

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 122

**SUBJECT: Mind – August 19th, 2018**

## "...Gives Place to The Divine Mind,"

"...because my word hath no place in you. ... He that is of God heareth God's words:" Words of Christ Jesus (John 8)

PLACE (Websters 1828) (ie: Bible quotes were included in the definition)

"...occupied by any person or thing, and considered as the space where a person or thing does or may rest or has rested, - 'The place where thou standest is holy ground.' Exodus 3:5 order of priority, dignity or importance.

kind reception. - 'My word hath no place in you.' John 8.

To give room; to give advantage; to yield to the influence of; to listen to. - "Neither give place to the devil." Eph. 4.

What am I giving place to in my thinking? Am I being receptive to Christ, giving priority to the things of God? The line by Mrs. Eddy says, "Beloved Christian Scientists, keep your minds so filled with Truth and Love, that sin, disease, and death cannot enter them. It is plain that nothing can be added to the mind already full." (My. 210) This has taken tremendous discipline for me fill my thoughts, to give room, presence to thoughts of God, of His goodness, to displace the Adam dream pictures. For the love of God and mankind, I am learning here to watch what I am allowing to rest in my consciousness. The undeniable results have proven to me the correctness of the clear teachings of Christian Science at Plainfield. These have been correcting many misconceptions I had about the human mind and what it means to reflect the divine Mind. Mrs. Eddy makes clear the human mind is opposed to God. I had the misconception that the human mind was something to cherish and make "good." I am so grateful for Carpenter's books,

especially *Spiritual Footsteps* where he explains this process of putting off the human mind in great detail.

"When the mechanism of the human mind gives place to the divine Mind, selfishness and sin, disease and death, will lose their foothold." *Science and Health*, p.176.: \*\*\*\*\*

## "Admitting the Claims of Good"

"Our proportionate *admission of the claims of good or of evil* determines the harmony of our existence, — our health, our longevity, and our Christianity." *Science and Health*, p. 167, (Emphasis added.)

In John Bunyan's neglected allegory, *The Holy War*, the city of Mansoul is engaged in constant conflict with its mortal enemy, Sin. Sin can only gain entrance into Mansoul through one or more of its gates: Eye-Gate, Ear-Gate, Nose-Gate, Feel-Gate, and Mouth-Gate. But Sin cannot force these gates open from the outside; it can only gain admission if a gate were opened from the inside.

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates" (Psalm 24:7). Of these gates, William Gadsby comments: "At the castle of Banias, in Syria, are the remains of an ancient gate which was drawn up, like a blind, the gate fitting in grooves. This will fully explain the term." (See also online photos of the medieval palace or fortress gate called the **portcullis**.)

Therefore, following Mind's protocol of restricted entry, I am to admit only the highest thoughts, and keep out all others. I am to "admit the claims of good," of faith, of victory, by elevating my sense-gates to receive those exalted claims into my thought-life, and entertain them with utmost respect,

attentiveness, appreciation, trust, and openness, as royal guests.

And, just as I am to lift my sense-gates to allow admission of the best thoughts exclusively, I am to “stand porter at the door of thought,” and lower those gates to shut out all lower claims, especially doubt and discouragement.

William Blake wrote, “If the doors of perception were cleansed, every thing would appear to man as it is, Infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things through narrow chinks of his cavern.” \*\*\*\*\*

## With Spiritual Understanding NOT Blind Belief

To work out my own salvation requires the spiritual understanding that fortifies my **trustworthiness**; that means I am gaining the understanding that I am God’s image and likeness, that I am spiritual, with the “indissoluble connection with God.” This understanding is what I need to work out my salvation. With this I can fearlessly say to all the claims that come, including the so called tenacious ones, that they have nothing in me and continue the realization of my present perfection.

On the contrary, without the progress of increasing spiritual sense/understanding, I remain in the bondage of blind belief, still believing I am material, measure my welfare according to those aches and pains plus the past material claims that deceive me, make me doubt the truth about my being, and keep me fearful of every claim put out there by the belief of life in matter. With belief, I will always remain only **trustful**, believing in the material sense testimonies, and with blind faith that God will heal me.

The command is to work out our own salvation. We need not complain about how long it is taking to gain the needed spiritual understanding or shirk what it takes to gain it; because that is what makes

the demonstration (the revelation or brings the realization of our salvation/our perfection NOW)!  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Challenging Your Highest Sense of Right

In this week’s lesson, we have the exchange between Jesus and the Jews, which starts with the blessing “If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Who wouldn’t feel encouraged by this? But then the Jews argued with Jesus, and were so intent with their position, which they felt was right, that they were ready to kill. How messed up is that! But it made me ask myself how I would react if my highest sense of right was challenged. In *Science and Health*, it states “to understand God is the work of eternity,” so no one can say that they have got it all together. So, the tests and challenges come, and how much better it is to let the experience reveal what is enduring and what is passing. A well known Christian song goes “He draws me aside to be tested and tried, but in the valley He restoreth my soul.” In the valley of humility and receptivity, there is restoration to the soul, a positive learning experience that draws us closer to God. Instead of reacting stubbornly, how much better it is to love the experience that causes us to reconsider our position, to turn to our Father for the answer, to love the messenger that brings a higher way, and confidence that God will reveal what is right. This opens the door to the promise given in Colossians “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

## Understanding God

*Science and Health*, 3 : 12-16

“The Divine Being must be reflected by man, — else man is not the image and likeness of the patient, tender, and true, the One ‘altogether lovely;’ but to understand God is the work of

eternity, and demands absolute consecration of thought, energy, and desire.”

In thinking about what Mrs. Eddy wrote, I took from the word “consecration” that I must dedicate myself to the service and worship of God with all my energy and desire. This must be done ABSOLUTELY. I have come to realize that this is the work of eternity, but Mrs. Eddy tells us to get started and work each day. I used to think that understanding would come all at once .... not so. But, “our patient, tender and true, the One ‘altogether lovely’” will guide us along the way.

And thank you for this Lesson Sermon. \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: Christ Jesus – August 26th, 2018**

## **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**

REVELATION 19 : 11-16

11. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF

LORDS.

G.A. KRATZER writes in REVELATION INTERPRETED P 359: “And there disclosed to me the eternal mental realm....the Christ up-borne by all pure ideas...His standards are right , and with right does he make war against evil.... and smites the evil which has attached itself to the nations of men ... he relentlessly excludes evil from harmony....And his appearance is the manifestation of Life....Christ is manifest as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. \*\*\*\*\*“

## **Do Not Tempt the Lord**

“And he (the devil) brought him (Jesus) to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: ... And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” Luke 4

“Let us not, in any place, be off our watch.”  
Matthew Henry

“Preservation in danger is divinely pledged: shall I then create danger, either to put the promised security skeptically to the proof, or wantonly to demand a display of it? That were ‘to tempt the Lord my God,’ which, being expressly forbidden, would forfeit the right to expect preservation.”  
Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

“...who run before they are sent, who thrust themselves into perils to which they are not called...” Pulpit Commentary

I am learning that the human mind is not to be trusted, no matter how happy sounding the words seem. Turning to God gives us wisdom and heedful listening to Him is the antidote to naïveté, imprudent decisions, and reckless optimism. Before Plainfield, I thought repeating a statement and then focusing on my own desires and decisions was adequate protection. This became sheer willpower. When this did not work, I became fearful and doubtful. As taught here, it is a must to cultivate and protect our spiritual sense and this takes discipline,

cultivating meekness, slowing down, and talking with God daily.

“Never act on first thoughts unless they be of good, God, but watch and separate the tares from the wheat. Learn by experience and careful comparison to know whence cometh your conclusions. Try the spirits before acting, look over the purpose that the enemy might be trying to accomplish, and so avoid a snare.” by Mary Baker Eddy from WATCHES PRAYERS ARGUMENTS, p. 114 \*\*\*\*\*

### **Withhold Not the Rebuke**

“When error confronts you, withhold not the rebuke or the explanation which destroys error. Never breathe an immoral atmosphere, unless in the attempt to purify it.” (*Science and Health*, p. 452) These words of Mrs. Eddy are carved in stone at The Mother Church extension, right above where the First and Second Readers stand, and were chosen by Mrs. Eddy to be placed there – showing to the entire congregation (what is now left of it!) their extreme importance. The word “rebuke” in the 1828 Webster Dictionary is defined as “to chide; to reprove; to heal; to calm.” This lesson makes it very clear error must be rebuked. There is nothing personal about this – it is always an error that needs to be exposed and rebuked and so destroyed. I once looked up some of what Christ Jesus rebuked. He rebuked “all error; animal courage; sin; pride; mortal belief; sensuality; rabbinical error; sense (material thought); sin, disease, and death; the wind; the fever; the unclean devils;” to name probably only a few! When error begins to whisper its lies into our thought it is essential to rebuke these subtle and also aggressive suggestions with the Truth. When we “see” error taking place somewhere in our experience, we must follow our Leader’s admonition to “withhold not the rebuke or explanation which destroys error.” In doing so, we are helping to spiritualize thought and to establish God’s kingdom – “as in heaven, so on earth.” \*\*\*\*\*

It was an awakening to understand that to be able to rebuke with love is in obedience to that command to love one another.

Invincible Truth is working in us if we are seeking Truth diligently. One of the most beneficial effects of this is the courage gained to love Truth, coupled with the ability to act when God directs. Prior to this greater conviction of the need to love divinely, I only loved selfishly. I was too conscious of what someone might think or say about me because of my actions. But to love in the way we are commanded to love one another includes the ability to rebuke error and correct wrong behavior with unselfed intent. To awaken one to their folly in allowing “the deceiver” to lead them into temptation or deceive them into believing they are what God did not create; e.g. that they are a fearful sick person, selfish, depressed, greedy, egotistical, impatient, angry, irritable, proud, etc., all qualities non-existent in the real man, the man God created in God’s own image and likeness.

This Truth inspired way of loving our brother, as Jesus demonstrated, in how he rebuked and corrected, in order to bring people back to what is their true being, is much needed everywhere. Christian Science gives the courage to live that way because it makes God, all that matters. \*\*\*\*\*

### **An Important Watch**

“The thunder of Sinai and the Sermon on the Mount are pursuing and will overtake the ages, rebuking in their course all error and proclaiming the kingdom of heaven on earth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 174)

This affirmation is crucial for the time in which we live.

Mrs. Eddy prayed daily for the downfall of idolatry. With respect to Christianity, she also prayed for the cessation of infidelity and apostasy. \*\*\*\*\*