

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 101

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – October 8th, 2017

Are His Words Holy To Me?

John 4:50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man **believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him**, and he went his way. (Emphasis added)

It is the same Christ speaking the Truth with power through the Bible, Mrs. Eddy's words, inspired articles, practitioner's encouragement etc. Do I view these as such, ponder them and take them to my heart? Here again we see that something is required of us to receive the full benefits of God's promises!

We must approach the Lessons with reverence, as if we are going to listen to what God wants us to know each day; instead of a humdrum routine that we can get tired of! *****

Thanks! It is such a gift to be able to read the Lessons and open our eyes to receive the messages that help us to awaken to the truth. God is Love. *****

Thank you, and so true!

Joshua 1:8 – “This book of the law shall not depart out of **thy mouth**; but **thou shalt meditate therein day and night**, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” This was the encouraging conditional promise that God spoke to Joshua after Moses' passing, as Joshua contemplated the mighty challenges ahead of him in filling Moses' shoes. Note that Joshua had the 5 Books of Moses only: the only source of the written Word of God in Joshua's day (there were no Psalms, Proverbs books of the prophets, no other books of Israel's history from which Joshua could receive instruction), but they were enough, indeed.

With the advent of Christ, Jesus was able to draw from a much larger storehouse of scripture than

could Joshua: that is, all the books of the Old Testament. Thus, the battle plan of God on behalf of humanity was made clearer as Jesus gathered greater and greater power from this larger arsenal of Holy Scripture available to him at the time.

With the advent of Mrs. Eddy's revelation of Christian Science, she was able to draw from an even larger body of scripture: the Bible itself — the Old and the New Testaments, and from her inspired study of the Bible, she gave the world Science and Health, along with all her other writings. The Bible was her one and only source of inspiration.

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh” (Prov. 4:20). Thus, it is the Word – our devotion and active obedience to the Word, supported by Mrs. Eddy's correlative writings – in **mind, mouth, ears, eyes, heart** continually, as never before – that will make the Allness of God more and more real to us until God and His image become the only Reality, infinitely dwarfing, overshadowing any supposed giant in Canaan, or Goliath, or any great red dragon dreamt up by mortal mind. *****

I love all of these posts. Even the title, “Are His Words Holy to Me?” – is something that captures my heart and attention. Recording and passing down His Holy Word did not come easily, but with untold sacrifice. What a great privilege to be able to study His Word and to be reminded never to take this privilege for granted. Thank you very much! *****

This Mortal Dream...

Thank you for another great Bible lesson, especially in light of recent events.

“This mortal dream of sickness, sin, and death should cease through Christian Science...” (*Science and Health*, pg. 418:13)

In the Carpenters' book *500 Watching Points*, Point 221, paragraph 2, states: "Christian Science should be thought of as a pair of wings, rather than a medicine chest. Then the practitioner would be considered, not like a doctor with his bag, which contains the medicine of Mind rather than of matter, but as one who goes to awaken a sleeper out of a nightmare, to the realization that he has no disease from which he needs to be healed. Then his thought is freed to soar up to God and gain a true sense of man."

The analogies the Carpenters paint in the Watches are wonderful healing tools, as most are so visual and leave a picture in my mind. Thank you again for all the wonderful resources to awaken. *****

Selfishness

"Selfishness does not appear in the practice of Truth or Christian Science." Mary Baker Eddy

"Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden,
God will bear both it and thee." Hymn No. 360

I am grateful for all that I am learning here that is helping me let go of selfish thinking and acting. Before I got here, I thought I was a pretty unselfish person and by the worlds' standard, it probably looked that way because I was always giving and giving. Yet, in all this giving, I continued to be wrapped up in my problems and was unhappy. When I started to learn how pride and fear dominated my thinking, I began to realize much of my giving was godless, so naturally, selfish. Sometimes it was a great struggle to stop thinking of myself so I could do work for God with a clean heart and listen to His direction. Doing Watches here was one of the first things that helped train my thought away from self and onto God. It has been such a freeing experience to be releasing a personal sense of myself as separated from God and gaining a relationship with Him. I am grateful to be learning these lessons here so I can practice this Science, when before I was not getting results. It hasn't been easy, but my life has been blessed in this process. *****

Thy Sins Be Forgiven Thee

When I read that Jesus told the man with palsy that his sins were forgiven, I couldn't help but think of how much critical judgment of sin is put forth in this world and very little in the way of constructive effort. One of the original definitions of sin is missing the mark or target. Who hasn't made an attempt to do something, fallen short of getting it right, and then used the experience to learn and try again to do better to get it right? But in the face of critical judgment, one could get discouraged, and simply give up. God never gives up on anyone. Divine Love never gets disgusted and walks away. The requirement is to overcome sin, but this requirement would not come if it were impossible. Thank God for the clear truth that sin is not real and that we can realize this. *****

...Great and Mighty Things

RESPONSIVE READING: Jeremiah 33

3. Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

I am so grateful for how true this has been in my life. When I was at my lowest, when I finally caused myself to suffer enough, I called to God, and He answered quickly! He brought me here, to the "great and mighty things, which [I] knowest not" of Christian Science. When I think of how much I didn't know about God's good reality, I realize I only knew the small and weak things of the human mind. Those things did nothing for me, but cause pain and heartache.

What a joy it is to be here! I am so grateful for this Science, this church, and these lessons. Thank you!

Handling Fear in Mrs. Eddy's Home

I think it is so interesting and also helpful to read in the book, "Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps" by Gilbert Carpenter, the great importance Mrs. Eddy put on handling fear on a daily basis. He writes on page 111, "The morning Watch Hour was from nine to ten, when each student returned to his or her room to do the mental

work to destroy fear, and to recognize the presence and power of God as supreme in the home, as well as in the whole universe. This work did not vary from day to day, except where special instruction was needed and given us." A study of this chapter, about the daily work at Pleasant View is extremely instructive and telling. Mrs. Eddy and her workers would spend the entire day working and praying for the Cause of Christian Science. With this as an example, I have worked to incorporate some of this holy "routine" into my own daily life and certainly beginning the day with a Watch to wipe out any trace of fear and to establish in thought the supremacy of God is a powerful way to begin.

**SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement –
October 15th, 2017**

A Mere Instrument in God's Hands

How wonderful that we have a lesson about our oneness with the Father! In our daily work, it is important to declare these words of Jesus and to know them to be true for ourselves – "I and my Father are one." "The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." And "The Father hath not left me alone." (John)
In Christian Science, we do not have a God afar off we must to appeal to; We have a loving Father-Mother God who is our very mind when we are humbly and faithfully obedient to His Word. Mrs. Eddy states in the Blue Book on page 213, "I wish as an act of justice that you hold sacredly in your memory that I assume no good or power of myself, that to God alone I ascribe all love, wisdom and power, the All-in-all, the all good; that I am absolutely nothing, a mere instrument in God's hands to be used as He will. This is the only position for any one of us to be in." *****

Thank you for this post! I love what Mary Baker Eddy says: ... "I am absolutely nothing, a mere instrument in God's hands to be used as He will."

One definition in the 1828 dictionary of "instrument" is this: "5. A person who acts for another, or is employed by another for a special purpose..." We certainly have full employment in

turning to God and seeking His will. There is no better purpose to have in one's life than this! Then we're on the right track. *****

A Contrite Heart and Spirit

I thought it was interesting that in Psalms, 'contrite' is used interchangeably with 'heart' and 'spirit':

Ps. 51:17: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

and

Ps. 34:18: The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

1828 Dictionary:

CONTRITE, a. Literally, worn or bruised. Hence, broken-hearted for sin; deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God; humble; penitent; as a contrite sinner. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51.

To me it means we must have humility, and be on our knees before God, for I think one can be brokenhearted and still harbor a strong sense of pride or self. *****

Thank you for pointing this out. I think this is an important distinction. One can be "broken-hearted" for losing something or someone and feeling sorry for him/herself for the loss. This kind of broken-hearted is full of self. This kind of broken-hearted should, and does, lead us to desire something higher, holier, more substantial, than the things of the world we might otherwise hold dear. As you wrote, the broken AND contrite heart is the one that has lost its connection with God, its moral compass so to speak, for having violated a law of God, and feels that loss. That is a healthy state, when you recognize that you have lost your connection with God and desire it more than anything.

Mrs. Eddy describes this experience well on page 266 of *Science and Health*: "Would existence without personal friends be to you a blank? Then the time will come when you will be solitary, left without sympathy; but this seeming vacuum is already filled with divine Love. When this hour of

development comes, even if you cling to a sense of personal joys, spiritual Love will force you to accept what best promotes your growth. Friends will betray and enemies will slander, until the lesson is sufficient to exalt you; for ‘man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.’”

Pharisee vs Publican:

At-Two-Ment vs At-One-Ment

“The ...religion [of the Pharisees] consisted mostly of rites and ceremonies. The **motives and affections** of a man were of little value, if only he appeared unto men to fast” (*Science and Health*, pg. 597). I Samuel chapters 13 through 15 concern the mistakes of King Saul, which brought his reign to ruin: good for a Bible study on the valuelessness (and danger) of offering outward sacrifices without offering the requisite inner sacrifice of a “broken spirit and contrite heart” (what makes King Saul such a tragic figure is that he was not a drunkard, an adulterer, a thief, but a warrior for God’s people, putting himself in harm’s way to fight against Israel’s enemies). In chapter 14 of I Samuel, Saul builds a physical monument to himself, while in Christ’s parable, the Pharisee builds a mental monument to himself, repeatedly justifying himself as far superior to the Publican who has nothing to offer in the presence of God but a repentant heart (a nothing which turns out to be...everything).

The Pharisee’s view of himself as something stands in complete opposition to the Publican’s view of himself as nothing. The Pharisee’s idol-monument to himself (personal sense) blocks him from seeing, experiencing God with his spiritual senses, which remain atrophied and undeveloped. On the other hand, the Publican’s awareness of himself as nothing (death to personal sense) enables him to get out of God’s way; awakens and develops his spiritual senses, giving him the ability to be ever more at one with God, for he is tearing down the idol of mortal selfhood whose overbearing shadow darkens the path to God and blocks the way. ****

Thank you for this post! *Science and Health*, 5 A great sacrifice of material things must precede this advanced spiritual understanding....

This required sacrifice must include relinquishment of past material history, selfish indulgences, habits, material sense of self. Some of these we hold on to so tightly as they keep us in bondage and increase our false sense of separation from God, the Love present, and what we most need.

Mrs. Eddy cautioned on page 242 of *Science and Health*: Self-love is more opaque than a solid body. In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love **the adamant of error**, — **self-will, self-justification, and self-love**, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin and death.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:31... I die daily; meaning the self - renouncing (sacrificing self) he did each day as He wholeheartedly worked for God. And on page 238 of Misc. Mrs. Eddy asks: “Have you renounced self?” *****

Thank you. This helps explain the statement of Jesus in Mark 10: 31, “But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.” This has come to mean to me that many of those who achieve much by human standards are often the last to gain spiritual understanding. Human achievement can be so illusory, unless “the glory be to God.” For it is so tempting for those who seem to achieve to believe that “they” are something special or have special talents that set them apart from others. That is why we should never be impressed by well-known entertainers (athletes, actors, politicians). Unless they give the glory to God, they can often have the worst immoral sense of life.

Alternatively, many of those who have achieved little and are struggling are often the first to find God. They tend to be the most reliable workers in God’s church. *****

Galatians 5: 22, 23

8. Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

In the first few weeks of my arriving in Plainfield, these “fruit of the Spirit” were in a lesson. As I was

brand new to Christian Science, they felt like a good check for myself to make sure my motives and actions were right. Initially, it was with only the most basic understanding of each “fruit,” yet reading this week’s lesson I realized that because of all I am learning here, each one has a deeper meaning to me now.

- Love: To fully love, which means to express divine Love, including the moral courage to cast out error.
- Joy: To have the utmost joy in listening to God, and taking action as He directs.
- Peace: To seek God’s presence, free of counterfeit, hypocrisy, and expectation (other than for good!).
- Longsuffering: To walk with God through every bit of resistance, always expecting only good and never doubting Him.
- Gentleness: To never be holding so hard to whatever I am thinking or doing that I don’t hear God’s call to do something else, or to help someone in need.
- Goodness: To know that all good is of God, and not in trying to make people (or myself) happy.
- Faith: Knowing “the battle is not yours, but God’s.” (2 Chronicles 20:15) The victory is His as well!
- Meekness: Florence Robert’s article Meekness and Restoration really set me straight on meekness. I am grateful to fit into whatever role He would have me fill.
- Temperance: “Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.” (Webster’s 1828) To not get worked up by what human mind and material senses are saying, but to “Stand porter at the door of thought” p. 392) and “lean not unto [my] own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5) but rely on God for all.

I am so grateful for how each new lesson here serves to refine and purify the silver of my understanding. Thank you! *****

And the final, scientific fact, “against such there is

no law.” These qualities of thought have all the power of God to heal and bless. They will always prevail, because they are the truth about who and what God created, and He created all! So when you get the thought that you can’t love someone, or you’ve lost your joy, or that you have to tolerate some inharmony in your life, these thoughts are the false mortal beliefs, illusions, that dog us, but have no power other than what we give them. There are no laws of matter! No laws that can undo the “fruit of the Spirit.”

Prayer, Watching, and Working

“Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-immolation, are God’s gracious means for accomplishing whatever has been successfully done for the Christianization and health of mankind.”

This last Sunday the discussion on the importance of eliminating fear through prayer is helping me. Below were some of the points that I took from this class.

“The first commandment forbids us to believe in a power apart from God.” and “Do we not all understand cowardice never conquers? To get rid of temptation of any sort or to get out of a difficulty, we are not passive and let the wrong rule the right, but we struggle and thus conquer. We should not avoid the things that hurt us, but repeat them and meet them as their superior. Disease is a coward that leaves when you are not afraid of it.” Mary Baker Eddy P. 96 and 139 of *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (Blue Book)

The source of fear is a belief in another power other than God. Memorize and keep with you Isaiah 41. Face down suggestions that God is not here now, taking care of me or all mankind.

“The morning Watch Hour (every day in Mrs. Eddy’s home) was from nine to ten, when each student returned to his or her room to do the mental work to destroy fear, and to recognize the presence and power of God as supreme in the home, as well as in the whole universe.” Ch. 21 of *Footsteps*

It was brought out the importance of obedience to God, repentance, and reformation in keeping our slate clean so that we have nothing to hide. To

watch our motives and see what is driving our fear.
The humility of Christ and giving everything to God is essential.

“We have nothing to fear when Love is at the helm of thought, but everything to enjoy on earth and in heaven.” Mrs. Eddy Misc. p. 113 *****

It is very encouraging to hear how you are using what is given at the Roundtable – in that way you make it your own. Thank you. *****

"Occupy Till I Come! Wait for Your Reward..."

Thank you for the lesson, I've underlined most of it!

“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.” 22:11-14

This was just the message I needed this morning. Especially the last command, “be not weary in well doing.” I caught sight of the truth. I of myself do nothing. It is He that does the work through me, so how can I ever be weary or discouraged?

Be aware of the deceiver...

Then I came across Watch No. 317 (*500 Watching Points* by the Carpenters) that was a perfect match.

“WATCH lest you become discouraged and feel that your work in sweeping the leaves off your sidewalk has availed nothing, because there is a fresh lot waiting for you the next morning. You are expected to continue your sweeping cheerfully, until the trees have shed all their leaves.” ...

The Master said, “He that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.”

“The Arm of the Lord”

Science and Health 24: 11-14 (to

“He to whom “the arm of the Lord” is revealed will believe our report, and rise into newness of life with regeneration. This is having part in the atonement.”

This interesting quote required some illumination for me. It comes from Isaiah 53:1 which is deemed to be a prophesy of the coming of Christ. A most beautiful explanation revealed!!

Call No Man Your Father

From *Science and Health* pg. 31:4-11

Fleshly Ties Temporal

Jesus acknowledged no ties of the flesh. He said: "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Again he asked: "Who is my mother, and who are my brethren," implying that it is they who do the will of his Father. We have no record of his calling any man by the name of father. He recognized Spirit, God, as the only creator, and therefore, as the Father of all.

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