

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? – December 17th, 2017

Atomic Force or God?

SUBJECT — IS THE UNIVERSE, INCLUDING MAN, EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE?

Many years ago, an eighteen year old who had been diagnosed with cancer and told that he probably would not see his 25th birthday, was invited to a Christian Science Sunday School. There were six boys in attendance and when their teacher asked one of the boys to read the Lesson title for that week, a young man read: IS THE UNIVERSE, INCLUDING MAN, EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE? He ended with an emphatic “NO”! The visitor knew he was correct and he never went back to a doctor, but continued going to Sunday School until he was twenty. The visitor was Reginald Kerry. If you would like to know more about this distinguished gentleman, please visit the store on the Plainfield Web site.

Thank you! What a simple, but powerful short statement to keep us awake to what we truly are.

Matter vs. Antimatter?

“All these deeds manifested Jesus’ control over the belief that matter is substance, that it can be the arbiter of life or the constructor of any form of existence” (*Science and Health*, p.369).

The latest creation myth, as proposed by modern physics: matter, not Spirit (unsurprisingly), was behind it all; and not only so, but that “in the beginning,” matter self-destructively partnered with its own twin, its own reflection or reflex

shadow: antimatter.

View on YouTube – “Matter Vs. Antimatter”

As shown in the video, this is a house-divided-against-itself hypothesis, which is a direct result of physicists partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge that places good and evil (good and anti-good), along with all sorts of other pairs of opposites, on an equal footing with one another. So now we are invited to believe in the polytheistic notion that sometime long ago, somewhere in deep space, were two creators, two blobs, each the image and likeness of the other, engaged in a titanic struggle for the supremacy, which resulted in the universe as we now know it: matter won the battle, to become the “arbiter of life.” Amusing!

Even more amusing is the conclusion in the video that “We’re the leftovers! So, believe it or not, everything you see around you, the atoms of your body, the atoms of the stars, are nothing but leftovers! Leftovers from this ancient collision between matter and anti-matter.” (The scientist seems in disbelief himself at the proposition.)

There is simply no credible answer to a cause apart from God! *****

Walk in The Light

“...they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.” Ps. 89

I love how our Wednesday meeting readings seem to blend beautifully with our weekly Bible Lessons. This is another reminder of how God’s hand is on it.

Below was part of our Wed. service reading. It is a wonderful citation by Mrs. Eddy that I have put on a piece of paper to carry around with me as I “walk” to remind me to remain “in the light” of God. “Honor thy Father and Mother, God. Continue in His love. ...Pray without ceasing. Watch diligently;

never desert the post of spiritual observation and self-examination. Strive for self-abnegation, justice, meekness, mercy, purity, love. Let your light reflect Light. Have no ambition, affection, nor aim apart from holiness. Forget not for a moment, that God is All-in-all—therefore, that in reality there is but one cause and effect.” Misc. pg. 154

During our meeting, a testifier shared of being released of anger through prayer. She shared something that she had heard. It in essence said that others will watch us in our walk with God and depending on how we handle stress, we can either bring others to God or turn them away. Having reacted myself recently, this was another reminder of the importance of maintaining our poise with God and with a grateful heart.

“Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.” *Ps. 111* *****

Thanks for all the great posts! Today, while handling an issue, I opened *Misc. Writings* to the Bible Lessons, p. 200. The words that jumped out from the page made me laugh. “Christians to-day should be able to say, with the sweet sincerity of the apostle [Paul], “I take pleasure in infirmities,”—I enjoy the touch of weakness, pain, and all suffering of the flesh, *because* it compels me to seek the remedy for it, and to find happiness, apart from the personal senses.”

I closed the book, laughter bubbling up, and began to give thanks for my so-called infirmity! It was trying to hold me back from having a holiday lunch with my husband and our friend. I was able to keep giving thanks silently and ended up having an enjoyable afternoon out. So grateful for the truth! Otherwise, a wonderful time would have been missed by letting a lie rule the day. *****

Our Work Defined

“The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.” Surely, I have pleasure therein. So I must seek God’s will, God’s wisdom, God’s Principle, and God’s strength then expect a great work, an unselfish work, a lasting work. *****

No Ambition, Affection, nor Aim Apart From Holiness

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, ...Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, and make him a king, he departed into a mountain himself alone.” (John) Jesus was so above all the commotions and temptations of the world. First, he easily was able to perceive what was in the thought of the crowd and secondly, he had no desire for any worldly honors. As was read from our past Wednesday meeting in *Miscellaneous Writings*, “Have no ambition, affection, nor aim apart from holiness.” Instead of accepting any adulation, Jesus retreated by himself up into a mountain. He certainly proved this divine state of holiness was truly his only ambition, affection, and aim and it was this total consecration to God that enabled him then to walk upon a tumultuous sea. Error would try to take our peace in so many ways. How wise it is to follow our Master’s example, and not be drawn into the myriad suggestions and allurements that would try to lead us astray. How important to keep and value our Christ consciousness and in so doing, keep our peace.

God Will Make A Way

I love the passages from Isaiah 43 in the lesson this week. Many times this thought has helped me when a problem comes up and the answer is not apparent at first. The statement that God will make a way breaks the mesmerism, melts the fear, doubt or concern and instills the peace that enables God’s answer to be heard. When working with a group, the simple statement that there is an answer has melted the fear and someone will come up with an idea that leads to a resolution, proving that God is near. No one is left helpless, hopeless, a loving God does not abandon His beloved man. *****

The Bible states, “With God all things are possible.” Mark. In Isaiah 43:19 it says, “I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert”, in Joshua 10:12 it says, “... the sun stood still, and the moon stayed” and in Jeremiah 32:17 it says, “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and

there is nothing too hard for thee.”

No matter what the situation, God is right there. If it isn't from God, it isn't real, it has no staying power when the Truth is applied and will be “ground to a powder” by the Word of God.

God supplies every need, no matter what it is that is needed. Never doubt.

Mrs. Eddy says, “There is no failure where God is, and He is right with you, every moment.” Lessons of the 7th Day.

SUBJECT: Christ Jesus – December 24th, 2017

The Way For Our Full Salvation

Science and Health, pg.51 His consummate example was for the salvation of us all, but only through doing the works which he did and taught others to do. His purpose in **healing was not alone to restore health**, but to demonstrate his divine Principle. He was inspired by God, by Truth and Love, in all that he said and did.

Am I following the Christ's example for my full salvation? Jesus taught us how to live in constant connection with our oneness, perfection and completeness in the divine Principle. He made clear that only in this way could we rise higher in our understanding of what God is and what we are. If He showed us out of distress alone, we would forfeit the greater benefit of working out our full salvation by realizing God's Allness and our true being in Him. Thank God for Mrs. Eddy in making this profoundly clear. *****

Whosoever Layeth His Earthly All

In this week's Bible Lesson, from *Science and Health* (passage 11) pg.55:15-26 “whosoever layeth his earthly all on the altar of divine Science, drinketh of Christ's cup now, and is endued with the spirit and power of Christian Healing.”

Laying your earthly all on the altar of divine Science, to me, means letting go of your mortal

selfhood, releasing your mortal biography with all its bumps and bruises, letting it all burn up...and exchanging it for what divine Science states as our true identity, entirely spiritual, made in the image and likeness of God.

I also think this means giving up your mortal plan for what you think you want to do with your life, in order to let God take the lead. When I was first told this, it was upsetting and very unappealing. I was told that the whole concept of man's free will that many self-help books give as the basis for choosing the life you want; is what Mrs. Eddy called “human will.” This use of will power is antagonistic to Christian Science.

This same passage also encourages the reader, by stating what the reward is on the other side of this giving up of worldly pride and identity, “is endued with the spirit and power of Christian healing.” ***

Thank you, Mike. This is a good point. This whole idea of man having “free will” is really just an observation that we have choices and are capable of making choices. We can choose to follow our spiritual sense, take the path that seems right and good according to our highest sense of Right, or we can choose to be mesmerized by material appearance, and beliefs of limitation.

We all have a desire to pursue truth, so as to make better choices. Jesus' entire mission was to teach us the truth about God and ourselves and our relationship with Him, so as to enable us to make better choices. Strange how so many resist the truth, just because we can't see it with our eyes, or feel it with our hands. It requires a respect for our spiritual sense in order to apprehend “truth.” We all have it, we just need to trust it, respect it, follow it, and be willing to suffer the persecution that the so-called human mind directs at those who choose to follow the true path. And, as you pointed out, the reward for making the right choices is greater than anything money can buy. *****

Thank you both for these insightful remarks. It helps me to stay grounded in God and the Truth that God governs and controls all things real. And, God's way is always the best and most loving way in all situations. For me, this right sense of things helps release a false sense of responsibility. If every moment I remember to put it all in God's hands and

listen for his directions, it fills me with joy and confidence! Much gratitude for this!! *****

"Sin No More"

“[Jesus] did life’s work aright not only in justice to himself, but in mercy to mortals, — to show them how to do theirs, but not to do it for them nor to relieve them of a single responsibility” (*Science and Health*, p. 18).

So important!

William D. Kilpatrick’s 1935 Association Address, “Treatment,” underscores this point very well: “Remember that Jesus never healed anyone without making it clear to them that the permanency of their healing rested entirely with them. Almost invariably he said to them that their future welfare of their being rested with them. He said, to paraphrase his statement in several instances, ‘Now, I have healed you this time. But whether you stay healed depends on you.’ In other words, ‘Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.’” *****

Growing up, we went to many different churches in California, each with their own brand of “Christianity.” The one constant theme was the teaching that basically amounted to ‘do whatever you want, and then ask God to forgive your sins and you’ll be all set.’ Then we moved to a very Catholic town in Massachusetts, and suddenly there was this sense of ‘no matter what you do you will be a sinner, but if you give us money and perform these rituals you might just make it to heaven.’ Both options seemed just wrong to me. What kind of deity would set up a system like that? This is why I ended up going toward atheism for a time.

In Plainfield, with Mrs. Eddy’s Science, I’ve found something that makes sense. Finally! We are taught all our life – in school, at work, and in our “real life” – that we need to take responsibility for our own actions. We reap what we sow. Why wouldn’t that also apply to spiritual matters and health? I am so grateful that Christian Science never asks us to act like we are victims in an unfair process. Quite the opposite!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

Something I’ve been feeling is that the names that Isaiah gives are not interchangeable, but actually prophecy, the process that people go through as they learn about the Christ and then have that knowledge tempered with the understanding gained from Christian Science.

Wonderful: When we first hear his healings, we are amazed: What power! What compassion!

Counsellor: Then we read deeper into his message, such as the Sermon on the Mount; it feels right and we take that counsel, but only superficially.

The mighty God, The everlasting Father: Then – because we fail to live this Science – we see his demonstrations as unrepeatable, and then deify Jesus to justify our failings.

The Prince of Peace: But then the revelation of Christian Science comes along, and we are shown the truth of his works, and how to put off that old thought and follow him. We learn how to “go and sin no more.” At last, we see how to be “joint-heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8: 17)

What a constant joy and blessing it is to be here, learning. None of this would have been gained without this Science! Thank you for these lessons!

The One Spirit Includes All Identities

Science and Health, p. 333 ...The divine image, idea, or Christ was, is, and ever will be inseparable from the divine Principle, God. ... The one Spirit **includes** all identities. It helps me to think of this inclusion, as the Bible admonition that: We live Move and Have our being in Him. This does away with the false sense of separation, the false sense of life in matter and the lie of evil as a reality! If included in Spirit, God, then I can trust how Martha Wilcox puts it on pg. 77 of her Addresses, that: “Minds spontaneous action is the spontaneous action of my present body.” Wonderful thought, it reveals a lot when pondered!

SUBJECT: Christian Science – December 31st, 2017

For Three Years After My Discovery

“For three years after my discovery, I (Mrs. Eddy) sought the solution of this problem of Mind-healing, searched the Scriptures and read little else, kept aloof from society, and devoted time and energies to discovering a positive rule....” (*Science and Health*) In this one statement, Mrs. Eddy is giving us a small glimpse into what she did in order to write our textbook, *Science and Health*. There are five simple steps listed – 1) she sought the solution; 2) searched the Scriptures; 3) read little else; 4) kept aloof from society; and 5) devoted her time and energies to discovering this positive rule. I know we all want to understand Christian Science to a greater degree and many are in search of healing – physical, financial, emotional. Perhaps if we incorporated even half of the devotion Mrs. Eddy shows to us in this one sentence, our progress would be much greater. *****

Thank you so much for this reminder! It brought me to re-read “Improve your time” on pg. 230 of *Misc. Writings*.

It starts out: “Success in life depends upon persistent effort, upon the improvement of moments more than upon any other one thing.” Food for thought!

It concludes with this quote: “Let us, then, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait.” *****

After reading this beautiful Lesson for a couple of days I realized that the Angel in *Rev.10* says to take the ‘little book’ and then do exactly what Mrs. Eddy did for three years, as outlined above.

Thank you also to the teaching here at Plainfield because in the past it seemed like all my studies and reading was with unseeing eyes. Once in a while I got enough of a glimpse to keep me going but now can better understand and apply Christian Science.

Too bad I didn’t have this level of consciousness

when I did keep ‘aloof’ from the ‘other’ Christian Science and did a lot of reading on my own. But I’m grateful even for that because it shows how important ‘sharing’ God and Christian Science is; I couldn’t do it with understanding in a vacuum. Also, reading the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings with the correct desire is much and never a waste of time. *****

Eat It Up

Revelation 10: 9, 10

“And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up.”

This got me thinking, how much do I “eat up” or diligently read the little book (*Science and Health*)? I think it was Edward Kimball who said he had read it 50 times, and every time he finished, he would begin it again.

A testimony was read several weeks ago of someone who was healed after reading it 11 times. So, I have no right to complain about anything if I am not imbibing, pondering, meditating, or studying *Science and Health* and applying it on a daily basis. But not just reading the citations in the lesson or skipping here and there – reading it through and then reading it again.

“Mortals, obey the heavenly evangel. Take divine Science. Read this book from beginning to end. Study it, ponder it. It will be indeed as sweet at its first taste, when it heals you; but murmur not over Truth, if you find its digestion bitter.”

Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give

Today I had a chance to listen to “Judge Not” by Mary Baker Eddy, which was in today’s Daily Calendar Statement email. Mrs. Eddy was writing about holding a personal sense of others. An excerpt from the article *Misc.* p. 290

“...my affections involuntarily flow out towards all. When will the world cease to judge of causes from a personal sense of things, conjectural and

misapprehensive! When thought dwells in God, — and it should not, to our consciousness, dwell elsewhere, — one must benefit those who hold a place in one's memory, whether it be friend or foe, and each share the benefit of that radiation. This individual blessedness and blessing comes not so much from individual as from universal love: it emits light because it reflects; and all who are receptive share this equally."

It occurred to me that the healing Jesus did such as the blind man in our lesson this week was not a special privilege he bestowed on a few chosen or preferred people. In fact, often it was the outcasts that received the benefit of his healing work. It was the blind man who was receptive to the light Jesus radiated for universal good. It is wonderful to be learning how to open thought to this universal Science that is free to all who are receptive. It is not portioned out, limited, exclusive, nor does it expire, become exhausted, or diminish. As David says, "My cup runneth over."

"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out ... Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. ... And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. ... And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered ... What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." *Matthew 10*

"Truth's immortal idea is sweeping down the centuries, gathering beneath its wings the sick and sinning." Mary Baker Eddy *****

"This individual blessedness and blessing comes not so much from individual as from universal love: it emits light because it reflects; and all who are receptive share this equally."

Thanks for this post! It is so true that to resolve to live a life of blessedness, keeps one grateful, reflecting the true joy that only comes from God. Each day, I pray to be able to see correctly others I come across, to know that each has the Christ within and to follow as best as I can Christ's example of living this universal Love. *****

"The Way of the Wicked He Turneth Upside Down"

Psalm 146:9 makes for a practical, non-malpracticing watch for the world. The ways of the wicked are variously termed personal sense, animal magnetism, carnal mind, evil, devil, etc. and they are ever-working to invert the ways of God. But to attempt to think thoughts of Mind and thoughts of mind together at the same time is an exercise in futility: like trying to paint a portrait of a world right side up and topsy-turvy at the same time. "Mortal mind need[s] to be set right [right side up!]. ... I was cured when I learned my way in Christian Science" [*Science and Health*, p 389].

Thus, understanding Christian Science inverts the ways of mortal mind so that it can no longer invert the ways of God.

Science and Health, p. 415 – "...you must calm and instruct mortal mind with immortal Truth."

Science and Health, p. 295 – "The mortal mind through which Truth appears most vividly is that one which has lost much materiality much error in order to become a better transparency for Truth."

Science and Health, p 152 – "Immortal divine Mind ... saves mortal mind from itself."

Science and Health, p 323 – "Divine Science... elevates even mortal mind to the contemplation of something better than disease or sin."

Science and Health, p 180 – "As mortal mind is the husbandman of error, it should be taught to do the body no harm and to uproot its false sowing."

Science and Health, p 195 – Observation, invention, study, and original thought are expansive and should promote the growth of mortal mind out of itself, out of all that is mortal."

Science and Health, p 196 – "Better the suffering which awakens mortal mind from its fleshly dream, than the false pleasures which tend to perpetuate this dream."

Science and Health, p 326 – "The great healer of mortal mind, Christian Science, is the healer of the body."

Science and Health, p 374 – "The truth of being, whispered into the ear of mortal mind, will bring relief."

Science and Health, p 407 – "...Christian Science is the sovereign panacea, giving strength to the

weakness of mortal mind, strength from the immortal and omnipotent Mind, and lifting humanity above itself into purer desires, even into spiritual power and good-will to man.”

Psalm 146:9 The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: *but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.*

Thanks for your post. Since I read this from the Lesson it has come to thought frequently to counteract all so-called power of the false testimonies presenting in our world. It is a powerful Watch statement! I also like the preservation of strangers and the fact of God’s Love for all His children. God does take care of all. Whatever is ungodlike, we can take back to God’s kingdom for the realization of its true sense. In this way, it becomes clearer and clearer that indeed God is ALL, Good IS, Evil is NOT. *****

Thanks for this helpful post! I would like to add a favorite healing passage from *Science and Health*, p.162:4.

“Christian Science brings to the body the sunlight of Truth, which invigorates and purifies. Christian Science acts as an alterative, neutralizing error with Truth. It changes the secretions, expels humors, dissolves tumors, relaxes rigid muscles, restores carious bones to soundness. The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of divine Mind.”

alterative – a drug used empirically to alter favorably the course of an ailment. (Webster’s 7th Collegiate Dictionary)

The particular quote has a restorative power to shift me back to Truth, and I feel a peacefulness set in whenever I read it slowly, and let the words seep down deep. A wonderful prescription! *****

The Cry

There were several instances in the lesson where a cry was made. There is much more to a cry than an emotional meltdown with sorrow and despair. In some cases, it is an earnest, sincere, and unselfish request or prayer. “O Lord, I cried unto thee, thou

hast healed me.” I thank God for the times I have reached out to Him, holding nothing back, and inevitably, there has been an answer or a way made. This proves that there is a God and that He hears and answers sincere prayer. There is nothing half-hearted about this cry.

Another cry is an announcement or proclamation of something noteworthy or profound. “Another mighty angel come down from heaven...And cried with a loud voice...take the little book”. This cry came from the heavenly angel. God is speaking to us all the time. May my ear be open to this cry and take notice. *****

May I forever remember the many times You have healed me from those false enslaving senses! The Christ forever near! *****

God's Word Fulfilled

Psalm 146 5. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

6. Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:
7. Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:
8. The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:

And from last week’s Lesson where Jesus opened the book of Esaias in the synagogue in Nazareth and read thus:” The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

We are taught here at Plainfield to listen for the spiritual interpretation of the Bible. It is wonderful to become aware of God’s promises to us and see how they are fulfilled. Mrs. Eddy understood, healed as Christ Jesus did, and devoted her life to teaching others, in order that mankind would be blessed by God’s Word. *****