

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 123

SUBJECT: Man – September 2nd, 2018

He That Formed Thee

“...thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. ...Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ...This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.” Isa 43

(Formed: Made; shaped; molded; planned; arranged; combined; enacted; constituted – KJV Dictionary Definition) (of divine activity -Strong’s Concordance)

“I am Spirit. Man, whose senses are spiritual, is my likeness. He reflects the infinite understanding, for I am Infinity. The beauty of holiness, the perfection of being, imperishable glory, — all are Mine, for I am God. I give immortality to man, for I am Truth. I include and impart all bliss, for I am Love. I give life, without beginning and without end, for I am Life. I am supreme and give all, for I am Mind. I am the substance of all, because I AM THAT I AM.” *Science and Health*, p. 252

These two citations from our Lesson reminding us that we are formed by God, inspired me, and I will use these citations when I am thinking about myself and others. Replacing what the world claims we are formed by: DNA, psychology, parents, sociology, food, exercise, etc. for the glory of man. I find comfort by holding in thought that God has formed us - made; shaped; molded; planned; arranged; combined; enacted; constituted us for His purpose and glory. This gives greater purpose to life. *****

"Wilt thou be made whole?"

Isaiah 43:

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

John 5 :

6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

How wonderful to know that God has provided all I need to be made whole, no matter where I am. It doesn't matter if I find myself at the "ends of the earth" or merely a few feet away, as the "impotent man" was. Material distance holds no bearing on my oneness with God. There is nothing that can separate me from God, and there is no room for others to act as intercessor, though I have needed a practitioner to turn me toward Truth and Love quite a few times.

"Wilt thou be made whole?" strikes me as Jesus saying, "It is on you to stop being victimized by false beliefs, and to realize you are the image and likeness of God and all His qualities." As Mrs.

Eddy wrote, “He 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) Just as the practitioner support has done for me, Christ Jesus has also done for us all: He’s put us to work!

This is one of the reasons I feel Christian Science has made sense to me since arriving in Plainfield. Other churches I’ve been around all had some bit of wishful thinking they encourage, as though hoping real hard would make God swoop in and make everything better. But here I’ve needed to study and examine thought and “Work – work – work – watch and pray.” (Message for 1900) Not one moment of fantastical thinking, and that has made all the difference! Thank you!

"Give Up the Spectral," and Magnify the Lord Instead

“We must give up the spectral at all points.” (*Science and Health*, p. 353.)

“Spectral” is the adjective form of the noun “specter,” or “spectre.”
Words related to spectral are *spectrum*, *spectrometer*, *spectator*, *spectacular*, *spectacles*, etc.

A specter is a visible ghost or apparition that induces dread, an extreme, incapacitating form of fear, something quite different from hidden or unconscious dread.

The Greek word for “idolatry” is *eidolon*, which means “thing that is seen.”

The Bible is constantly admonishing me to place my trust in the invisible God, and not to be moved or influenced by outward appearances.

Carpenter’s WATCHING POINT 153 –
“Watch lest you accept the common notion that the small power represented by David’s little stone,

overthrew a great power, called Goliath. David, as the visible representative and manifestation of the omnipotence of divine Mind, was the invincible giant, equipped with infinite power that overthrew Goliath, whose power lay wholly in deception through size.

“The trick of the mesmerism of sense testimony, is to reverse everything, magnifying the nothingness of error so that it seems like a giant, and belittling the power and presence of Spirit.

“Thus, *when we come to a problem that seems gigantic, we should not ask God for more power; we should handle animal magnetism, that our eyes may be opened to see things in their proper relationship and size.* Then we will recognize ourselves as representatives of God, equipped with omnipotence, going forth to meet a foe no more to be feared than a sparrow.

“Christian Science does not equip man with greater and greater power, so that he may go forth to meet the gigantic forces of evil; but it takes from his eyes the magnifying glasses of sense testimony, which cause error to loom up as real, swollen in size and power.

“Once a boy was told that the high-stepping horses of the gay nineties were trained to step high, by putting magnifying glasses on them, so that small stones would appear as boulders in their path. In this way they would lift their feet much higher than was necessary, to step over them, and thus become high-steppers.

“Whether this story is true or not, it does illustrate the fact that the belief of matter birth puts mortal mind’s “glasses” of material vision on mortals, so that the pigmy of human powerlessness and nothingness is swollen to appear as a Goliath of power and vengeance.

When spiritual understanding takes away this distortion, and enables man to have a clear vision, he beholds the utter nothingness of nothing, and the great fact of God’s allness. In this way the Goliath of mortal mind is vanquished.” [Emphasis added.]

Lesson on Man Teaches Who I Am

Who I am from Lesson citations on Man 9/2/18

I am created and formed in the image and likeness of God.

I do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, or seat in the seat of the scornful

I am like a tree by the river, bears fruit, don't wither, all I do shall prosper.

The spirit of God made me.

My mouth speaks wisdom, God's law is in my heart

I am God's perfect man, upright and peaceful.

I belong to God.

God is always with me so I am not afraid.

I am created for God's glory.

I am the new man, with the Spirit of Christ and perfect.

I am God's reflection ever beautiful and complete.

I obey God therefore perfect, praying and watching so no discouragement

I am patiently gaining the spiritual awareness of all that God sees in me

I have the Mind of Christ, the only real Mind

I stick to the standard of Perfection as God and man

I am the expression of God's Being, forever perfect

I am giving up the material belief of myself and identifying with my spiritual self. pg. 470

I am not a material personality, I am the likeness of Spirit, God

My connection with God is indestructible

Health and holiness, are mine not sin, sickness and death

I am the compound idea of God, including all right ideas

I have not a single quality underived from God

My life, intelligence, strength or power comes from God

God is my Father-Mother

His kingdom is in me, Truth and Love reign in me and I am pure and holy!! *****

SUBJECT: Substance – September 9th, 2018

Be Careful Not To Break The 1st Commandment

Science and Health, p. 301 “The belief that man has any other substance, or mind, is not spiritual and breaks the First Commandment, Thou shalt have one God, one Mind. Mortal man seems to himself to be material substance, while man is ‘image’ (idea).”

As we learned last week, man cannot have a single quality underived from God. Thus if God is Spirit, we ought to get serious and learn ourselves anew, as ideas not subject to ANY material claims, or spurious laws but as ideas exalted and maintained by God in our spiritual state.

Our true substance is not subject to pain, inflammation, infection, sadness, depression, fear, etc. And as such, we are never (in Truth) sick, sinning or dying. As Bicknell Young says on pg. 38 of 1937 College, “wisdom is never affected by blood circulation, justice by the action of heart, goodness cannot have a fever, mercy cannot ache or feel pain; kindness cannot be operated upon nor can gratitude meet with an accident.”

So the question is always, am I this fleshly being or is my substance entirely spiritual? If God is ALL as in accord with the First commandment, then the latter better be what I am working diligently to KNOW! *****

Thank you! And - this substance - “It shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him” Ecclesiastes 3:14. *****

She Ceaselessly Fed Them

“Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.” (Luke)

In the book “Spiritual Precepts” (vol 1) Gilbert

Carpenter says the following, about Mrs. Eddy, “She constantly heard the cry of the poor, the sick, the unhappy, the sinner and out of the wealth and overflow of her demonstration, she ceaselessly fed them—as Joseph when he was the custodian of the grain which he had gathered during the seven years of plenty in Egypt, fed the nations who were starving during the seven years of famine.

This was the reason for Mrs. Eddy’s growth. Students today do not grow faster because, out of their abundance of spiritual good, they do not realize much of what has been given them was for the purpose of sharing, not withholding. Lack of giving will stultify growth.”

We all have something to give, even a smile and encouraging word will lift someone’s heart. It is true – giving opens our heart to receive even more of the great good that comes forth from our heavenly Father.

This is a law of the universe and one we are blessed to obey. If you are concerned about your growth or lack of it, perhaps this is a call for you to share some of what you have already received with those hungering for this truth. It is good to often ask myself, am I hearing the call of the poor, the sick, etc. as did Mrs. Eddy? am I sensitive to the needs of others or only wrapped up in my own troubles? Wake up to this calling! – for “blessed is that man who seeth his brother’s need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another’s good.” (*Science and Health* p. 518).

Perverteth

“He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.” (Proverbs 10:9)

A definition I found of pervert, “To turn from truth, propriety, or from its proper purpose; to distort from its true use or end; as, to pervert reason by misdirecting it; to pervert the laws by misinterpreting and misapplying them; to pervert justice; to pervert the meaning of an author; to

pervert nature; to pervert truth” so fits with what occurred with the *Manual* after Mrs. Eddy’s passing.

We certainly must watch that we not be similarly misled. One small step I am in the process of taking is to read the whole *Manual*, something I have not done before. *****

So important! The changes made to Mrs. Eddy’s *Manual* can be likened to changing the tables of physical and mathematical constants in the *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, upon which chemical engineers and physicists depend for error-free outcomes in their research endeavors.*****

And so must we be careful that the Truth about our spiritual individuality be not perverted by the false suggestions of sickness, sin, wrong thoughts and everything that would distort our perfection! *****

Purposed in His Heart

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank:...” Daniel 1

Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary-

Purpose: “That which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; the end or aim to which the view is directed in any plan, measure, or exertion; view; aim; design; intention; plan. To set forth; to bring forward.”

Pulpit Commentary: “Daniel desired in his heart,” ... meaning assigned to “heart” (can be) “mind.”

I am grateful to be learning here how to be obedient to God and watch my motives, both heart and mind.

Another part of our lesson reminds us to, “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” to “Walk in the Spirit” and, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Both heart and mind.) I appreciate better the discipline

and faith of Daniel and what a great love for God he had. It could have been very easy to go with the flow, not rock the boat, justify eating the king's portion, fear standing out, pretend to go along, use it as an opportunity to have something that looked "good" and put God aside until a more opportune time. This is another good reason to have a covenant with God, to keep close to your heart and mind to face temptation.

I am sure that the First Commandment was very important to Daniel. He could have been tempted to give in rather than express temperance, "and drink from the intoxicating cup, of this world. To have partaken of such a feast would have been to sanction idolatry," Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary. *****

Thinking about Daniel gave me a deeper appreciation of our Daily Duties:

"...pray each day: 'Thy kingdom come;' let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin;..." Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 4

"...divine Love alone governs man; ... The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously." Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 1

"... and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. ..." Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6

To Begin Rightly is To End Rightly

Science and Health, p.262:

To begin rightly is to end rightly. I am grateful for Christian Science, this church, and to my practitioner for instilling this in me over these past years. Before Plainfield, there were things I thought I did rightly, but still came to a horrible

end, so now I know that I must not have begun them right, and therefore certainly didn't continue rightly in them. It is such a part of me now to pray before doing something, and to go into it knowing God is leading me; it has been proven without a doubt that only with God is whatever I am doing going to be done right. This is very wonderful, since quite honestly the projects I am involved in are too big for me alone! I need God's guidance constantly, as humanly, I have no hope. Such a blessing to know I can rely on God for all things!

What a joy to be here, learning this practical Science. Thank you!

Excerpt About Substance

Spirit means substance. Spiritual means substantial. In this light, it is important that we become more sure each day of actual substance.

Spirit signifies self-existent substance. Nothing is ever destroyed. There is not a single material object in the universe. All is spiritual. Principle, Mind, Soul, Life, are the cause of creation, and they are wholly mental, spiritual, tangible substance. See *Science and Health*, p. 468:16-24

You cannot do a thing to Mind, because it is substance. Harmony is then an essential quality of substance. The counterfact to discord is harmony. Harmony is the evidence of substance. Healing is proof of substance. Love is a proof of substance; Mind, Principle, Soul, and Spirit are the substance of things hoped for by Christian Scientists. As one grows in understanding, he grows in substance, and what he gains is incapable of discord and decay.

Creation is wholly Mind, and is substance. There is no substance-matter, for matter is but a false concept of mortal mind, a mortal belief. Substance is the entity, or actual life of man.

By Bicknell Young From 1937 College.....