesus talks quite a bit about believing in His discourse with Martha shows what we must put some of our “efforts for reform” into applying the Truth, until our beliefs become understanding and understanding grows into unswerving conviction.

It made me wonder if I ever questioned certain rules that I was given growing up. They became beliefs I held to so strongly. If I accepted those without proof why couldn't I believe what the Bible, especially as explained through Science was saying just as readily.

Is it not because of trusting or distrusting the source? Mrs. Eddy repeatedly uses the word admit and admission; we must accept, admit these Truths and work with them to prove their reality to ourselves. When I utter the Truth I must ask myself, Believest thou this? Do I trust what I am saying? This should help with some disciplining of thought as to which side I am on. *****

Thank you for pointing out that we must be willing to leave the old for the new, to be as little children in our willingness to obey our heavenly Father, to try the spirits, whether they be of God or not, etc. By this time, Jesus had spent three years teaching and demonstrating the laws of the universe by healing all sorts of disease. He was nearing the end of his mission, and he was expecting some people to begin to understand the Principle of his work. Afterward, he admitted to his disciples that there were some things he could tell them, but that they were not ready to hear them. It was left for Mrs. Eddy to discover the “Science” of Christianity. Now that we have the textbook, how serious am I to really learn this science and live my life in accordance with it? How willing am I to test it in my life and to prove Jesus' assertion that “the works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these...”?

In last week's lesson, we read “For true happiness, man must harmonize with his Principle, divine

Love;” (*Science and Health*) In order to harmonize with our Principle, we must know what it is! And since we are all looking for happiness, why not trust Mrs. Eddy and Jesus when they tell us to look for happiness in divine Principle. This must be what Jesus meant by his use of the word that is translated “believe.” *****

For The Glory of God

I just wonder how many times I used to see clearly that every claim can be used for the glory of God. Instead of the fearful down pulling reaction to the claims that came up, if I could just know that something good could come out of whatever was presenting to glorify God, it most likely would have set me forth on a stronger basis to work from. Thank God for these repeated examples that help us see the powerlessness of every error. *****

God Will Wipe Away Tears

Isaiah 25: 8 ...and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces:
Every time I read this, I can feel the love that God has for us. Only a loving parent would wipe away the tears from a small child, and in my experience, that is what God did for me when He brought me to Plainfield. What a wonderful God we have, constantly giving us such blessings! Thank you for this lesson. *****

SUBJECT – Everlasting Punishment – May 1st, 2016

The Wheat And The Tares

After reading the parable of the wheat and the tares in the lesson, I found the following from a letter written by Mrs. Eddy. It is from *Course In Divinity And General Collectanea*, (the “blue book”), page 127, and it is a good reminder to me that the work we do is in our consciousness.

You are growing. The Father has sealed you, and the opening of these seals must not surprise you. The character of Christ is

wrought out in our lives by just such processes. The tares and wheat appear to grow together until the harvest; then the tares are first gathered, that is, you have seasons of seeing your errors – and afterwards by reason of this very seeing, the tares are burned, the error is destroyed. Then you see Truth plainly and the wheat is ‘gathered into barns,’ it becomes permanent in the understanding. The healing will grow easier and be more immediate as you realize that God, good, is all, and good is Love. You must gain Love, and lose the false sense called love. You must feel the Love that never faileth, – that perfect sense of divine power that makes healing no longer power but grace. Then you will have the Love that casts out fear and when fear is gone doubt is gone and your work is done. Why? Because it never was undone. *****

Yes, thank you for sharing this. I was thinking this morning that the tares can be removed as we grow. ” The perfect Mind sends forth perfection, for God is Mind....Science separates the wheat from the tares, through the realization of God as ever present and of man as reflecting the divine likeness.” “Heaven is not a locality but a divine state of Mind in which the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal.” I say often during the day now, being is holiness, harmonious and immortal; also, God is my life, my health, my understanding, and my joy. Be gone tares! *****

The above quote that says “You must gain Love, and lose the false sense called love.”, and the mention of human goodness during our Bible Study today made me remember something I had read awhile ago from the Red Book, published I believe by Richard Oakes. It is an essay ascribed to Mary Baker Eddy on p. 57

“The letter alone without a due proportion of the spirit of Christian Science, almost inhumanizes a mortal; it chastises his material mode of love, of feeling, or being

either kind or true, and if he has not gained the spiritual sense of those, there is nothing left to him but the knowledge of a false sense of goodness which he must either loathe and lose the false sense of goodness, or else, having it, be consciously false to himself, and of necessity false to others. ‘To thine own self be true and it must follow as the night the day thou canst not then be false to any man.’ – Shakespeare.”

This quote spoke to me of my many confusions before coming here to Plainfield. I did not know what to do with feelings or how to pray over them. I also believed strongly that to be favored you must be humanly good. This certainly open the door for me to be false to myself and others which resulted in many years of unidentified suffering for me and those I came in contact with. Now through the grace of God, this church and practitioner support I have begun to unwind these snarls.*****

Burns The Wheat And Spares The Tares

In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states, “The basic error is mortal mind. Hatred inflames the brutal propensities.” And in Miscellany page 249 she also says, “Hate is a moral idiocy let loose for one’s own destruction. Unless withstood, the heat of hate burns the wheat, spares the tares, and sends forth a mental miasma fatal to health, happiness, and the morals of mankind...” Wow – burns the wheat and spares the tares! Very sobering thought! How important to safeguard ourselves against this malicious form of animal magnetism. It is not the Truth about God’s man, but it must be proven to be so. Any feelings of resentment, bitterness, ruminating over past wrongs etc. must never be indulged but destroyed! *****

The Unclean Spirit

The story of the unclean spirit found in Matthew 12 of this week’s lesson is an important one. I know

when I have spent much time “trying” to clear my thought of negativity and I concentrated only on that part of the process, I failed to fill it with the “enduring, the good and the true” – I made a big reality of the error and yes I was in a worse state than before! This is why Mrs. Eddy has so lovingly given us “What Our Leader Says” found on page 210 of Miscellany – “Beloved Christian Scientists, keep your minds so filled with Truth and Love, that sin, disease, and death cannot enter them. It is plain that nothing can be added to the mind already full. There is no door through which evil can enter, and no space for evil to fill in a mind filled with goodness. Good thoughts are an impervious armor; clad therewith you are completely shielded from the attacks of error of every sort. And not only yourselves are safe, but all whom your thoughts rest upon are thereby benefited.” *****

This story in Matthew 12 reminds me of a period of my life when I was clueless on how to live Christian Science, as I would only use it for intermittent relief but made no effort to be obedient to the laws of God.

At the time I had had a very abusive boyfriend (my own stupidity got me there) who finally exited my life. I felt free as a bird! But although I’m sure I felt grateful to God for such freedom, I was not putting Him first in my life, but just stumbling along.

Shortly thereafter a strange thing happened: I bumped into a friend of my former boyfriend in the street, listened to his crazy stories, and became entwined in a bizarre business proposition that would be my downfall (as well as others) and bring me to my knees. Looking back, I had certainly not kept my mind “filled with Truth and Love” and so was not alert to what was happening to me. I fell hook, line and sinker for the devil’s work until I hit rock bottom. I suffered total humiliation and monetary loss, but in retrospect it was the best thing that could have happened, as it burned pride out of me. I found Plainfield a few years later. Today that whole experience is like a bad dream, which is what it was.

Every time I read this passage in Matthew I am reminded of how I had not filled the void in my life with God’s truth, nor was I clad with good thoughts so as to be “shielded from the attacks of error of every sort,” and I easily became handled by the devil. I’m so grateful for how far I’ve come since then. The teachings in Plainfield got me on the right path! *****

Desiring Harmony

Science and Health, p 537 Truth guards the gateway to harmony.

So in those trying times we could check if we have Truth at the door of our thinking. Am I pondering the Scientific Statement of Being, How long ago did I use the synonyms in reference to what is my true being; am I claiming the Christ Mind as my mind etc. If I desire peace I must practice these simple instructions the Bible and *Science and Health* makes available to all. We use the Truth and the Truth does its work for us. ***

The lawyers for error and discord are very convincing and aggressive, constantly attacking my consciousness with messages of evil and dismay, whether it is things from the news, or acts from people around me, or from my own belief in a material body-selfhood. Lies seem reality.

Then I have to pray and think deeply, to realize that God is Mind, He is a Thinker, and can create and give only thoughts and ideas. I have to blot out all sense of a personal, material self, and persistently allow only His thoughts, the presence of that Love which is All-in-all. Divine thought constitutes Truth, or reality. There is nothing else.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”