

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 100

SUBJECT: Reality – September 24th, 2017

Above the Roar

“...the sea and the waves roaring...” (Luke 21).

“And o’er earth’s troubled, angry sea
I see Christ walk,
And come to me, and tenderly,
Divinely talk” (“Christ My Refuge”, by Mary Baker Eddy)

The image of Christ walking serenely above stormy seas graphically illustrates the power and majesty of Christ-consciousness that enables me to rise above every stormy trial and test that I may face. And, at this point in history, seeing – truly – the reality of “a world more bright,” brighter than ever before, is required of all of us: to persist in the promises of heaven (reality) rather than focusing my attention upon the roaring, temporal storms of the lower senses (unreality) crying for validation in tireless attempts crowd out and invalidate Christ-consciousness.

From “Overcoming by Obedience,” Martha Wilcox:

“Enoch proved this. Enoch saw no evil, or sin; he saw the appearance of so-called matter, and formless mist that flees or dissolves before the light of the sun. He so focused the penetrating rays of omnipotent truth upon his seeming material selfhood; that it dissolved and vanished from human view. By so doing, Enoch lived and moved and had his being in God, and experienced the consciousness of eternal life. Thus must all mankind do to live.

“There are not two kinds of reality, one to be overcome and the other to endure forever; but it is through the understanding of truth that we overcome the misconception of the one and only selfhood, here and now.” *****

The Creations of Matter Arise From Mist

Science and Health, p 523:7-13 “The creations of matter arise from a mist or false claim, or from mystification, and not from the firmament, or understanding, which God erects between the true and the false. In error, everything comes from beneath, not from above.”

This morning, I came across Mrs. Eddy’s words in the Chapter, The Way, Prose Works:

“To strike out right and left against the mist, never clears the vision; but to lift your head above it, is a sovereign panacea.”

“Physician, heal thyself.” Let no clouds of sin gather and fall in mist and showers from thine own mental atmosphere. Hold thy gaze to the light, and the iris of faith, more beautiful than the rainbow seen from my window at the close of a balmy autumnal day, will span the heavens of thought.”

So thankful for the teachings! *****

The firmament of light as explained in Genesis is given to the earth and Mrs. Eddy explains that, Firmament: (is) Spiritual understanding; the scientific line of demarcation between Truth and error, between Spirit and so-called matter.” Through God’s grace we are given this gift of understanding as we seek Him. Mrs. Eddy teaches us the Science of Christ that enables us to “see” this light, and here at Plainfield we are taught how to strive in order to understand. *****

The Shekinah

In *Science and Health*, citation 8: “The nature of Christianity is peaceful and blessed, but in order to enter into the kingdom, the anchor of hope must be cast beyond the veil of matter into the Shekinah into which Jesus has passed before us; ... Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being.”

I was wondering about the meaning of “Shekinah”.

It is a Hebrew word meaning, “dwelling or settling of the Divine Presence.”

Other definitions include:

- Holy Spirit
- Visible manifestation of the Divine Presence
- Presence of God on earth
- Very holy place (translation from the French)

In the 1828 dictionary, “anchor” is defined:

2. In a figurative sense, that which gives stability or security; that on which we place dependence for safety.

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” –Hebrews 6:19.

If we keep ourselves anchored in the “spiritual sense of being” we won’t be so easily tossed about by the false claims of matter! *****

The Cloud of Guidance

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27

When I read this I got the sense that, in my hour of greatest need, and I have given my whole self to God, all the Truth there ever is, will come pouring in to thought, in sure guidance, true vision, pure understanding, untouched by the world and earthly events.

“Through Spirit I see all things rightly, clearly, correctly, distinctly, spiritually. This gives me discernment, so that I differentiate between one idea and another, also between true and false. This firmament of Spirit gives me perception, perceptiveness, perspicacity. It opens the eyes of my understanding. It shows me what is real, and what is unreal.” John L. Morgan “Some Notes on True Vision.”

Arms of the Father Are Always Waiting

Luke 15: 20-24

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more

worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

I have read the story of the Prodigal son many times, but this week, the spiritual meaning of it resonated with me more than ever before. God is ready and waiting with outstretched arms to receive all His children when we are ready to come in humility and repentance. Not only did the father (Father) accept his son back, but with over-flowing affection, tenderness, and kindness. Who would not want to come back to this kind of reception?

Matthew Henry: To look unto God as a Father, and our Father, will be of great use in our repentance and return to him.

Benson Commentary: Thus, for true penitents, who return to their duty, and cast themselves upon the divine mercy in Christ, **God doth exceedingly above what they could have dared to ask or think.** He clothes them when naked with the robe of righteousness, the garment of salvation, justifies their persons through faith in him who is the Lord their righteousness, and regenerates and sanctifies their nature by his saving grace, restoring them to his blessed image and likeness.

Science and Health: 322: 26-29

The sharp experiences of belief in the supposititious life of matter, as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to the arms of divine Love. Then we begin to learn Life in divine Science.

From the 9/16 Bible Study and 9/17 Roundtable

Watches, Prayers, and Arguments, given by Mary Baker Eddy, page 183

Instruction

Do not try to build up matter, or make it comfortable and prosperous, but destroy matter with

Spirit. Then all these things shall be added, and in the right way. The latter is Science.

Instruction

Do not let anything interfere with the healing; the instantaneous healing must be brought out. Jesus proved his faith in this way. It is not only to dispel aches and pains, but to heal the sin — mental suggestions, that would try to turn your thought from the truth of being; make you think you cannot heal; are afraid to try; that your work can be reversed, can relapse; that Christian Science is mesmerism, etc. To believe a lie is sin. You know those suggestions are all lies. Then it is a sin to believe them. Heal the sin. You cannot be made to yield to such a belief. You *know* better. You are in Mind alone, and the so-called claims of matter cannot touch you, cannot make you an avenue, through which to reach any one in belief. You are a child of God, *reflecting* Him. Nothing can force you to believe differently. It is *now* that Truth is — not going to be. Destroy the sense of time. *****

SUBJECT: Unreality – October 1st, 2017

The Unreality of Evil

“Only those, who repent of sin and forsake the unreal, can fully understand the unreality of evil.” (*Science and Health*) What an important point Mrs. Eddy makes here! Christian Science has been ridiculed for declaring the unreality of sin. But if you are in bondage to it – if you have not repented of it and forsaken it – well, of course it would seem real. This is why Christian Science, the rules and Principles of God, must be obeyed often times before they can be understood. When obeyed, the rules of God make perfect sense. One can see with clarity and understanding and so go forward. “Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.” (*Science and Health*)

When I read the above post it brought to mind the following citation from *Science and Health* that is in the Lesson for this week. The rules and Principles of God must be obeyed and it has

dawned on me, to face a wrong thought before it has a chance to get a hold on me, is a wise thing to do. Since coming to Plainfield and becoming a member, it is somewhat easier to recognize a wrong thought or error and do something about it right away. Then the unreality of it is right there to behold. (I am the servant and child of God.)
452: 5-6, 12-17

The wrong thought should be arrested before it has a chance to manifest itself.

When error confronts you, withhold not the rebuke or the explanation which destroys error. Never breathe an immoral atmosphere, unless in the attempt to purify it. Better is the frugal intellectual repast with contentment and virtue, than the luxury of learning with egotism and vice. *****

Breaking Faith with Divine Science

In *Science and Health*, section 12, p. 569, Mrs. Eddy states: ...”Alas for those who break faith with Divine Science and fail to strangle the serpent of sin, as well as of sickness! They are dwellers still in the deep darkness of belief. They are in the surging sea of error, not struggling to lift their heads above the drowning wave.... They must eventually expiate their sin through suffering. ... how many periods of torture it may take to remove all sin, must depend upon sin’s obduracy.”

Ha! At first when I read this, I thought it was speaking of others, because I didn’t think I had “broken faith” with Science. After all, I had never left Science! Then, I realized this indeed applied to my former self, who was not living in accord with the requirements of divine Science, so indeed I had broken the faith. Although I didn’t seem like I was doing anything wrong according to society’s norms, I was not living according to God’s law! The error will come custom-packaged to the individual, even someone attending Christian Science church. I had many “periods of torture” before I got straightened out by the teachings in this church. I’m so grateful!

Supremacy of Truth

“The Scripture, ‘Thou hast been faithful over a few

things, I will make thee ruler over many,' is literally fulfilled, when we are conscious of the supremacy of Truth, by which the nothingness of error is seen;" Mary Baker Eddy

The Roundtable on Sept. 24 was a great preparation for this week's lesson. The discussion on how much news we need to expose ourselves to, in order to pray for current issues both local and worldwide, was very helpful. Below are the thoughts that I took away from the class.

The carnal mind (hate, jealousy, revenge, fear, competition, etc.), which appears very real, is not true of any person or profession and this can be proven through Christian Science prayer that is correctly taught here.

When you delve into human situations deep enough, everything is wrong and material systems will always be found wanting and full of endless problems. So when you investigate a situation, let God lead and show you what you need to know. Keep what I take in short and simple, then get back into truth, rather than take in more than I can handle. It is important to know what is going on and not to stick my head in the sand. Yet, if I am engrossed and indulging in details, it can drag my thought down. Either approach, I am not helping.

In my prayers, I can ask God to open my eyes so I can behold the truth. It is important to keep the ratio of 10 affirmations to 1 denial to make sure that my thinking rises above mist rather than depress thought by going on and on with denials and making reality of error.

Somehow, this class really hit me and has given me a new awareness of how I am absorbing the drama around me, both at home and in the world. This was a good reminder to be alert and disciplined every moment*****

Handling the Belief in Chemicalization

In 500 Watching Points, No. 371: WATCH that in your work for individuals and the world, you handle the belief in chemicalization. War may result when students work for the world and pour in a sweet consciousness of God's presence and government, and then fail to handle

chemicalization. We must declare and know that the Truth which we reflect goes forth to bless, and not in reality to destroy error, since there is none to destroy, other than in belief. The Truth we send out goes forth to feed mankind spiritually, not to harm them. All mankind are ideas of God, and so they receive this Truth and love it, and in reality have no mortal thought to be stirred or upset by it. We must know that no one possesses a mortal mind that can oppose Truth, and that mortal mind does not possess anyone." ...

I found it helpful to read the rest of the watch in order to better understand the first paragraph. It continues...

"It is certain that our mental work does feed the world spiritually; that those to whom we send it are blessed thereby; that they develop and grow under it; that they love it naturally; and that it brings peace on earth and goodwill to men. However, we must declare that the action of Truth does not aggravate error to anyone's harm, since in reality there is no error to be aggravated; that its action makes man happy and free; that it heals him and purifies him. Under this kind of general treatment, the world is safe, and the work of Christian Scientists does not produce chemicalization that may appear as war.

Mrs. Eddy once said to Gilbert Carpenter: "Our work does good. We have not the ability or power to do harm. There is no law that can give anyone the power to do harm. God's law is the only law and that does good, not harm, and can give man only the power to do good, not defeat, but victory." She also said, "Every true and noble thought helps raise humanity and lets the light in." *****

Thank you for these posts. It is a comfort to know that, as we diligently do this work, the blessings go out to all mankind. *****

With the above understanding, we can do our work with a strong stand on the spiritual fact that "perfectionis the law of Mind to the idea, Earth. (Address 1934 by Bicknell Young) Thanks for these posts.