

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 90

**SUBJECT: Doctrine Of Atonement –
April 16th, 2017**

Reconcile Yourself to God

In the Responsive Reading it says “God hath reconciled us to himself by Christ Jesus”, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself” and to “be ye reconciled to God.” In the 1928 Webster dictionary, it says that reconcile means “to call back into union and friendship the affections which have been alienated; to restore to friendship or favor after estrangement.”

In these times, man has gotten away from putting God first. Instead, man has put jobs, money, houses, medicine, and material gain ahead of God. Man uses human reasoning, human education, and so-called authorities to resolve our problems instead of asking God what to do and how to do it and then to obey Him. Let us reconcile ourselves to God right now. “The atonement of Christ reconciles man to God.” *Science & Health*.

Thank God for Christian Science and the teaching and living it in this church. *****

Thanks for this post. I, too, have been thinking about the word reconciliation. I have read it in *Science & Health*, but never really tried to understand it until now.

This paragraph from the Bible commentary from Barnes helps me to understand what is needed more clearly:

Reconciliation “conveys the idea of producing a change so that one who is alienated should be brought to friendship. Of course, all the change which takes place must be on the part of man, for God will not change, and the purpose of the plan of reconciliation is to effect such a change in man as to make him in fact reconciled to God, and at agreement with him.” *****

Thank you both for your posts about reconciliation. In working out our own salvation, Christ Jesus was

very clear about giving up the world and trusting God. Mrs. Eddy followed the Christ example and said this, found in the Lesson:

“If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. He constantly turns away from material sense, and looks towards the imperishable things of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the start, and gain a little each day in the right direction, till at last he finishes his course with joy.” How wonderful! *****

Yet I am Not Alone

John 16: 32, 33 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: **and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.** 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

This is an awesome teaching and promise, since in our darkest moments it is the false sense of separation from God that increases our fear. How wicked the “enemy” is; because it is for this Truth that Christ Jesus was stoned: John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

We must never forget we are always with our Father-Mother, this is what our Wayshower wanted us to know and we must know! Nothing can give us more peace and courage than this spiritual fact, that we are **NEVER** alone. *****

Thank you. This is beautiful. In realizing that to gain this peace of knowing our oneness, I must do my part and do what Mrs. Eddy says about understanding God and not merely believing. This

has been a puzzle for me, but now see it is an ongoing process, not just a light bulb moment. Striving to be pure in thought, meek, kindly, forgiving, patient, and obedient, surly helps us along the way to understanding, and God's grace to help us along this way is an awesome thing indeed. *****

This is indeed a wonderful spiritual fact, that we are truly never alone. This is the best cure for loneliness and depression!

When we realize that God is our life and we are never separated from Him, that we "walk with Love along the way"... this should fill us with the ultimate companionship of God's love, Emmanuel, God with us, our Christ consciousness ... to always feel His presence and thus, never feel alone or lonely. And we can know that this spiritual fact applies to every one of God's children! *****

My Father and Your Father.....

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.** Emphasis added

This verse just stood out to me, I feel a comfort from it, which I am sure others are feeling too. It is a special feeling of "Oneness" that it gives! I'm very grateful for the Lesson. *****

As I read that verse, it struck me how part of what he was saying was that he is not God. So many have been misled to believe that he is God, and yet the teachings at this church have shown me that to believe that is to undermine the importance of his mission. How can he be our Wayshower if he is beyond our ability to follow?

It is so comforting to me that his love for God and mankind led him to such demonstrations. And beyond that, and despite all Christ Jesus did, he still spoke in a way that let us know we are all in this together. He showed us the way, and also gave every reason to feel we could follow him.

If that doesn't prove that Christ's Christianity is scientific, and not supernatural, I don't know what would. I thank God that Christian Science is

practical and provable! I am so grateful for all Christ Jesus, Mary Baker Eddy, and this church have done to bring this Science to this world in need, and to show our oneness with God.

Thank you for these posts. Our Bible Lessons and the readings from the desk at our Wednesday evening testimony meetings have been leading us with comforting and powerful statements, telling us of this oneness and giving us practical tools to use in everyday life. In this week's Responsive Reading, Paul tells us, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." In this church, we're taught man's real being is spiritual and immortal, and to look always for that man, to see God in everyone — how wonderful is that, a blessing to us and to everyone we behold! Thank you for this Lesson! **

For the Love of Christ Constraineth Us...

"For the love of Christ constraineth us;" II Corinthians. Not really knowing what the word "constraineth" meant, I looked it up in the 1828 dictionary:

CONSTRAIN: To compel or force; to urge with irresistible power, or with a power sufficient to produce the effect.

Wow—isn't it then wonderful to be constrained by the love of Christ? It is an irresistible force, full of the power of God! I pray that ALL may feel the urge of the Christ, compelling us to demonstrate our oneness with the Father, as Jesus so beautifully taught. *****

Live Unto Him

"... that he (Christ Jesus) died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him, which died for them, and rose again." (II Corinthians) What a meaningful statement to think about this Easter week. Here we are being reminded one of the most important ways to truly show proper gratitude for the supreme sacrifice made by Christ Jesus is to live for him — not to live our own selfish, self-centered little lives

but to live for him. To do all for the glory of God, to give our lives to Him, and to be used for His good purpose. What better way is there to show our heartfelt gratitude for God, Christ Jesus, for Mary Baker Eddy and for Christian Science than this? There is none. *****

SUBJECT: Probation After Death – April 23rd, 2017

Definition of Salvation

The definition of salvation in *Science & Health*, stuck out to me this week. “SALVATION. Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness and death destroyed.”

I had never really registered it before. Jesus was certainly our Wayshower and instructed to do as he did. Whether I make the effort, or just ride on his coattails, is the question!

I thank Mary Baker Eddy for revealing how we can walk in Jesus’ footsteps. What a revelation it is! **

I found these phrases at this Web site: <https://www.gty.org/library/bibleqnas-library/BQ052112/what-does-it-mean-to-work-out-your-salvation> which describes this kind of fear and trembling beautifully: Reverential awe and reverential fear: An important Old Testament truth is “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Ps. 111:10; cf. Prov. 1:7; 9:10). This is not a fear of being doomed to eternal torment, nor a hopeless dread of judgment that leads to despair. It is rather a reverential fear, a holy concern to give God the honor He deserves and avoid the chastening of His displeasure. Such fear protects against temptation and sin and gives motivation for obedient, righteous living. *****

Not in a Single Bound

Science & Health, p.76-77 The recognition of Spirit and of infinity comes not suddenly here or hereafter. The pious Polycarp said: “I cannot turn at once from good to evil.” Neither do other

mortals accomplish the change from error to truth at a single bound. Existence continues to be a belief of corporeal sense until the Science of being is reached.

I love what Mrs. Eddy says about patience in *Science & Health*, pg. 515:4-5 Patience is symbolized by the tireless worm, creeping over lofty summits, persevering in its intent. What a vivid picture of unswervingly, keeping its eye on the goal, and humbly treading the path with the determination to get there! I have learned a deeper understanding of patience through Christian Science and the many trials that seemed as if they would never yield. Those trials helped me gain a deeper love for Truth and a greater faith in God.

Because the opposite, impatience, is false, when uncovered, we must see it for what it is, a lie about God’s idea and work to replace it with what is of God, patience. **Impatience** is described as a deadly sin in Ann Beals’ book “The Law of Love.” Pg. 30:

Impatience: This false trait usually comes from thwarted self-will that is intolerant of delay, opposition, or obstacles to what it wants or expects of others. Impatience can go from irritation to anger to rage over having to wait for any reason. It puts pressure on (ourselves) and others by being aggressive, restless, agitated, or ill-tempered with them. An impatient mentality is often impetuous or impulsive. This trait is seldom classified as sin, and yet it is a deadly sin. Habitual impatience can lead to difficult, stubborn, even seemingly incurable physical problems. *****

Quietly Wait

“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”

The responsive reading reminded me of the importance of keeping our thinking on God and quiet from the noisy world drama. Not always easy to do, but the teachings here at Plainfield, which are all based on the Bible, Jesus’ teachings and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings, give you plenty of practical steps to quiet your thinking and focus on God. I can personally attest to the power of this understanding and practice because before coming here, my

thinking was all over the place. I tried a great many things, but nothing I did could stop it from racing until I understandingly turned in prayer to God and followed His precepts.

I recently read that one of the reasons hypnotists seem to be effective is because they focus on one thing, their target, while their target is unwittingly thinking about all kinds of things. This keeps them susceptible to suggestions since they are not totally present in the moment. Recently, during one of our Roundtables, we were told of the importance of staying right in the present moment and not allowing ourselves to wander off mentally into the past or future. This speaks to me of a protection from being pulled in by anything un-Godlike, pleasant, or disturbing, but being watchful as Jesus' tells us to do. *****

Whoso Findeth Me Findeth Life

Prov. 8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Oh, how true this is! What is life when understood from the human standpoint, as material, with the fearful senses, and the illusions of material happiness? As we strive to gain the understanding of Life in Spirit, we find that it is God who is All and is our life. This changes our understanding of who we truly are. It gives us more confidence in God's love and care, drives away the fearful senses, and increases our ability and desire to bless others. **That is Life worth living!** *****

Each in His Place

God has created a place for each of us; we are each needed by Him. No one can do another's work nor neglect his own.

In *Science & Health*, pg. 22 it says: "Work out your own salvation," is the demand of Life and Love, for to this end God worketh with you. "Occupy till I come!" Wait for your reward, and "be not weary in well doing."

This is not work—it is a joy! We're never alone. God is always with us. Let God direct us in everything we think, say, and do, and BE BLESSED!

Fullness of Joy!

"Thou (God) wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16) It is good to always remember it does not take person, place, or thing in order to have "fullness of joy". It only requires God's presence, which every child of God is privy to – and that means YOU! Don't wait to feel God's Love for you. Don't wait to feel His joy. Start today, right now. He promises you will find Him when you seek Him with your whole heart.

The first part of this verse tells each one that God will show you the path of life. This is no guessing game! Isn't it wonderful that God loves us so much He shows us the way we need to take – the very path of life?! We need only to hear him, to watch daily at His gates and to wait at the posts of His doors as Proverbs 8 instructs us. *****

This is beautiful to contemplate, as every day the path of life is before us! Thank you for this post. The passage from Psalm 16 is so beautiful, and it shows that God is at hand. His presence is ever with us. I have only to acknowledge this great fact and focus on God, not on myself, or my problems. And then things tend to work out in ways I could not have imagined, always for the best!

"Thou (God) wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16) Thank you. This is a beautiful thought to start the day with and remind ourselves throughout the day when wrong thoughts attempt to steal our joy!!***

New Every Morning

The Bible states referring to God's mercies "They are new every morning". This has given me encouragement many times. Error argues that because of what happened yesterday or last year even, that I may not feel God's mercy today. But this argument is error. God's mercy is new every morning and consistent. His faithfulness is great. Every day is a new opportunity to start afresh with Him. So, the conviction to seek God and trust Him every day is full of promise and progress.