

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Soul and Body – May 20th, 2018

From sense to Soul

In *Science and Health*, p 216:28-1, it says:
“When you say, ‘Man’s body is material,’ I say with Paul: Be ‘willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.’ Give up your material belief of mind in matter, and have but one Mind, even God; for this Mind forms its own likeness.”

Mrs. Eddy has said that all the editions of *Science and Health* have value. The following gave me an added perspective, for which I am grateful:
In the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, 1875, (page 295) it says this:

“Absent from the body and present with the Lord is not ecstasy or trance, but a realization of the science of Life, as laid down in this volume; it is obedience to the law of God, governing the body by Spirit instead of matter; therefore our Master said: ‘After this manner pray ye —

The following is the spiritual signification of the Lord’s Prayer:

Harmonious and eternal Principle of man,
Nameless and adorable Intelligence,
Spiritualize man;
Control the discords of matter with the harmony of Spirit.
Give us the understanding of God,
And Truth will destroy sickness, sin, and death, as it destroys the belief of intelligent matter,
And lead man into Soul, and deliver him from personal sense,
For God is Truth, Life, and Love forever.”

"Christ is The Saviour of The Body."

“Christ is the saviour of the body.” (Ephesians)

“SAVIOR: One that saves or preserves; but properly applied only to Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, who has opened the way to everlasting salvation by his obedience and death, and who is therefore called Savior, by way of distinction, the Savior of men, the Savior of the world.” (1828 Webster’s Dictionary)
I have been thinking about the Golden Text all week and have been taking refuge in the fact it is the Christ alone that is the savior of the body. We are trained, taught, and educated to believe whenever we have any troubles with the body – go to doctors, hospitals, drugs, psychiatrists, dieticians etc. These might provide some temporary relief, but ultimately only the Christ Truth can lift us up and out of all the ills of the flesh. God is our Creator and knows all about each and every one of us. That is why it is so important we spend time each day with the Great and Only Physician. He will keep you sound and whole – after His likeness, when you submit yourself to Him. “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” (Psalm) Re-educate yourself to this mighty Truth!

Beautiful, thank you! Would that God be everyone’s first resort! I love how you worded it: “That is why it is so important we spend time each day with the Great and Only Physician. He will keep you sound and whole – after His likeness, when you submit yourself to Him.” That’s a fresh way of looking at my relationship with God and encouraging! *****

A Minutely Described Disease.....

A minutely described disease costs many a man his earthly days of comfort. What a price for human knowledge!

Science and Health, p 196:11-17, 20-24, 31-8, 11-15: This whole section of our Lesson this week has given me a lot to ponder and digest. The need to be so alert and guard our minds against the bombardment of advertisement, commercials on TV and constant talk about illness and remedies that seems to permeate the world consciousness. I'm the first one to admit, the hypnotic lure of discussing with co-workers the various aches and ills in order to either compare "notes" or find what had helped them, is very enticing. I have to constantly be on guard not to be led down a path that will not resolve anything but waste time that should be devoted to knowing God and affirming the perfection of man. When I read passages like the ones aforementioned, the core of my being "clicks" in a primordial knowledge that "This has always been so." God is All and the only existing power. No medication, herb, therapy etc., can overpower His care and love for us. I'm so very grateful for these Lessons, they always have a golden nugget that can be carried in our hearts throughout the day. Thank you.*****

Your post made me chuckle. It is amazing the treadmill of crazy ideas that are purported to be the latest and greatest good for one while breaking the first and second commandment. In *The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany*, Mrs. Eddy calls this fashionable lunacy.

The actual quote is "Heal the sick, make spotless the blemished, raise the living dead, cast out fashionable lunacy." *****

Admit The Common Hypothesis

Science and Health, p. 388:12-30, p. 176:7-16, 19-20, p. 382:24-2

Admit the common hypothesis that food is the nutriment of life, and there follows the necessity

for another admission in the opposite direction, — that is food has power to destroy Life, God, through a deficiency or an excess, a quality or a quantity.....

The above sections of our Lesson this week are also very important to me. They are chock full of instruction to me and a constant reminder that "dieting" and watching obsessively what I'm eating or counting calories is not a panacea for staying healthy or loosing the extra pounds. The diet industry is almost at par with the pharmaceutical, they are constantly pounding the public with need to keep healthy via some "miracle" diet or pill. The "smoothie" obsession, as I call it, had me for a while ingesting the most vile concoctions and combinations of raw vegetables, juices, grains, while trying to convince myself that it tasted good, IT DID NOT!! I'm very thankful that through the teaching of Christian Science I can follow a really healthy way of eating and not be swayed by fads that can later be found to be harmful or not really that great tasting. I'm so grateful for these Lessons and what they teach. Thanks. *****

God's Mighty Hand

Isaiah 49: 16 Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

From MacLaren's Expositions:

...if all things and events are co-operant, working into each other, and for one end, like the wheels of a well-constructed engine, then **there must be an Engineer, and they work together because He is directing them. Thus, because my name is graven on the palms of the mighty Hand that doeth all things, therefore 'all things work together for my good.'** If we could but carry that quiet conviction into all the mysteries, as they sometimes seem to be, of our daily lives, and interpret everything in the light of that great thought, how different all our days would be! How far above the petty anxieties and cares and troubles that gnaw away so much of our strength and joy; how serene, peaceful, lofty, submissive, would be our lives, and how in the darkest darkness there

would be a great light, not only of hope for a distant future, but of confident assurance for the present. 'I have graven thee on the palms of My hands' - do Thou, then, as Thou wilt with me.

'Thy walls are continually before Me.' When this prophecy was uttered, the Israelites were in captivity, and the city was a wilderness, 'the holy and beautiful House' - as this very book says - 'where the fathers praised Thee was burned with fire,' the walls were broken down, rubbish, and solitude were there. Yet, on the palms of God's hands, were inscribed the walls which were nowhere else! They were 'before Him,' though Jerusalem was a ruin. What does that mean? It means that that divine remembrance sees ... the ideal, the perfect vision of the perfect future, and 'all the wonder that shall be.'

So, brethren, the most radiant optimism is the only fitting attitude for Christian people in looking into the future, either of the Church as a whole, or of themselves as individual members of it. **God's hand is working for Zion and for me. It is guided by love that does not lose the individual in the mass, nor ever forgets any of its children, and it works towards the attainment of unattained perfection.** 'This Man' does not 'begin to build and' prove 'not able to finish.'

So, let us be sure that, if only we keep ourselves in the love, and continue in the grace of God, He will not slack nor stay His hand on which Zion is graven, until it has 'perfected that which concerneth us,' and fulfilled to each of us that 'which He has spoken to us of.' *****

**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern
Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism and
Hypnotism, Denounced – May 27th, 2018**

Repetition & Suggestibility

Josef Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, wrote:

"It would not be impossible to prove with *sufficient repetition* and a psychological understanding of the people concerned that a square is in fact a circle.

They are mere words, and words can be molded until they clothe ideas and disguise" (emphasis added). This is how the greater part of the population of Germany was led to call good evil and evil good.

Repetition is a primary principle of mesmerism. Any thought that I think over and over again becomes a belief. Any belief that I perpetuate will eventually, irresistibly, become a reality to me.

This is why the third and last of Mrs. Eddy's "Daily Duties" is so important: "Alertness to Duty – It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion..."

Hitler and Goebbels were masters of aggressive suggestion, and one of their most effective and aggressive propaganda tools was repetition.

The apostle Paul, in the second chapter of II Thessalonians, speaks of the antichrist as gaining power through deception and through the deceivableness of his followers.

A deceiver is only as strong as the deceivability, or suggestibility, of his audience. The human mind is suggestible, and this is why it is so important to put off the human mind and "put on the Mind of Christ": <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-The-Mind-Of-Christ/>

"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." (Joshua 1:8.)

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8.) *****

Thanks for your cautionary post. Mrs. Eddy admonishes alertness to duty (as mentioned above)

to be careful we are not hypnotized by what we hear; and we can prevent such mesmerism if we are always careful with our loyalty to the things of God. This means I have to ask often: Is this of God? Father, what do you say? These should be my ready tests for all that comes to my thought, what I see or hear; since without these measures, one can be influenced to believe the repeated lies that come about health, politics or anything else from the news and elsewhere.

This caution is why we are encouraged to keep our conversations in heaven. How easily we can become mesmerized with evil thoughts, if we keep listening to them.

Phillipians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

How wise and protective these Bible admonitions are and thanks to Mrs. Eddy, who says in S&H, p. 103: The malicious form of hypnotism ultimates in moral idiocy. *****

Thank you for this post, and for including the link to the Bible verses related to “The Mind of Christ.” I love 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” How wonderful that we can release fear from ourselves because God never gave it! And to embrace the power of God, through love, and to do it in the right way, at the right time, because we reflect that “sound mind” – our reflection of the one Mind!

Thanks very much for this reminder, and to act upon it moment by moment! And thank you for the practical examples of what to be alert to in our daily lives. This is indeed an important and timely Lesson this week – thank you! *****

The Way of the Ungodly Shall Perish

In Psalm 1:6 we read, “For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

God knows what He created and He knows only good, not evil. The way of the righteous consist of

good deeds, unselfed love, all the ways that God expresses himself through His creation. This is the normal and natural state of man. The fact that God knows it is the direct result of the fact that God created it. Those who are righteous are righteous for that reason, – they are expressing God in their words and their actions.

It’s the way of the ungodly that needs work. The way of the ungodly includes envy, lust, hate, passion, revenge, self love, self will, self justification, sin, disease, and death. There seems to be a lot of words to describe the “way” of the ungodly. And it is that “way” that shall perish. The Psalm does not say that the ungodly shall perish, but that their “way” shall perish.

It took me a while to realize that evil, in whatever form, is not personal. It is never a person. That is why it is so important to rebuke evil whenever we see it or feel it, and not worry about hurting someone’s feelings. Mrs. Eddy implored her students to “exhort” and “rebuke” one another. Jesus rebuked his disciples and others for their “ungodly” way. This is how they perish (the way, that is). And it perishes where it appeared, in your consciousness. And once you eliminate it from your consciousness, it will perish from your experience. This is Christian healing. The ungodly (mistaken, unhealthy) will become righteous (right, healthy) once their ungodly “way” perishes. *****

Truth Irresistible

The irresistible searchlight of truth cannot be kept back from operating. Our golden text from Proverbs states “Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished.” This is not something to fear, but rather to embrace. Regardless of how many believe or go along with something, only the true and God-like endures. We all have seen how quick a child is to speak up when they hear something untrue, so is our true nature to be honest and forthright. So don’t let the pressures of experience and circumstance weigh heavily on the conscience. The pure in heart always prevail. God upholds them.