

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Substance – September 10th, 2017

Perfection

Mrs. Eddy's counsel to an overtaxed Judge Hannah as written in his Memoirs:

"I ask you to keep a time for meditation every day. Ponder in thought your infinite, harmonious, Christ-expressing self-hood and claim it as you. Drink in its perfection, its moral beauty, its integrity, its worth, its unspeakable safety; all the truth and beauty of God's creation is yours and you. Enjoy it in sincere prayer and thanksgiving. Preserve your human sense of yourself rightly by dwelling in a definite treatment every day, within the sanctity and integrity of your real self-hood." To Mrs. Eddy, these qualities are not only more substantial than anything in the physical world, they are the Substance of reality itself.

It would do us all well to memorize all of her instructions here: <http://articles.plainfieldcs.com/various-authors/judge-hanna/excerpts-from-judge-hannas-memoirs/>.

Mrs. Eddy certainly must have had Noah Webster's soaring definition of "perfection" in his monumental 1828 dictionary as she was formulating her definition of "Substance" –

"2. Metaphysical or transcendental perfection, is the possession of all the essential attributes or all the parts necessary to the integrity of a substance. This is absolute, where all defect is precluded, such as the perfection of God; or according to its kind, as in created things."

Both Paul (Philippians 4) and Mrs. Eddy tell me to "Think on these things"! Thank you for this lesson... *****

A wonderful reminder to help us keep the correct view of ourselves ever in thought. Mortal mind is a robber and would have us "forget" what we are

learning as our true selves. Mrs. Eddy's counsel to Judge Hanna is for us all, an invaluable discipline. If we obey it helps us maintain our conscious oneness with God.

The Sense-Dream Vanishes...

Thank you for the Bible lesson this week. I also found this statement in *Science and Health* helpful in light of what appears to be happening in the world.

"How true it is that whatever is learned through material sense must be lost because so-called knowledge is reversed by the spiritual facts of being in Science. That which material sense calls intangible, is found to be substance. What to material sense seems substance, becomes nothingness, as the sense-dream vanishes and reality appears." (312:1) *****

Thank you — this made me think about real substance from *Science and Health*, p. 468. "Spirit, the synonym of Mind, Soul, or God is the only real substance;" "and individual man, is a compound idea, reflecting the divine substance of Spirit."

Also, I like to read A TREATMENT FOR EVERY DAY by Mrs. Eddy, where it states, "No power can bind you. God is the only life, SPIRIT IS THE ONLY SUBSTANCE, Love is the only cause, harmony is the only law, now is the only time." ***

Continual Allowance

And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life. *II Kings 25:30*

This statement was given to me when I was going through a difficult situation. It meant to me that God would meet daily my needs, spiritual and material. I didn't need to worry about finances or the answer to any problem that arose. It gave me peace so I was able to hear God's directions.

Mrs. Eddy says, "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need." *Science and Health*. This is God's promise to us. And it never fails. My every need was met. *****

Thank you! I remember too, someone who came to this church deeply in debt and began to work with a practitioner. She was given this statement from II Kings to work with, knowing she would always have what she needed for each day as her supply comes to her directly from God. She was also given a few more statements from the Bible, which I now have come to call, "The Biblical rules of finance." The first one was to "owe no man any thing, but to love one another" (Romans). She was to curb back the over-spending that had gotten her into this plight in the first place and pay off all her debts – which she did over a period of time. She was also, during this time, to tithe, even though she felt she had no money to tithe with. The Bible tells us God requires our "first fruits" – not our "last fruits"! So each week before paying her bills, she would set aside a tithe to give to church. As she applied these rules to her life consistently she became debt-free and found a way of life that helped her maintain a steady and eventually abundant income. Which leads to another Biblical principle – and that is to bless your neighbor with your increase. Giving to the poor and needy, who are struggling to overcome the beliefs of lack and poverty (and only as God directs you to do), is also part of living a Christian life. Mrs. Eddy was always very generous and gave frequently to charitable organizations. We will talk more about this at the Roundtable on Sunday. God has an answer to all our problems, including lack, but we need to be obedient to Him and to His laws and principles. *****

"Will A Man Rob God?"

I must say I didn't really see this the first time I read this lesson. But it sure stood out the second time!

Malachi 3: 6 has some very strong words regarding the importance of tithing.

"For I am the Lord, I change not."

= A reassurance to us that God never 'sleeps on the job', he is consistent!

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from my ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

= Here God graciously invites repentance, with no blame. But He is met with "What? We didn't do anything wrong." Or... it could be *excuses* for not having been obedient?!

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

= In the French Bible, it translates "Will a man deceive/cheat God?" Tithes includes gratitude... and how many have been down that road of taking all good for granted and not praising, and tithing, to God? (I know I have!)

And then God tells us, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now... if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

What a beautiful promise! And to bring it back to the beginning, we must be *consistent!!!* *****

The Substance of Spirit

Science and Health: "As God is substance and man is the divine image and likeness, man should wish for, and in reality has, only the substance of good, the substance of Spirit, not matter. The belief that man has any other substance, or mind, is not spiritual and breaks the First Commandment, Thou shalt have one God, one Mind." I am very grateful to Mrs. Eddy for giving us Christian Science, the understanding that we are spiritual, not material beings in physical bodies. This Science of Christianity gives us the true understanding of what life is and the way to live. *****

SUBJECT: Matter – September 17th, 2017

Mrs. Eddy's Clear Explanations of Matter

I have always found these two passages from the

chapter on “Questions and Answers” in *Miscellaneous Writings* by Mary Baker Eddy, to be very helpful in gaining a better understanding about the concept of “matter” and “material belief.” “If you will admit, with me, that matter is neither substance, intelligence, nor Life, you may have all that is left of it; and you will have touched the hem of the garment of Jesus’ idea of matter.” (Page 74-75)

“Every material belief hints the existence of spiritual reality; and if mortals are instructed in spiritual things, it will be seen that material belief, in all its manifestations, reversed, will be found the type and representative of verities priceless, eternal, and just at hand.” (Page 60-61)

I thank God for Mrs. Eddy’s clear explanations of matter found throughout her works! *****

Tremble, Thou Earth...

This week’s lesson sermon begins with the Golden Text of Psalm 114:7:

“Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.”

And the lesson continues with so many references to God “which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:” (Ps. 146:6) that it is a wonderful treatment for the current state of affairs on this planet whether it be extreme weather or other disturbances.

“But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.” *Habakkuk 2:20*

This is a very timely lesson, thank you. *****

It’s uncanny how God provides what we need, even months in advance of when we need it. This lesson was written in May.

This Golden Text is a sharp rebuke to all “earthly” tendencies, such as materialism, envy, malice, hatred. These “earthly” states of thought tremble and fall in the presence of the truth. Jesus stilled the storm by rebuking the materialistic thought that condoned (caused?) it. Mrs. Eddy stopped approaching storms by looking into the sky and seeing only the face of God in control. These are invaluable lessons, for we have the same God,

before which all limited, false, materialistic beliefs tremble and lose their influence over us. As Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, (368): “Error is a coward before Truth.” Anything unlike God, good, is error, and that includes damaging storms, as well as disease.

We have a tremendous power available in our heavenly Father. We really can thank Jesus, his disciples, and Mrs. Eddy for showing us what it is, and what it does for us. *****

...Blind, and Dumb

5. Matthew 12

22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

3. 479

Matter cannot see, feel, hear, taste, nor smell. It is not self-cognizant, — cannot feel itself, see itself, nor understand itself.

6. 356

So-called material existence affords no evidence of spiritual existence and immortality.

Before coming to Plainfield, over the course of the preceding years, I had this feeling that my world was getting progressively smaller. I saw less beauty and goodness, and felt less joy and love. Now I can see why, because of all I am learning here: I was blind to – or at least going blind to – God’s reality. Each step away from God was a step into nothingness, where there is nothing to see or talk about.

Of course, I wasn’t so far that God couldn’t reach me! Once God brought me here, once I encountered Truth and Love and became (re)acquainted with His reality, I was able to see beauty and goodness, and the joy returned, and love as well! What a wonderful healing that was, and remains! *****

How Dumb Can You Be?

“What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it: the molten image, and a

teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Woe unto him that saith to the wood, awake: to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it." *Habakkuk 2: 18,19*

When I first read these 2 verses I laughed out loud and thought, "how dumb can you be to make an idol out of wood or stone, paint it, and then expect it to talk to you? Then I realized how often I have made some idol in thought and painted it with gold, etc. It could be something I did that I was proud of, or some person (like a child or a husband) or politics, the environment, materia medica, or some other such thing. And then expected it to help me or make me happy.

It is good to laugh at error, mortal mind, matter and see how stupid it is to make it real and worship it and then complain when it doesn't help one or make one happy. So important to stay focused on God and our relationship to him as is taught in this church. So we can remember... "the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth (matter, mortal mind, error) keep silent before him." *Habakkuk 2: 20* ***

This is such a good point. I think we can make idols out of a million different things—anything, really—that take us away from God, often by very subtle means *so we don't even realize it!* It can be a job, a boss, it can be a food, a hobby, an "expert" in any field, a problem the world is ruminating on, a sports team, a musician, a place, a store, even a pet...or any combination of things. Staying focused on God is the only way to see clearly and not be dumb (I've already paid enough of the "dumb tax", thank you!) Dwelling in the One Mind, our Christ consciousness, will keep us focused on what is right and true, giving all the glory to God! Then, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God." *Ps. 146:5* *****

Spiritual Living and Blessedness

"Spiritual living and blessedness are the only evidences, by which we can recognize true existence and feel the unspeakable peace which comes from an all-absorbing spiritual love." Mary Baker Eddy.

Often I would read "spiritual living and blessedness" and wonder how I could attain the unspeakable peace. Now I am learning it is practicing this Science in daily life, following Jesus' teachings that Mary Baker Eddy explains in her written work and demonstrated in her life. For me, this first required honesty, both with myself (paying attention to my motives) and with others (being true to myself). The strong desire to please others and solve their problems had to be replaced with obedience to God. I had a tendency to want things to be smooth and comfortable, believing this was peace, but it never worked for very long, often making things much worse. I am learning true peace comes from striving to be like Christ, a living principle; a living faith. Christian Science correctly taught, found at this church, has been helping me understand God better, which helps me be more obedient to His precepts. I am very grateful for this practical Science. *****

Amen! This is a beautiful quote by Mrs. Eddy. The world is clamoring for peace, and to know that we have the opportunity to feel an "unspeakable peace" through "spiritual living and blessedness", is precious! *****

Thank you! Since coming to our Plainfield Church, I am learning that human, so-called "goodness" was not real spiritual living. I now see that much of what I did was done to keep human peace, not face the issues head-on and pretend that everything was okay. When we live with the Christ Mind, waiting on God, everything feels different and true Love is expressed. *****

We Cannot Forget The Scientific Statement of Being, *Science and Health*, p. 468:8-15

Question. — What is the scientific statement of being? Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.