

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Probation After Death –
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The Eternal Road of Life

“God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis...To him belongs eternal Life.” (*Science and Health*)

I found a quote from next year’s calendar statements, which was written by Mrs. Eddy, I found it to be very helpful and relates well to this week’s Lesson. Mrs. Eddy says, “Instead of being bound for the grave we must know we are on the eternal road of Life, that has no sense of death.” I love the thought that we are on the “eternal road of Life” and also therein is not even a smidgeon of the suggestion of death. It is very important that we think of ourselves always in this way. There is no death! and we must rid ourselves of all the etcetera’s of growing old and/or thinking of ourselves and others as ever dying or aging. On this “eternal road of Life” there is only growing healthier, wiser, more lovely, braver, stronger, more joyful, every good thing – for God is expressing in us, “the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis”! *****

Thank You! It’s either this Eternal Road of Life or we forfeit all the good that is our’s from our loving Father-Mother God! *****

Thank your for this post. It has reminded me of the following statement that I memorized and use on a regular basis. I’m not sure where it originated. It is called Non-consent. “I do not believe in the necessity nor in the belief of the necessity of now or of ever passing through the belief called death.

I do not believe that I am or that any one is under any such necessity therefore, I shall not and I will not consent to death.” *****

The Reward of The Inheritance

RESPONSIVE READING: COLOSSIANS 3 : 1-4, 12-15, 24

- 1. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**
- 2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**
- 3. Your life is hid with Christ in God.**
- 4. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**
- 12. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;**
- 13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**
- 14. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.**
- 15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**
- 24. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.**

While reading this, I kept thinking how my life was before Plainfield. I rather unwittingly followed the reverse of each of the above statements, which when written out, is quite certainly a recipe for a horrible life:

If your thought is lowered into the human mind, you desire only earthly things, and your mortality is

plain to all. That mortal mind – the lies that bring death – will filter all your experiences, and those experiences will be miserable and unfulfilling. You will feel lost and alone, and will be hard-hearted, cruel, conceited, self-centered, quick-tempered, impatient, and prone to holding grudges and seeking revenge. Finding lack everywhere, you will hoard anything you value. You will feel at war with yourself constantly, and slowly lose all gratitude for life. Finally, mortal mind will give the consequence of its inheritance: Mortality.

Only turning to God saved me from all that, and brought me here. Learning Christian Science, and being a member of this church, it becomes clearer each day how God has given us what we need to live a life of purpose and joy.

I am grateful to this week's Lesson writer, and last week's, as well; it took that long for me to get this from Colossians 3. Thank you!*****

Thank you! What a description of living out one's human destiny in misery and thank God we have found such a better way in Christian Science – living our divine and joyous God-given destiny! And yes, whenever we have an overlap like this one between two lessons, we feel God is emphasizing an important point to us! We can always reach deeper and learn more about God's Love for each and every one of us, as you have done. *****

Thank you, for showing the stark contrast of a life with and without the Christ—isn't it true that once we leave that "before" template—we cannot ever forget the difference in how far we've come?! "There's no going back"...and gratitude for how far we've come truly does keep us safe! I think I always read Colossians as a set of really nice words and ideas...more like nice theories for other people, because me... I was busy... and 'maybe one day' things would come together. Fortunately, all roads led to Plainfield. Being here taught me how to make it come to life, how to get a backbone, and how to begin to "walk the walk." Only here, I have begun to understand "the reward of the inheritance." As the "elect of God," our work is cut out for us. But this work is truly

rewarding and provides full employment and ultimate job satisfaction! *****

No Shortcuts

There are no shortcuts to the needed purification that allows us to be the reflections of the one infinite God. Wonderful that the probationary period is "...by patient continuance in well doing." (Romans 2:7) "To spurn the wrong and choose the better part" in order to become more Christlike and be the reflection. This requires leaving the past lies, constantly turning from the material sense stories and pictures to humbly obey what God is saying.

Day by day we can do better as we strive to gain our desire of being what God is saying about each of us. Thank God Christ Jesus lived the example and Mrs. Eddy has explained how we are to work in this time. The three Degrees in *Science and Health*, pgs. 115 and 116 are worth re-visiting, as the stages show the translation from moral depravity (mental disorder) to the qualities of humanity, honesty, affection, compassion, hope, faith, meekness, temperance and onto the third phase of understanding, "where we lay hold on spiritual values of wisdom, purity, spiritual understanding, spiritual power, love, health, holiness."

It is good to know that this "progression and probation" goes on now continually and not just after death. *****

"We never are working in vain or fruitless endeavors when truly working for the Lord. I never understood what real work was for the Lord until coming to Plainfield. I found a place where everything and everyone puts God first. No shortcuts."

AMEN! Thank goodness the teachings here taught me about the importance of obedience. Wow, it was a new concept for me as a lifelong (obviously non-practicing) student of Christian Science. I had always wanted "shortcuts"... that is absolutely no

longer the case. Bring on the needed purification, no matter how long it takes! *****

Thank you for these posts! They reminded me that it is important to be persistent, faithful, and joyful in this work.*****

The SUBJECT : EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT - Nov 4th 2018

Cautionary Tale from 1919

“After an instantaneous healing of rupture...”

By Hal T. Bevans (From CS Sentinel, October, 1919)

After an instantaneous healing of rupture through the application of the truth as taught by our beloved Leader, **I went on through a period of several years knowing Christian Science to be the truth but satisfied with the results I had gained and willing to leave the study to the other fellow** [emphasis added]; in other words, my love for the world and its vices was greater than my desire for what I knew to be the truth.

At this time I possessed “all the bad habits of a decent man,” as the saying goes; also some that a decent man is ashamed to admit publicly. After nearly three years of this life, at the very zenith of my indulgence in these things I was taken with a malady which brought me to a bed of pain and suffering. After trying a well-known remedy and having it produce a more aggravated condition, acting the reverse to its supposed intention, I gave up materia medica for all time and turned in my desperation to Christian Science, with the despairing hope that I was not too late. **The “day of wrath” came upon me with a vengeance** [emphasis added], for I was subjected to all manner of persecution and ridicule, and calamity followed calamity. I was even forced to present myself for examination before several physicians on different occasions, suffering their disdain and listening to their verdict, “You will

never get well.” It can be imagined with what heartfelt gladness I can to-day write of a complete healing of this disease and many of its attendant vices. I also take pleasure in stating that, although circumstances have placed me in conditions where the temptation to sin “once more” have been very persistent, I have always been able to realize the protection of God’s omnipotent care, and have “come clean.” I am in a better condition physically, mentally, and morally than at any previous period of my life, due entirely to the influence of the truth as taught by our revered Leader, Mrs. Eddy.

I would like to add that my testimony of the healing of rupture, which appeared in the Journal for December, 1913, still holds true in every respect. I wish to express the sincere thankfulness of every member of our little family of four for the Christian Science literature, as it comes with its message of cheer to us on this distant prairie. Hal T. Bevans, Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan, Canada. *****

Thank you for this post. It is quite cautionary, indeed, but also most inspiring. It is so important as the author says, to “come clean”... to push on and listen to the voice of God always leading us on if we just stop to listen and then do something, as in obey. “I will hear what God the Lord will speak:” (Ps. 85:8)

Flaxcombe is truly a tiny village on a very distant prairie – how wonderful that they had their C.S. literature delivered “with its message of cheer.”

“The ‘still, small voice’ of scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe’s remotest bound. The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind, ‘as when a lion roareth.’ It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear. It arouses the ‘seven thunders’ of evil, and stirs their latent forces to utter the full diapason of secret tones. Then is the power of Truth demonstrated, — made manifest in the destruction of error.” *Science and Health*, p.559) *****

Judas

“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. ...And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.” (Matthew 27:3-5)

I felt such compassion this morning for Judas in reading this and feeling how wholeheartedly he regretted what he had done, apparently even hoping to undo it by telling the truth and returning the pieces of silver.

The Golden Text, “Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?” (Ezekiel 18:23) was such a help and comfort in this regard as were other citations in the Lesson. *****

Thank you for the above comment. I also always wondered about Judas and his actions after he realized what he had done. There is more to it than just the plain greed for money. Did he suddenly realize he had been duped by mortal mind’s wiles? What stopped him from asking God’s forgiveness? What drove him to suicide? I also feel compassion, not only for Judas, but also for the many young people who choose suicide as a way out or a way to silence their inner demons. *****

Thank you for your posts! Right after what is in the Lesson from Matthew 27, comes three verses that deal with the returned silver pieces:

6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potters’ field, to bury strangers in.

8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

It seems Judas was, for a time, willing to risk his spirituality with a quest for materiality, while the

chief priests were not willing to risk their materiality under any circumstances. The only fear of consequence they have is superstitious. They thought their materiality could be tainted, yet had no concern about their spirituality at all.

To me, this goes back to the week’s daily watch, Watching Point 27. While trying to perfect himself, Judas thought money would help, only to realize his error. The chief priests thought themselves perfect, and thought any means to protect their position was acceptable. Only Christ Jesus was busy expressing “the perfect idea of man” and teaching and sharing freely how to “have the light [of God] shine through perfectly.”

I am grateful for Judas’s story, as it is full of lessons. Of course, without Christian Science, and this church, none of these lessons would have been revealed to me. What a blessing to be here, learning! Thank you! *****

Giving Us Strength According to Our Day

“The followers of Christ drank his cup. Ingratitude and persecution filled it to the brim; but God pours the riches of His love into the understanding and affections, giving us strength according to our day.” (*Science and Health*) I have always loved this statement by Mrs. Eddy. It does not matter how rough the road may be, how many setbacks you may encounter or how many injustices you have had to endure, when you open your heart unreservedly to know and understand God more, when you love Him without reservation, it makes a passage way for God to pour out His strength to you giving you a Divine sufficiency that meets all your needs. Think on this whenever you feel tempted to pity yourself or others. Open your heart entirely to your heavenly Father. He will never fail to lift you above the claims of error into the “secret place of the Most High.”

“Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him: I will set him on high because he hath known My Name.” (Psalm 91: 14) *****

Lovest thou me?

“He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.” John 21:17

I found an interpretation by George Lovell on the Internet that I found most helpful. It is as follows: “The risen Christ asked Peter the question three times because Peter had thrice denied Christ after Christ was arrested. This questioning allowed Peter [to] affirm his love and adoration of Christ and thereby acknowledge his true feelings.” ****

Thank you for sharing this. While doing some research regarding the original Mother Church, I came across a letter Mrs. Eddy wrote addressing how church members should treat one another that was then published in the Journal during her time. It fits in with what Jesus was doing for Peter.

“...be governed therein by the spirit and the letter of this Scripture : ‘Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.’

“I cannot be the conscience for this church. But if I were, I would gather every reformed sinner that desired to come, into its fold, and counsel and help them to walk in the foot steps of His flock. I feel sure that as Christian Scientists you will act relative to this matter up to your highest understanding of justice and mercy.”

Affectionately yours, MARY BAKER EDDY
Concord, N. H., Feb. 12, 1895. *****

Thank you both. It makes so much sense that Jesus asked his question about loving him three times since Peter denied him three times. I have asked myself ... what would I have done if I had been Peter? It is a sobering question because whenever I am afraid, it is a form of denying Christ. I also think about how Jesus knew everything — even before it took place and he read the minds of those around him. I like this because nothing is hid from God and we can ask for help at all times under all

circumstances, which certainly helps combat fear. Thank you for the point of why Jesus may have asked the question three times. It expanded my thought to also the three days Jesus spent in the tomb and the three days after Mary Baker Eddy’s fall, declared fatal by the doctors and her clergyman, when she was illumined with Christian Science and rose out of that false state of consciousness. These comments inspired a need for me to better understand ‘feed’ as used in this passage. The word ‘feed’ Jesus used the first and third times Strong’s defines as literally ‘feeding’ and also to ‘keep’ (“retain possession of”). The second time ‘feed’ is translated as “to tend as a shepherd,” “supervise,” “rule.” *****

Return And Live

“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should **return** from his ways, **and live?**” {emphasis added} We have an everlastingly LOVING Parent, forever waiting for us to return from our ways in order to have all the good that awaits us. We leave something so precious behind when we waste time fearfully indulging the lies, feeling we know what to do and will find our way; when there is only ONE WAY, which is for us to give up “our way,” come back to find God and humbly follow His directions.

If anything appears to be hindering our journey back, we can know it is a temporary, mortal mind claim.... it may present itself as pride, some lie that you are unworthy, it does accuse that you did some unforgivable thing, it can aggressively argue that you cannot give up a habit, a false attraction, a false pleasure, it can insist on a physical claim as having a real origin, and rehearse the time, how and when etc... If God is LOVE alone and He is TRUTH, then anything unlovable cannot be true; thus it is unreal and certainly something we can and must reject and return to what is real. There is no condemnation and no everlasting punishment. Let us return, then, to Love and live, since Love alone is Life!