

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Mind – February 25th, 2018

The Exterminator of Error

Bible Lesson: *Science and Health*, p 469: 13 - 17

“The exterminator of error is the great truth that God, good, is the only Mind, and that the supposititious opposite of infinite Mind — called devil or evil — is not Mind, is not Truth, but error, without intelligence or reality.”

“Addresses by Martha Wilcox p.155 ‘The So-Called Evil in the Human Intelligence’”

“What seems to be evil in the so-called human intelligence is not Intelligence. The seeming evil has no principle; it has no motive power to carry it on; it is a misconception, a misinterpretation, a misrepresentation, a perversion, a deflection of some good and eternal fact in divine Intelligence. Evil is nothing. It comes to us for its existence and we give it all the existence that it has. Through our understanding of divine Science, we prove that evil is nonexistent, and that the one divine Intelligence is eternal, unchangeable, the All and Only.”

I am very grateful to be continually reassured that evil is unreal. I am grateful to know that when a fearful thought comes to me, I can deny it and stamp it out without harm. I am grateful that this seeming fear is not from God. I have the authority from God to banish it from my thought and replace it with Love. Moment by moment, I can know that God is our Mind and His thoughts are loving. His Intelligence is our Intelligence. Also, that God provides for us every moment all that we need.

Finding Security

I am grateful for this powerful Bible Lesson on the heels of Sunday’s Roundtable discussion on finding security.

“...your faith should not stand in the wisdom of

men, but in the power of God.” I Cor. 2

“Every concept which seems to begin with the brain begins falsely.” Mary Baker Eddy

“Therefore let no man glory in men.” I Cor. 3

By putting all my trust in man, myself, or others, I neglected the things of God, not realizing this actually was a lack of means of a true defense. I kept looking for solutions in matter, which always seemed illusive or temporary. When I felt I was safe, I was actually deluded by a false sense of peace, which gave me a false sense of security without God. What a blessing to learn how to correctly apply this Science by obedience to God in practical healing steps, working for God.

SECURITY: “Protection; effectual defense or safety from danger of any kind; That which guards from danger. Freedom from fear; confidence of safety; Something given or done to secure peace.” (1828 Webster’s)

“Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science.” Mary Baker Eddy.

Quote from Sunday’s Roundtable – “Security: It does not say occasionally, sometimes, it says, “found only in divine Science” therefore human solutions are not where security is found! (The Only Source of Security). *****

Our Babels

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven...”

I love this story of Babel. It is such a good explanation of what happens when people try to find heaven (happiness, security, joy) through material knowledge, so-called. The human mind will create schools of education so people can spend years working for advanced degrees, searching for what? It will promote human theories in school as if

they were fact (Darwin's theory of evolution). It will create rules of law that will prevent people from doing anything in order to save them from their own mistakes.

Then, of course, we have institutions like Islam and the Roman Catholic Church that promote themselves through fear and ignorance, and are clearly not improving civilization. With those, there is no communication at all. All of these human institutions, which promise something good, always fall short, or worse, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 8: 6)

Think of all the human institutions that have been created to try to make civilization better. Yet, those that are not based on the omnipotence and omniscience of God, the one and only Mind, lead to confusion, frustration, and people not understanding one another.

Mrs. Eddy writes, "There is but one way to heaven, harmony, and Christ in divine Science shows us this way." We have a great privilege and responsibility to follow Christ as Mrs. Eddy did, and as she instructs us to do in the textbook. It is Christ's Christianity that brings us to heaven on earth. *****

Thank you for this post! When I read the story of Babel this week, my first thought was: God doesn't create division; that is a tactic of the human mind. (A thought only made possible by what I have learned here.) I certainly know that every human system I tried before coming to Plainfield only left me feeling more alone, more separate from joy, purpose, and fulfillment. The material view of things now seems to have a new division popping up every day, constantly trying to confound not only the language, but all facets of daily life.

These divisions were intensely distressing before this church showed me how to watch. Now, I am knowing more and more that these divisions are proof that error is destroying itself. As Christ Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;" (Matthew 12: 25). What a blessing it is to have that material view upended!

And, because of all this, the following verse

jumped out today as the law it is:

3. Matthew 12

30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Thank you for these lessons, and for the constant instruction that shows me how to live increasingly "un-confounded" and filled with the joy, purpose, and fulfillment that only comes from God.

Thoroughly Cured

"When disease is once destroyed in this so-called mortal mind, the fear of disease is gone, and therefore the disease is thoroughly cured." (*Science and Health*) I have found, in my own experience, when any type of problem reoccurs, it is because I have not completely gotten rid of my fear of it. So how do we get rid of fear, this strong man we must bind? It is a step-by-step, day-by-day process. It is catching all those little thoughts that flit by in your head, suggesting to you the problem is real and God is not Omnipotent –and destroying them "thoroughly" with the Truth of your Being. Remember what Mrs. Eddy says in the Blue Book page 142, "Afraid? Afraid of what? What does earth hold that can compare with God's omnipotence? Trust to His care; make faith in Him your staff – it will not bend." This so-called strong man of fear becomes absolutely nothing when confronted with the All-power and All-presence of our loving Father! **** *

If Mortals Claimed No Other Mind

Science and Health, p. 143 Mind is the grand creator, and there can be no power except that which is derived from Mind.

Science and Health, p. 469 The exterminator of error is the great truth that God, good, is the only Mind, and that the supposititious opposite of infinite Mind — called devil or evil — is not Mind, is not Truth, but error, without intelligence or reality. There can be but one Mind, because there is but one God; and *if mortals claimed no other Mind and accepted no other, sin would be unknown. We can have but one Mind, if that one is infinite. (Emphasis added).*

Have I ever accepted and continue to know that I am the manifestation of Immortal Mind? Have I taken the time to realize what that means and what that makes me? Do I humbly know that This Mind, my Christ Mind, cannot be handled?! *****

Duty to God

Science and Health, p.143: 26-31

Mind is the grand creator, and there can be no power except that which is derived from Mind. If Mind was first chronologically, is first potentially, and must be first eternally, then give to Mind the glory, honor, dominion, and power everlastingly due its holy name.

This citation reminded me about our Daily Duties that we read each day. Duty: from the 1828 Webster Dictionary. "Perform obedience, submission, obligation, fidelity and respect." Another dictionary said duty is our mission. All of these help me to honor the Grand Creator. Our God.

SUBJECT: Man – March 4th, 2018

Wake Up Man!

Science and Health, p.184: 6-15 Belief produces the results of belief, and the penalties it affixes last so long as the belief and are inseparable from it. The remedy consists in probing the trouble to the bottom, in finding and casting out by denial the error of belief which produces a mortal disorder, never honoring erroneous belief with the title of law nor yielding obedience to it. Truth, Life, and Love are the only legitimate and eternal demands on man, and they are spiritual lawgivers, enforcing obedience through divine statutes.

Wake up people! We have opposite laws governing and leading us into disharmony, fear and sickness, when our maker has given us spiritual laws that should govern us into health, holiness, Love. What are we doing, especially when we have caught a glimpse of this redeeming Truth?

This remedy of casting out beliefs and seeing their illusive nature, hence powerlessness and

nothingness is to me a cure. I have found that every false belief I have been able to see **clearly** as unreal has not returned and even when a faint thought of it comes, it gets NO reaction whatsoever. It is not easy to cast out some of these beliefs. But I would dishonor God if I do not reject any negative thoughts that come. Then it does not act as a deterrent for me not to make the needed effort to cast these beliefs out. Beliefs left alone will become laws that dominate us! *****

When I hear "Wake up," I instantly think of Mrs. Eddy's article, "Choose Ye" (The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany). In it, she says, "Wholly apart from this mortal dream, this illusion and delusion of sense, Christian Science comes to reveal man as God's image, His idea, coexistent with Him – God giving all and man having all that God gives. Whence, then, came the creation of matter, sin, and death, mortal pride and power, prestige or privilege?" She directs us to the First Commandment and Golden Rule, "which, when realized, constitute a Christian Scientist, heal the sick, reform the sinner, and rob the grave of its victory."

The seeming symptoms from illness, age, worldly beliefs, or any false belief can feel quite real, overwhelming, depressing, petrifying... you name it. Yet, even if they seem that way, what great power and comfort it is to know they are illusions and delusions, to which we have the authority and ability to "wake up". As Florence's post reminds though, there is also a great duty to do this; a Commandment and a divine Rule that must be followed; an admonition to, "choose whom ye will serve." I never focused much on the duty aspect before coming to Plainfield, or thought of how not working on this was dishonoring or being disobedient to God. This instruction has been of great help. Thank you. *****

Thank you, for this post. As I read it, I couldn't help but think that Hezekiah was telling all of Judah to wake up. As King, he ordered the images (idols) to be broken, the groves (more idols) to be cut down, and the brass serpent to be broken in pieces. These were all meant to wake up the people of Judah to worship the one God, instead of their false gods.

I have to believe that many people were not happy

with him for doing that. I can imagine that the “establishment” of the time was very unhappy that their false little peace was being overturned. Since he was King, they may not have been able to complain in public, but I also have to believe there were many who would have liked to undermine his efforts or disregard his orders.

It often times takes great courage to obey God and wake up, let alone to wake up others. Interesting how history repeats itself. *****

Wake Up Man! were the helpful words that came to me while wrestling with mortal mind last night. I was about to give up, when I remembered this post. Wake Up Man! I laughed, helping to dispel the mesmerism of a false, challenging claim. Thank you Plainfield Church for all of the pearls you plunk in my mind that surface at just the right moment bringing great relief! *****

Truer Reflection

Philippians 2:5, 15 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye *shine* as lights in the world...”

“Christ’s life outwardly was one of the most troubled lives that was ever lived: Tempest and tumult, tumult and tempest, the waves breaking over it all the time till the worn body was laid in the grave. But the inner life was a sea of glass. The great calm was always there. At any moment you might have gone to Him and found Rest. And even when the bloodhounds were dogging him in the streets of Jerusalem, He turned to His disciples and offered them, as a last legacy, ‘My peace’ ” (Henry Drummond, *Pax Vobiscum*).

“...Christ Jesus...threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow, — thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying” (*Science and Health*, p.259: 6-11).

Jesus had mastered the troubled waters of mortal mind so much, that his entire being became a still, smooth, polished reflecting surface upon which the light of God could shine undimmed and

uninterrupted, one reflected beam of which was more powerful than any laser weapon devised on earth.

“[H]e that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:6).

“The people that sat in darkness have seen a great light” (Matthew 4:16). So today, more than ever before, the light I reflect must be “great,” indeed. This means that my stillness — my death to self — before God must be great, and greater each day. This cannot be faked. The surface of a choppy sea, even on the clearest of days, reflects the sunlight only in patches at best.

“A rest remaineth on earth’s battle fields
To every son of man, a Sabbath rest,—
Progressive states of peace to him who yields
His all to Principle, — unfoldment, blest
With true enlightenment. There is, indeed.
The shadow of a rock, a peaceful place,
A Sabbath rest to-day. The world’s great need
Of seeing Mind, man’s Maker, face to face
Is now supplied. This hour the truest rest
Is striking from the human mind unrest.”

—from “THERE REMAINETH A REST”, by Agnes Chalmers, CS Journal, February. 1919)

Strong Man

“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.” Mary Baker Eddy

During Sunday’s Roundtable how to “bind the strong man” was discussed. Somehow until that day I didn’t really grasp that the “strong man” was aggressive, ungodlike thinking.

“Mortal mind is ‘the strong man,’ which must be held in subjection before its influence upon health and morals can be removed.” Mary Baker Eddy (Subjection: subduing; vanquishing and bringing under the dominion) She says it “must” be held - A requirement of obedience and discipline, not an option.

She also tells us to dissolve self-will, self-justification, and self-love. These three errors were mentioned at the Roundtable as some of the worst “strongmen”.

How wonderful to have a lesson last week about what we need to do with our thinking and followed up with this week’s lesson on the importance of obedience to God. I can’t just drift into the Kingdom of God as I had once hoped, but must work in obedience. Not only that, but it doesn’t just happen in one moment, another misconception I had. I need patience to finish this course. Therefore, apathy and laziness of the human mind is another strongman to bind, otherwise I will be taken off, only to have to work to get back onto the path. I am grateful to have found a place that clearly teaches from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy’s writing. Learning to truly love and honor God has been a blessing. *****

Obedience and Rebellion

II Kings 18

1 ...Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did.

7 And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

Science and Health, p.147: 32-6

Jesus never spoke of disease as dangerous or as difficult to heal. When his students brought to him a case they had failed to heal, he said to them, “O faithless generation,” implying that the requisite power to heal was in Mind. He prescribed no drugs, urged no obedience to material laws, but acted in direct disobedience to them.

I love how this lesson brings out the importance of obedience and rebellion.

In the past, I had times I felt I should be obedient, and other times I felt the need to rebel. It didn’t always work out for the best either way, yet I could never be certain why. Christian Science, as taught here, has been showing me that without God and the high standard this Science brings, I could never

have known when to “let [my] communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay:” (Matthew 5:37)

I am also grateful to find that rebellion is not inherently wrong. It just needs to be directed wisely. How practical to be given this instruction which shows that both obedience to God *and* active rebellion against sin are necessary to live this Science. *****

1828 Webster dictionary states in part about obedience;” Compliance with a command, performance of what is required, or abstaining from what is prohibited in compliance with the command or prohibition, forbearance to act must be in submission to authority, the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence to it. Voluntary obedience alone can be acceptable to God. (!)”

It is then that sometime we “...shall rest, sit down with him in full understanding of the divine Principle which triumphs over death.” *****

God Made Man Satisfied

This week’s lesson on Man brings to mind some time ago when attending a class in our church being given by Mrs. Evans where the discussion was when and how man is satisfied. At once, Mrs. Evans slammed her hand on the desk and stated emphatically “God made man satisfied.” There is something about a short, four-word sentence that states a profound truth that leaves a lasting impression. We all know that there is so much put out in society that claims that we are not satisfied. But this is all false. If God made man in His likeness, pronounced all that He made to be good, and His work was finished, as the sacred scripture says, how could men be anything other than satisfied? Many times, I have stopped the insisting urge to be dissatisfied, and it does come, by simply stating that God made man satisfied. He made me and everyone satisfied. A man, who delights to do God’s will, could only be content. This truth has a healing influence. One of the many things it can do is dissolve hate. A man who knows that he is satisfied cannot hate. This would be an amazing blessing for mankind!