

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 105

SUBJECT: God the Only Cause and Creator – December 3rd, 2017

Spiritual Family

“My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God”

I always love reading this.

As a person not descended from a long list of Christians, it’s heartwarming that Christ affirmed that he is, for all who believe, irrespective of human history or familial ties. After all, God is Father/Creator of us all. *****

I am so grateful for this lesson and all the citations that God and Christ’s offspring come from all nations, all sects, all sexes, all religions, as long as they are righteous in reflecting God’s true attributes, as discerned by Mary Baker Eddy and given to us in Christian Science! I’m grateful Mrs. Eddy could see Christ Jesus’ true teaching and that we have Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent in this day to show us all the ‘golden nuggets’ in the Bible and how to apply them to our daily lives.

The Journey from Abram to Abraham

In every place where Abram settled throughout his earthly pilgrimage, he built an altar. Among the chief characteristics of any altar is that it is elevated from the ground it rests upon. Abram’s altar-building was the result of a mighty, single-minded determination to elevate his thought above the physical plane, no matter what, to purify continually his perception of the One God in a world of gods many and lords many, all calling out for recognition and attention. Abram’s success in life was the direct result of this unwavering intentionality: to be “absent from the body and present with the Lord.” This is how Abram prepared himself for each new “next level” of life experience, as he journeyed from matter to Spirit,

altar by altar, step by step, from Abram to Abraham, “uphill all the way.”

Mrs. Eddy stressed this point even further:

“I tell you truth when I say there is only one source of all good – God. The conscious recognition and acceptance of this fact acknowledged by every activity of the mind, not two or three times a day – but every few moments all day long – no matter what the outer self is doing, and this maintained will enable anyone to express his perfect freedom and dominion over all things human.

“Today is my day. And my world is but a reflection of my own mental attitude, the power within myself to reverse any destructive thought entering my mental household. I could not lovingly entertain unwelcome visitors, therefore I shall not willingly entertain unwelcome thoughts” (Collectanea 158). *****

Thank you. I love the quote you mention from Mrs. Eddy. To recognize God being the source of all good – as often as possible all day long has been a tremendous help to me. It keeps me connected to Him and to feel and to recognize His presence and power being with me every moment. There could be no greater blessing. *****

All Good is From God

In doing the lesson this morning, it struck me that Abram gave his younger nephew Lot the choice of land:

“Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”

As the older of the two, he could have gone with the cultural norm and chosen first. But Abram knew that his future success was not dependent on choice land, as all prosperity and success would come from God alone, whether he settled in a fertile valley or arid lands *****

Thanks for this! I love how Abram was in total control with the spiritual fact that he could not be denied of any good that God would give him. When sure of your true source of supply, the fear of lack is gone and you are ready and confident to receive only the good God gives; which is all that will satisfy and truly bless.

When this example is learned, the true brotherhood of man will be more visible. Individuals, as well as nations, will not dwell in fear, competition, injustice, selfishness, and greed, which motivate sinful actions to deprive another of their good! Thanks, Father Abram. *****

Thank you for pointing out Abram's trust in God! Abram's behavior demonstrates Meekness. I have read modern definitions of meekness and they suggest a negative tone to the word, like being a doormat for others. I have also found biblical based definitions to this word that suggest a quiet form of strength.

Having a genuine trust in God, as Abram demonstrated, rules out any sense of human will and fear. There really is no need to push and claw past others in order to get some limited amount of good. Good is available everywhere, for everyone. "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..." Isaiah 30:15 *****

The Supposed Existence

"The supposed existence of more than one mind was the basic error of idolatry. This error assumed the loss of spiritual power, the loss of the spiritual presence of Life as infinite Truth without an unlikeness, and the loss of Love as ever present and universal." (*Science and Health*) This statement is such a powerful one. Every time I accept the supposed existence of more than one mind – I suffer the loss of (in belief) 1) spiritual power, 2) the spiritual presence of Life as infinite Truth without an unlikeness and 3) Love as ever present and universal. That is quite a loss!! I can see how important it is to be constantly identifying myself and all mankind with the one and only Christ mind – no matter what the material picture may seem to

be, there is only one Mind and God, Good, reigns supreme over all! Knowing this Truth will bring it into focus. Mrs. Eddy has said, "Right thought must manifest itself." *****

Thank you for highlighting this statement. I also read in *Essays and Other Footprints* (the Red Book), by Mary Baker Eddy pg.89: "The power of right thought is the thinking of that thought. I have perfect confidence in my right thought for I know it can do everything for me. (A person can hold a thought not longer than three seconds; therefore, we must repeat.)"

I can see that it is necessary to be alert to every thought and to correct our thinking to that which is true only. I am so grateful that we have been told the Truth about who we really are and what Life really is. We have been given the pathway of freedom from evil and we will claim the Truth and our freedom now with joy, energy and vitality!! ***

...And in You All

Ephesians 4: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

For some time, I have been thinking about the word 'in', a tiny word with big meaning.

-He maketh me to lie down IN green pastures...

-IN Him we live and move and have our being..

-He who dwelleth IN the secret place of the most high...

This is a wonderful word and the 1828 Webster Dictionary says that ... 'in' denotes present or inclosed, 'in' signifies by or through, one who possesses at the time, for the sake of.... *****

Each Day I Pray

"I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet life and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." (I Timothy) This verse goes hand in hand with something I love from *Miscellany* by Mary Baker Eddy, on page 220 – "Each day I pray for the

pacification of all national difficulties, for the brotherhood of man, for the end of idolatry and infidelity, and for the growth and establishment of Christian religion – Christ’s Christianity. I also have faith that my prayer availeth, and that He who is overturning will overturn until He whose right it is shall reign. Each day I pray: ‘God bless my enemies; make them Thy friends; give them to know the joy and the peace of love.’” What a beautiful and all-encompassing prayer. I have a copy of it on my desk to remind myself to keep it in my heart and to pray this prayer each day. ****

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man –
December 10th, 2017**

Whereby We Cry, Abba, Father

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
(Romans) It is certainly true fear can make us feel as if we are in a terrible state of bondage. And the antidote to such fear is given in the above verse – it is to acknowledge God as our heavenly, loving Father, over all and in us all. I have found it helpful, if ever I am feeling fearful about anything, to cry out the word – “Father” and then to think about what this means, to know His presence and power are with me. To remember that God IS our Father – this truth is an instant connection with the One who loves you and who always takes care of His children. Jesus almost always referred to God as His Father, which revealed what a close and tender relationship he had with the Source of all being. As this lesson so beautifully states, we should all claim such a loving relationship with “Our Father which art in heaven.” (Matthew):
“Then, my heart, in every strait,
To thy Father come, and wait;
He will answer every prayer,
God is present everywhere.” (Hymn #341) *****
Thank you for the love, comfort, and power here!!*****

Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is such a comforting Psalm, and here is Matthew Henry’s commentary (I have bolded a couple of sentences I especially found helpful):

121:1-8 The safety of the godly. – We must not rely upon men and means, instruments and second causes. Shall I depend upon the strength of the hills? upon princes and great men? No; my confidence is in God only. Or, we must lift up our eyes above the hills; we must look to God who makes all earthly things to us what they are. We must see all our help in God; from him we must expect it, in his own way and time. This psalm teaches us to comfort ourselves in the Lord, when difficulties and dangers are greatest. It is almighty wisdom that contrives, and almighty power that works the safety of those that put themselves under God’s protection. He is a wakeful, watchful Keeper; he is never weary; he not only does not sleep, but he does not so much as slumber. Under this shade they may sit with delight and assurance. He is always near his people for their protection and refreshment. **The right hand is the working hand; let them but turn to their duty, and they shall find God ready to give them success.** He will take care that his people shall not fall. Thou shalt not be hurt, neither by the open assaults, nor by the secret attempts of thine enemies. The Lord shall prevent the evil thou fearest, and sanctify, remove, or lighten the evil thou feelest. He will preserve the soul, that it be not defiled by sin, and disturbed by affliction; he will preserve it from perishing eternally. He will keep thee in life and death; going out to thy labour in the morning of thy days, and coming home to thy rest when the evening of old age calls thee in. It is a protection for life. The Spirit, who is their Preserver and Comforter, shall abide with them for ever. **Let us be found in our work, assured that the blessings promised in this psalm are ours.**

I love the thought, “Let us be found in our work” – that is our proving ground, putting God first and doing His work...first! *****

Out of the Depths, "Abba..."

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage

again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Rom. 8:15). Thank you for this week’s Golden Text! While studying this text, the thought flashed: At the crucifixion, Jesus spoke both as Son of God and son of man. As the Son of God — expressing the Christ, the image and likeness of God — Jesus called his Creator, “Father.” As son of man he referred to the Creator as “God”. Of the seven last words of Jesus at the cross, his first and last refer to God as Father: “Father, forgive them...” and “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” But in his fourth utterance, Jesus omits the word “Father”: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Mrs. Eddy writes about this duality in Misc. Writings (p.63):

“Even as the struggling heart, reaching [from beneath] toward a higher goal, appeals to its hope and faith, Why failest thou me? Jesus as the son of man was human: Christ as the Son of God was divine. This divinity was reaching [from above toward] humanity through the crucifixion of the human, — that momentous demonstration of God, in which Spirit proved its supremacy over matter. Jesus assumed for mortals the weakness of flesh, that Spirit might be found ‘All-in-all.’”

The crucifixion thus prepared Jesus for the resurrection and finally the ascension in which the last remaining traces of man’s man (the old Adam) were altogether destroyed by Spirit in order that God’s man (image and likeness of God) might be manifest and preserved forever. The lesson for me is unavoidable: human man must not be preserved, but rather destroyed utterly, for only then can Spirit find the perfect environment in which to settle; to establish and preserve the true man, over whom Spirit must reign free and untrammelled forever. *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Rom 8:18). *****

Discerning the rights of man

This week’s Lesson continues with Abraham’s seed from last week.” For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the

other by a freewoman....So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.”

The Pharisees argued with Jesus on this point, being full with self-righteousness. They lacked true awareness of their deep bondage, “...under the elements of the world”. They held fast to will and intellect, insisting they were freemen because of their lineage to Abraham.

“Through repentance, spiritual baptism, and regeneration, mortals put off their material beliefs and false individuality.” *Science and Health*.

Are my thoughts, “...prepared to receive Christ, Truth”? (Being freed of hate, fear, pride, etc.) AM I standing, “fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,” Galatians 5 “...to be firm and unyielding in maintaining the great principles of Christian liberty. They had been freed from the bondage of rites and ceremonies; and they should by no means, and in no form, yield to them again.” Barnes Notes

“Discerning the rights of man, we cannot fail to foresee the doom of all oppression. Slavery is not the legitimate state of man. God made man free. Christian Science raises the standard of liberty and cries: “Follow me! Escape from the bondage of sickness, sin, and death!” Jesus marked out the way. Citizens of the world, accept the ‘glorious liberty of the children of God,’ and be free! This is your divine right.”

Thank you Plainfield for all that is done to help us understand, “our divine right” and the principles involved in finding freedom. *****

Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” *****

Freedom

I am so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for giving us this Science, because she has enabled us to see and find our true freedom from “the claims of the enslaving senses.” As she explains, (*Science and Health* #8) “The illusion of material sense, not divine law, has bound you, entangled your free limbs, crippled your capacities, enfeebled your body, and defaced the tablet of your being.”