

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 104

SUBJECT: Soul and Body – November 19th, 2017

action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and soul in accord with God.” (Misc. Writings) 354:15-18 *****

Governed By Soul

How wonderful to be re-assured again and again with the spiritual fact that the real man, our real selfhood, is governed by Soul! That we need not dwell with the sense of pain, in other words those aches and pains that cry for attention, can be silenced with the fact that we are only subject to the law of Spirit, not the so-called laws of matter!!

Much gratitude to Mrs. Eddy for all the Truths she has given us. Below are a few:

SH 120:11-12 ... **for matter can make no conditions for man.**

SH 120: 15-17 **Health is not a condition of matter**, but of Mind; nor can the material senses bear reliable testimony on the subject of health.

SH 122: 1-2 **The evidence of the physical senses often reverses the real Science of being, and so creates a reign of discord.**

SH 475:13-16 Man is idea, the image, of Love; **he is not physique**. He is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas; the generic term for all that reflects God’s image and likeness.

And from Job 12:10 **In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.** *****

Thank you! ... governed by Soul... The 1828 Webster Dictionary says in part about govern, “To maintain the superiority, to direct, to control, regulate by authority, restrain, administer the laws.” Being governed by Soul is a holy blessing. *****

This morning I came across a beautiful statement by Mrs. Eddy, one I want to always remember and put into practice:

“A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right

The Armour of Light

Romans 13, verse 12 states: “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” I was intrigued by the notion of “armour of light” and found this in Matthew Henry’s commentary:

“Put on the armour of light. Christians are soldiers in the midst of enemies, and their life a warfare, therefore their array must be armour, that they may stand upon their defence—the armour of God, to which we are directed, Eph. 6:13 A Christian may reckon himself undressed if he be unarmed. The graces of the Spirit are this armour, to secure the soul from Satan’s temptations and the assaults of this present evil world. This is called the armour of light, some think alluding to the bright glittering armour which the Roman soldiers used to wear; or such armour as it becomes us to wear in the daylight. The graces of the Spirit are suitable splendid ornaments, are in the sight of God of great price.”

I love this: “A Christian may reckon himself undressed if he be unarmed.” Who wants to go about their day undressed? And from the article “Radiation and Absorption” by A. Learner (thought to be written by Mrs. Eddy): “God, the source of all being — the atmosphere, so to speak, in which all living move and have being, — is Radiation, continual action. Man, as His idea, possessing His qualities, also radiates His thought, comprising all that is Good, harmonious, and perfect. That constant radiation of Light is the Armor of Righteousness, which always protects man from his enemy the devil (mortal mind).” *****

Whose I Am and Whom I Serve

Acts 27: 23 “For there stood by me this night the

angel of God, **whose I am, and whom I serve;**”

A simple, but powerful, statement by Paul. It shows complete devotion, yielding, obedience, and worship to God. It got me thinking, can I say this and mean it? A good thing to think about when I get up in the morning and throughout the day.

From MacLaren’s Expositions:

God had claimed him for His, and he had yielded to the claim. ‘I am Thine,’ is the deepest thought of this man’s mind and the deepest feeling of his heart. And that is godliness in its purest form, the consciousness of belonging to God. His purpose was to represent how, as his whole inward nature bowed in submission to, and was under the influence of, God to whom he belonged, so his whole outward life was a life of devotion. He was serving Him there in the ship, amidst the storm and the squalor and the terror. His calmness was service; his confidence was service; the cheery words that he was speaking to these people was service. And on his whole life he believed that this was stamped, that he was devoted to God. *****

Such a helpful post, thank you! What an example for us. “...the consciousness of belonging to God” is such a beautiful thing...I’ve often thought that “everything belongs to God, nothing belongs to us” but didn’t include myself... thanks for bringing it home. *****

Appearance & Reality

“Thou hast enlarged me...in distress” (Psalms 4:1).

David’s correct view of Goliath enlarged David while it shrank Goliath, whereas the incorrect view of Goliath held by Israel’s fearful armies enlarged Goliath while it shrank them. Where the army saw a mountain, David saw a plain.

The more I look upon any problem confronting me, the bigger and more real the problem gets. The more I look upon God, the more resolutely I rely upon His Word instead of the problem, the smaller and more unreal the problem gets.

In Numbers 13:33, most of the men who returned from spying out the promised land were not only fearful of the giants in the land, but spread their fatalistic viewpoint among all the people of Israel:

“And there we saw the giants...and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers...” But while the majority of spies saw themselves as helpless bugs to be squashed by giants, Joshua and Caleb saw themselves as the real giants who were well able to conquer and possess the land: a land whose “giants” were, in reality, mere bugs.

The spies who broadcast their magnified fear died of the plague: the natural outpicturing of infectiously spreading their evil report among the multitude of people.

Whatever the size of the distress confronting me, however formidable its appearance, it will shrink in proportion to the degree of strength with which I cleave to God and His promises, and the more God will enlarge me in the face of it.

“... [H]uman opinions [have] not one feather’s weight in the scales of God” (Mis. 372). *****

Seeing All Creation Correctly

This week’s lesson includes Mrs. Eddy’s statement from page 514 of S&H, “All of God’s creatures, moving in the harmony of Science are harmless, useful, indestructible.” Animals have taught me many lessons and I have work to do so that the love I have for them also earnestly includes all of mankind; to see and understand that the entirety of His creation, which encompasses all being, can claim only a divine heritage, and is “good”. An excerpt from C.H. Spurgeon’s article “A Word For Brutes Against Brutes” states: “The most eminently spiritual men display great delicacy towards all living things, and if it, be not always true that “he prayeth best who loveth best both male and bird and beast,” yet the converse is assuredly the fact, for the man who truly loves his Maker becomes tender towards all the creatures his Lord has made. In gentleness and kindness our great Redeemer is our model. In proportion as men decline from the highest standard of goodness their sympathies become blunted, they lose delicacy, and tenderness, and becoming more selfish become also less considerate of others. He who dwells in God has a great heart which encompasses all creation...” I find this very helpful when I apply this idea not only to animals, but also to mankind. *****

Beautiful post! Mrs. Eddy gives this profound counsel (Misc. Writings, p.288):

“Positive and imperative thoughts should be dropped into the balances of God and weighed by spiritual Love, and not be found wanting, before being put into action.” *****

SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern..... Denounced – November 26th, 2017

The Power of Sincere Gratitude for God

After reading our Thanksgiving Lesson this morning, I was thinking about the wonderful quality of gratitude. For most of my life, I thought I was grateful, but have since learned it was only in a very superficial way. My ingratitude resulted in many problems, emotional as well as physical, and I never even realized this was a large part of all my troubles. As our watching point explains this week (#307), true gratitude is not to be only grateful for the “things” received, but much more importantly, it is to be deeply grateful for the Giver of all good! Sincere gratitude to God is the antidote for so many of mankind’s grumblings. It will heal depression, fear, stress, loneliness, feeling disconnected from Him, as well as a multitude of so-called physical problems. So, if you are experiencing any of those symptoms, fill your heart up with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for your dear heavenly Father. Soon you will find the problem has vanished into its native nothingness and your peace will return. “No words our hidden joy can tell,
A welling fount, it fills the heart;
Not in the flesh, in Thee we dwell,
In Thee our life, for Life thou art.” (Hymn # 228)

Gratitude versus Animal Magnetism

A friend once told me they wondered why the Weekly Lesson specifically focusing on Animal Magnetism was placed in the rotation to be studied during the same week as the Thanksgiving service. This person told me they came to appreciate the decision to do this even more as time went on.

Their conclusion was that gratitude to God, felt and expressed during the Thanksgiving service was the very thing most needed to counteract the claims of animal magnetism that any person may be experiencing during this time.

I remembered this as I read both lessons for Thanksgiving and this Sunday’s lesson about Mesmerism. The Thanksgiving service pointed out so many reasons to be grateful for what we’re learning here at Plainfield about God. They emphasized God’s protection and provision for his children.

Then, the Sunday Lesson readings on “Ancient and Modern Necromancy...” helped to dismantle any claims of evil as being real or rivaling God’s presence and Power.

Much Gratitude for this One-Two punch (against error) from these two potent Bible Lessons! *****

Longsuffering

Why would we want to suffer? That question comes from not knowing what this word means. Some Bible translations use the word *patience* which I think is too limiting in meaning. Some use *forbearance* which seems somewhat closer to the meaning of the word. I think it addresses personal sense. Please see the Greek definition below - particularly at the end – “personal reaction.” It is a healing quality – please see McCrackan below.

3115 makrothymía (from 3117 /makrós, “long” and 2372 /thymós, “passion, anger”) – properly, long-passion, i.e. waiting sufficient time before expressing anger. This avoids the premature use of force (retribution) that rises out of improper anger (a personal reaction).

William D. McCrackan, The Healing of the Nations
“Divine Love separates personal sense from person, and so saves men....”

And Hannah Prayed

“So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.” I Samuel: 18

“And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD ... There is none holy as the LORD:

for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” I Samuel 2

After our discussions, I couldn't help but think that Hannah was responding to angel messages, even when her situation seemed helpless. She expressed such faith, devotion, and gratitude.

“ANGELS. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect;” Mary Baker Eddy

Surprisingly Mary Baker Eddy has 42 references about angels in the Science and Health and 66 in Prose Works.

In “Angels” by Martha Wilcox she writes: “As a rule angels come suddenly, but in a timely way. They usually come as promptings or as restraining intuitions. Isaiah portrayed the appearing of angels to our mentalities when he wrote, “Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” (Isaiah 30: 21)”

I believe if King Asa from our Bible Lesson this week had heeded the angel messages ever available he would not have turned away from God the later part of his life. It was a good lesson in the importance of maintaining our relationship with God.

The angels are always there if we would avail ourselves of them. As we are taught here, this takes humility and getting ourselves out of the way. I have a much greater appreciation of angels and preparing our hearts for hearing their messages. Like Paul in last week's lesson, we have, “... by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve ... Saying, Fear not,...” Acts 27 ***

Because We Have Sought the Lord Our God

2 Chronicles 14: 7 Asa: “Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him and he hath given us rest on every side.

Instead of kicking back and enjoying the peace his

land enjoyed, Asa wisely used the time to strengthen his cities. He was not idle. And because he continued to put God first and did not neglect to be thankful, he was delivered in a pretty astounding way from the Ethiopian. I like how the Tuesday Watch also emphasized not to forget God, especially when things are going well.

“Beware that thou forget not the Lord Thy God ... Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses ... Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;” — Deuteronomy 8: 11(to 1st), 12, 14. *****

Christian Science in a Nutshell

Golden Text: “I will fear no evil: for thou art with me” (Psalm 23).

“[W]hat pacifies fear does not destroy it. Take your weapon that kills it, the First Commandment; and with that cut off its head.” — Collectanea, 209.

Thanksgiving Every Day

Thanksgiving is celebrated one day a year, but in Christian Science, we learn to celebrate Thanksgiving daily. Mrs. Eddy says “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” (S&H) God is always meeting our need, so we must be thankful all the time. Minute by minute.

“Gratitude is riches, complaint is poverty.” (Hymn 249) Thank God for all the riches He has given including healings, answers to situations, employment, housing etc. Even if you haven't received an answer to a problem, thank God. At the right time you will receive the solution. Never complain. We all have a lot to be grateful for. **

And when the false temptation comes that I don't see or have anything to be grateful for; I can ask myself Mrs. Eddy's question for us all: Are you grateful for Life, Truth and Love?