

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Ancient And Modern  
Necromancy..... May 29<sup>th</sup> 2016**

## No Hypnotism, No Mesmerism

*Science and Health*, p 203. The scientific unity which exists between God and man must be wrought out in life-practice, and God's will must be universally done.

No and Yes, p. 36:12-20

The real Christ was unconscious of matter, of sin, disease, and death, and was conscious only of God, of good, of eternal Life, and harmony. Hence, the human Jesus had a resort to his higher self and relation to the Father, and there could find rest from unreal trials in the conscious reality and royalty of his being, — holding the mortal as unreal, and the divine as real. **It was this retreat from material to spiritual selfhood which recuperated him for triumph over sin, sickness, and death.** (Emphasis added).

The *Science and Health* citation says we must wrought out this truth of No Separation from God in our lives, in obedience to God's will. What a sound instruction since we are given how Christ Jesus did this and triumphed in His own life experience. That constant retreating to who He knew He was **MUST** be our example. Mrs. Eddy says we are to pray for ourselves. We must then ask ourselves if our prayers are like that of Christ Jesus; whose "humble prayers were deep and conscientious protests of Truth, — of man's likeness to God and of man's unity with Truth and Love." This is prayer that "restores the Soul", (one's spiritual selfhood) recuperates and stops the hypnotism and mesmerism of mortal sense in its tracks. \*\*\*\*\*

## Satan's Seat

"I know thy works, and where thy dwellest, even where Satan's seat is....But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold

the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel." (Revelation) In Kratzer's book, "Revelation Interpreted" he comments on this, "The human will is ever at work. When, as is often the case, it is set up in opposition to the divine Will, it is in a special sense the activity of Satan, Satan's chief agent." Human will is never our friend! Watch out for this imposter for it would always disguise itself as something "good." Human will must be guarded against, certainly in ourselves, and also in others — so we don't become erroneously influenced. Bicknell Young calls it becoming "putty in the hands of schemers." Knowing the government of the one Mind, and letting "virtue and truth build a strong defense" (*Science and Health*) as well as constant watching and praying — keeps us immune to the ploys of Satan's seat! \*\*\*\*\*

I see that, like Balaam, when I am determined to do my human will, no matter how insignificant it seems to be, I can't see God or the Angel in the path. Human reasoning may try to tell me it is not a big deal, but feeling cut off from God is serious. Hoping God will overlook it shows I don't understand God. Mary Baker Eddy writes very clearly on this in the chapter on Prayer. "...till we learn that there is no discount in the law of justice..." *Science and Health*, p. 5

I am learning obedience is an expression of gratitude for all God has done. God is Good and our best friend, but placing myself in the "hands of schemers" is where the danger lies. Watching, along with virtue and truth, is how I need to use my time.

Psalm 119

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." \*\*\*\*\*

## ...Murderers and Thieves...

"We should become more familiar with good than with evil, and guard against false beliefs as

watchfully as we bar our door against the approach of murderers and thieves.” *Science and Health*. That really shows how strongly we need to guard our thinking—like against murderers and thieves! Wrong thoughts could “steal” and “murder” our best intentions and divert us into the wrong path, if we don’t catch them quickly. Even what seem to be innocent suggestions like “I’ll do it later,” etc., when God says to move—or petty irritations and resentments. Being “more familiar with good” helps us detect the evil suggestions more easily, be repelled by them, and gives us the courage to kick them out and do right! Great Lesson—thank you!

### **The Man of Integrity**

“Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and whose spirit there is no guile.” (Psalms) The definition of “guile” is – deceit, craft, cunning, duplicity. Haven’t we proved this statement to be true in our own lives? Isn’t it refreshing to have contact with someone who has a clear look, no hidden agenda, who is exactly what he appears to be? It is also essential and liberating to be that expression ourself! This verse from Psalms reminds me of Mrs. Eddy’s passages on the “man of integrity” (pages 147-148 Misc.) which reads in part, “He assumes no borrowed appearance. He seeks no mask to cover him, for he acts no studied part; but he is indeed what he appears to be, – full of truth, candor, and humanity. In all his pursuits, he knows no path but the fair, open, and direct one, and would much rather fail of success than attain it by reproachable means. He never shows us a smiling countenance while he mediates evil against us in his heart. We shall never find one part of his character at variance with another.” \*\*\*\*\*

This is such an important point. I never really paid attention to this term “guile” until fairly recently. My husband pointed out that a certain someone “had no guile”... and I realized at that point what that truly meant. I think I was never taught in Sunday School about this and it certainly would have been helpful. I learned it the hard way, by experience; at one point I was working with a lot of guile to get my way, and ended up going through a lot of tribulation to have it finally burned out of me. I had no backbone at the time and was easily

taken in by others who had guile—and the result was disastrous.

Nowadays, it’s just the opposite—I can smell a rat! And I can also discern a man of integrity. It is thanks to the teaching at Plainfield, that I have developed a much greater spiritual sense of things. I’m so grateful for that! \*\*\*\*\*

### **With Well Doing**

“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (I Peter) The very best we have to offer in any given situation is the unspoken eloquence of a good example. \*\*\*\*\*

For those of us with children, the example we set in our homes is a much stronger influence on them than the words we say to them. Children see everything, and the example of a life well-lived will do much to equip them for dealing with the worldly influences they will encounter. \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Ass or Donkey**

While I was thinking about this Bible story in this week’s Lesson it occurred to me that this is a lesson in humility and not judging others. It is a common belief that donkeys are stubborn and perhaps not too bright. But it was the donkey that first saw the angel of the LORD with a drawn sword. Don’t assume anything and listen closely to God.

### **Nothing Else IS**

*Science and Health*, p 471: 18-19

God is infinite, therefore ever present, and there is no other power nor presence.

Thanks to the Lesson writer; that statement puts every wrong suggestion to rest in its NO-THING-NESS! These simple statements must be pondered and made our own. They serve a great purpose when their meaning is put into practice, both when things are fine and when we feel helpless. \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT – God The Only Cause And Creator – June 5th, 2016**

### **In Spiritual Development**

“The true theory of the universe, including man, is not in material history but in spiritual development.” (Science and Health) How much of the time do you spend thinking about your past history? Many people spend hours and hours researching their human ancestry or going over past troubles or events in their mind. Wouldn't that time be better spent in knowing only the good and the true is or ever was the real. Anything else is the Adam dream and like a dream – quickly vanishing away. The spiritual development you have made however is something else. It is those times in which you have become closer to God, loved more, blessed a brother, made a simple truth your own, prayed more earnestly and obeyed Him more devoutly. This is what is true about you, about our world and about our universe. “...if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians) \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Foundation Of Mortal Discord**

*Science and Health*, p. 262. The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man's origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly. Do I always go back to this right beginning?

This point cannot be emphasized too frequently, since it is how we begin, that determines a favorable outcome. Mrs. Eddy has given us so much to use in order to establish this Truth of right beginning.

*Science and Health*, p 470 God is the creator of man, and, the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect. .... Man is the expression of God's being.

*Science and Health*, p 491 Man's spiritual individuality is never wrong. It is the likeness of man's Maker.

If in working through any false claim, I am not knowing that my efforts are to realize the spiritual unchanging perfection already there, then self

enters in; as if to say I must change something or bring some good thing about. With all the errors that appear, it remains our best work to always look to the Truth and hold steadfastly to the Truth of being (to what the ONLY creator) has made and called good. This applies to physical, as well as any other claim. \*\*\*\*\*

“If in working through any false claim, I am not knowing that my efforts are to realize the spiritual unchanging perfection already there, then self enters in.” Thank you. Something just happened with a family member today and I came to the Forum looking for help. I will hold to this. Thank you. \*\*\*

### **The Love of Christ, which Passeth Knowledge**

Paul wrote to the Ephesians: “...And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Here he is stating a principle that governs all of God's creation. It is the love of Christ (Truth) which opens one's heart to receive what he needs to know. Without the love of Christ (the Truth) in your heart, you just aren't open to what God is telling you (what you need to know). During the first few decades of this country, the Bible was central to public education. Children were expected to read from the Bible before commencing school work. It was common for sports teams to pray together before the match. As a result, this nation flourished spiritually, educationally, and economically. It was instrumental in the defeat of evil in the two World Wars.

However, now our public schools have had the Bible taken out of them. It is no longer central to the public education of children. Many of our colleges have lost any consideration for the Bible or the Christianity (the love of Christ) that established this nation in the first place. And what are our children learning in schools today? Many of them are offered courses that have no intrinsic value for life or for economy. One of my friends has a daughter who is a freshman at a highly regarded private college. He was amazed to see the plethora of course offerings that were virtually useless, or, even worse, utter propaganda. This could not happen if there was not

a falling away within our families. Without a love for the Christ, we are without true knowledge, without protection from the evil influences that are infiltrating wherever they can. With the love of Christ in our hearts, we know what we need to know when we need to know it, and have the protection of the only power, our Creator, God. \*\*\*\*\*

Yesterday, while reading *The Spiritual Journey of George Washington* by Jancie T. Connell, I came across the following excerpt. "During his residence in Philadelphia, as President of the United States, it was the habit of Washington, winter and summer, to retire to his study at a certain hour every night. He usually did so at nine o'clock... A member of the household observed the President upon his knees at a small table, with a candle and open Bible thereon." \*\*\*\*

### .....**That Cast You Out For My Name's Sake**

"Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed." (Isa. 66:5)  
"...that cast you out for my name's sake...." This made me think of people who judge others (usually—probably always—from self-righteousness), who may think that someone else is not as "good" a person as *they* feel they should be. Our only duty is to "love one another" and to see each other as God sees them—as His beautiful child, each created for a holy purpose. If someone is busy judging or criticizing others, they're not doing the work God has for them to do—it is left undone. Not a good place to be! \*\*\*\*\*

This week I kept coming across the word "judgment". I have always found the idea unclear because I got the idea of having good judgment confused with judging others. I decided to look deeper into this. I wanted to share the definition I found in case it might help someone else. 1828 Webster's: Judgment In Scripture, the spirit of wisdom and prudence, enabling a person to discern right and wrong, good and evil.

Give the king thy judgments, O God. Psa 72.  
Rightly to understand and discern.  
He that is spiritual, judgeth all things. 1 Cor 2.  
Synonyms: discernment, perception, discrimination, wisdom, prudence, powers of reasoning, reason, logic  
All are important qualities. I realized all these years I have been trying to do this through human effort rather than turning to God who is the source of all. Human effort was at best inconsistent and can be tricked. Then there is always the pride of accomplishment or shame attached.  
Also, from 1828 Webster's  
3. To censure rashly; to pass severe sentence.  
Judge not, that ye be not judged. Mat 7.  
Here is another statement I came across this week discussing this type of behavior "the other meaning of judgmental has to do with being overly critical in an unhelpful way," This was a defining statement for me, to keep the concept simple and recognize when I slip into this dangerous and unkind mode of thinking either toward myself or another. \*\*\*\*\*

### **In The Beginning**

In our Lesson, I noticed that John 1 1-4 goes right back to our beginning with God the only creator. I hadn't really thought about how much the NT depends on and is spiritually guided by the OT until coming to Plainfield. This reminds me to always go back to the beginning—to God. In the December Newsletter is printed the EVENING PRAYER which states, "Remember that power is exerted by merely stating a truth. All truth is the word of God. Assert it constantly....." The Word, the Truth is all truth in our lives.

### **Love God and Live**

Romans 9:28 "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." We are God's creation, and He has given each a place to serve Him in our own special way, to reflect Him. Our motive should always be to serve God, help our brother, not looking for what we'll get but for what we can do to bless, always giving gratitude to God for all the good from Him. Do all to the glory of God!