

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Matter – March 19th, 2017

Absorbed in Material Selfhood

“Absorbed in material selfhood we discern and reflect but faintly the substance of Life or Mind. The denial of material selfhood aids the discernment of man’s spiritual and eternal individuality, and destroys the erroneous knowledge gained from matter or through what are termed the material senses.”

(S&H) Living only for myself, thinking only about my own personal little problems, was also living in hell. One of the most liberating concepts I learned here at Plainfield was in order to truly demonstrate Christian Science there must be an understanding that Life is in God. Yes, I had to learn to deny this material selfhood and find true meaning and purpose to life by giving it all up to Him. He will mold and fashion us anew if we let Him allowing our true spiritual and eternal individuality to shine forth! *****

Curious to know a deeper meaning, I looked up “absorbed” in the 1828 dictionary: Imbided; swallowed; wasted; engaged; lost in study; wholly engrossed.”

“Wasted” and “lost in study” stood out to me because I once was absorbed in material selfhood (while keeping my Science mostly on the sidelines, waiting...) and now feel so much time was wasted where I could have made more progress getting closer to my Father-Mother! But I didn’t know how *practically* to go about it, really, until the teaching in this church got me straightened out. I went from “discerning and reflecting but faintly the substance of Life” to now really feeling that my true substance is spiritual, it is walking with God. What a shift—that I hardly thought possible—but now I know there is no more time to waste or be “lost in study” of the material rather than the substantive spiritual. *****

...Shall Not be Careful in the Year of Drought

Jeremiah 17:

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

When I read “and shall not be careful in the year of drought” it gave more clarity to this statement from I Timothy 6 in the Responsive Reading:

19. Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

I was wondering what that “time to come” would be, as though it was a fixed point of prophecy or something, but then the statement from Jeremiah put it into perspective. Mortal mind is constantly trying to tell us that things are decaying, declining, and dying. The “drought” appears as so many different suggestions, but they all have the same antidote: Trust and hope in God!

I thank God that Christian Science gives the ability to not “be careful in the year of drought” by providing the tools and methods to be certain I am thinking and acting correctly, as God directs. I can be certain that these methods are practical by seeing that even when the going gets hot, the leaves are green and the fruits keep coming. *****

This is such an important point. The “year of drought” comes to each of us in different ways. Whether it appears as a lack of money, lack of joy, lack of purpose, lack of a job, lack of companionship, or lack of health, the list could go

on and on.

I looked up the word “careful” in Webster’s 1828 dictionary, and the first two definitions were “anxious” and “solicitous.” Interesting.

This means that the man who trusts his welfare to God is not going to get anxious about an apparent lack and he is not going to solicit someone else to try to get what he thinks he needs. Learning to trust in divine Love, divine Principle, divine Life for our needs, our God provides them. Sometimes I am surprised to find God providing my need in a totally unexpected way. Other times I find that what I thought I needed, I did not need at all. This is the beauty of getting human will and material wants out of the way. A good and infinite God knows no lack and does not leave any of His creation without everything we need. We just need to open our eyes to this fact and trust Him only. This is the basis of Christian healing. Life can’t get any better than that.

It is one of God’s promises that we can count on. It is also a warning not to make a god out of anything or anyone else. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” *****

Love the Right Things

I Timothy 6:

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil” is a very familiar phrase of absolute Truth. The second part of this verse, “which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” I wasn’t familiar with and can see most people aren’t either because otherwise there would be less greed and more sharing. Wealth has stealth; growing up poor and after much material struggle, I no longer have

‘lack’ to overcome (now understanding and grateful for God’s grace!). I do have a struggle with hoarding and accumulating too many worldly things and am grateful for Lesson Sermons such as this one, to help me learn how to handle this in a Spiritual fashion with God’s direction! *****

Brought Nothing and Taking Nothing

I Timothy 6:

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

The mesmerism of life in matter has the world obsessed with money, achievements, career until we wake up to this mesmeric lie, find and follow Christ, find our right place working for the glory of God, blessing much and having greater peace and happiness in our lives.

It is a call for part of our consistent work, when a lot of children answer with material things, like a big car, a big house, supposed great careers etc. when asked what they would like in life.

Interestingly they often don’t mention God, health, peace, etc., because these are not what they see or hear emphasized as what is important.

These verses need referring to often to keep our focus on the greater purpose of life. *****

I sometimes remind myself that “nothing belongs to us, everything belongs to God” and that God’s bounty is for us to enjoy freely, but not take pride in owning, or lose perspective in coveting.

When I was given the surprise opportunity to ride in a historic million dollar Rolls Royce outfitted for an American heiress, for instance, I was grateful for the opportunity to *experience* beautiful craftsmanship and the loving care provided by the mechanics, without having to actually *own* it myself!

I’ve found that releasing the desire to have, yet rejoicing in the spiritual qualities the items embody,

such as beauty, abundance, order, etc. allows us to come into contact with such things at the right time and place.

How many times in history have people slaved to build their dream house over a long period of time, only to end up never living in it or for only a short time. It is a sobering reminder to keep our eye on what is true substance, the things of God.

Contentment

Patience is one of the qualities necessary to lead a godly life.

I was grateful to be alerted to the importance of being content as we work out our salvation and understanding of Christian Science. I could relate to the description of those who impatiently want to push their growth. I am learning to be grateful for any progress and be honest with my motives. It has been a great comfort to be taught here, how to take these steps.

“Of these evils, avarice is one of the most pernicious and is often found in a high degree of subtlety in a mental form. It will create in one a constant desire for quicker progress in science; it will arouse our ambition to reach a high position in thought, without first having worked and proved ourselves capable in the lower steps leading to that position; it will lead us to make assertions we cannot prove, and are not yet ready to prove; it will cause us to forget, in declaring for our spiritual birthright, that all of Spirit belongs to our brother as well as our self; in short, it will blind us to the fact that we can advance no faster in Christian Science than we are able to demonstrate (S&H, 224—25).” CONTENTMENT by DORA M. KNAPP January Journal 1897 *****

SUBJECT: Reality – March 26th, 2017

Sing for Joy of Heart!

“Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart.”
(Psalms – Responsive Reading)

“If we wish to be healthy we should take doses of the oil of gladness. There is not better medicine.”
(Dorothy Rieke – 3/20 calendar statement).

This week’s Watching Point # 1 which begins, “WATCH lest you attempt to do anything in Christian Science from any standpoint except that of joy....”

My goodness – I have received so many wonderful reminders this morning about the importance of keeping my joy! As we continue through this Lent season it is a welcome reminder. Only good is going on and only God is in control of His universe – how could we not be happy when we have these wonderful Truths from the Bible and *Science and Health* to keep in thought?! *****

The Right Definition of Apocalypse

I find it interesting that much of the world thinks of the word “Apocalypse” as a disaster or destructive world-wide event, instead of the revealing or uncovering of something. Many people I know seem to view the last book in the Bible not as “Revelation” but as the foretelling of a terrible event. Thus is it important that we understand the spiritual meaning. Thank you to the Bible study today (and Rev. Kratzer’s “Revelation Interpreted”), which delved into John’s message from a spiritual perspective.

A quote from Pathios.com: “The secular definition of apocalypse or the way in which the world uses this word **without referring to the Bible** is that it means some event of cataclysmic proportion or some event that causes great destruction or loss or something that creates great fear as a result of a great disaster. Something such as a sudden nuclear war or worldwide destructive war might be considered an apocalyptic event. ... The Greek word for apocalypse is “apocálypsis” and means a revealing or an uncovering and that is exactly what the word revelation means. **It is like a curtain or veil that is lifted so that what is behind it can be seen or the contents are suddenly disclosed. The Book of Revelation has a similar meaning as it is an uncovering or revealing of something that was previously unseen or hidden.** “ *****

"A New Heaven and a New Earth."

Science and Health 91: 1-4

"The Revelator tells us of 'a new heaven and a new earth.' Have you ever pictured this heaven and earth, inhabited by beings under the control of supreme wisdom?"

What a great question, good to ask oneself, unless we are so convinced with this opposite view of existence that we cannot fathom this Truth of a new heaven and earth where there is Truth, order, calm and harmony with all under the control of the supreme Mind!

As we consistently strive and reject the false sense of body, supply, relationships etc. and replace them with the Truth of our being and "Mind's verdict" of Life we gradually gain some of what this new earth and heaven is; greater, peace, love, life that is ordered by God's guidance. It is true for all now.

When we work to overcome the temptations/errors/lies that try us, we do so for all mankind. That is the selfless Love; which is the Principle of Christian Science! *****

The Sum Total of Human Error

Science and Health, p. 562. "The great red dragon symbolizes a lie, — the belief that substance, life, and intelligence can be material. This dragon stands for the sum total of human error. The ten horns of the dragon typify the belief that matter has power of its own, and that by means of an evil mind in matter the Ten Commandments can be broken."

This citation suggests that the more I strive to obey the Ten Commandments, the more God's Allness becomes real and the more likely I will realize evil's unreality or lies and overcome its many forms. This is a refreshing reminder to connect the obedience of the Ten Commandments with the acknowledgment of God's Allness. This aids the overcoming of the awful, deceitful sense of "life in matter!" When I see evil as a lie, I see God as all that can be. *****

Thank you for this post. This is the first time I really understood that the "ten horns" had anything

to do with the Ten Commandments, and the material erroneous belief that they could "be broken." And for "the more I strive to obey the Ten Commandments, the more God's Allness becomes real and the more likely I will realize evil's unreality or lies and overcome its many forms" that really shows how important it is to obey them! So grateful for this lesson and for the lesson writer and for all we are taught in this church.

Be Diligent

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

1828 Webster's. Diligent:

1. Steady in application to business; constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; assiduous; attentive; industrious; not idle or negligent; applied to persons.

We discussed the importance of "staying on the course" in our walk with God. The word diligent struck me as a quality to cultivate to "grow in grace" so one does not become apathetic, overly ambitious or anxious about one's growth, nor led away from your walk with God. *****

Not a Miserable Sinner But a Blessed Child of God

Science and Health, p. 576. Accompanying this scientific consciousness was another revelation, even the declaration from heaven, supreme harmony, that God, the divine Principle of harmony, is ever with men, and they are His people. Thus man was no longer regarded as a miserable sinner, but as the blessed child of God.

How wonderful this Truth is, that as we diligently work to leave the false senses behind, we realize that God is with us, that His kingdom reigns within us; that we are inseparable from Him; therefore we are NOT miserable sinners but His own blessed children. This should awaken us all to feel love and joy, to be grateful and with a song in our hearts claim consistently what we really are!