

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: God – January 6th, 2019

Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience

“Divine metaphysics, as revealed to spiritual understanding, shows clearly that all is Mind, and that Mind is God, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience – that is, all power, all presence, all Science. Hence all is in reality the manifestation of Mind.” (*Science and Health*)

As we have discussed at the Roundtable, Mrs. Eddy had the workers in her home do a morning watch everyday to handle fear. She could not possibly do all the work needed for the church and for all mankind with the belief of fear trying to gain foothold anywhere in her experience. She would often instruct them to gain a better understanding of the all power, all presence and all Science of God, for it is impossible to feel fear when you are dwelling in the total ALLNESS of our heavenly Father.

I have found it very important to do this type of watch for myself every morning. You will be surprised at how much better your day will go when you approach all you may have to meet, well grounded in this Truth – God IS all power and there is no other presence or power! *****

Thank you! This is so important because, as was brought out in a recent testimony, we may be spending our days doing things out of fear that we may not even realize we are harboring! That is how subtle error is. What a wake-up call it is to see if I’m doing things out of fear. The above is a great antidote to that. *****

The Christian Scientist Has Enlisted...

Science and Health, p.450 : 19-26

“The Christian Scientist has enlisted to lessen evil, disease, and death; and he will overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good.”

My practitioner brought this statement out to me this week, and I am grateful for it. It has been spoken of during the Roundtables and Bible Studies a few times, how we are soldiers in the Cause of Christian Science. This had me looking closer at the above statement. If I were to enlist in a human army, the aim might be to lessen another country’s apparent dominance or threat to our dominance. The methods used to overcome would be completely through material means, attempting to have greater numbers of men, greater shows of force, and better tactics and strategies. The well-being of individual soldiers is of less importance than the country as a whole.

In Christian Science, we are working to **lessen evil, disease, and death**. The method used is to **overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good**.

How different Christian Science is in that statement from every other aim and method I have ever known! Following Mrs. Eddy, it is easy to see that the Cause of Christian Science benefits all men (“whatever blesses one blesses all” – *Science and Health*, p. 206), and would never seek to dominate, never “leave a man behind,” and never lay waste to anything but the lies of mortal mind. Thank you very much for this Lesson! *****

From the 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

Enlist

1. To engage in public service, by entering the name in a register; as, an officer enlists men.

Enlistment

The act of enlisting; the writing by which a soldier is bound.

I felt I should include these definitions, as they were helpful to me. Also, it is easy to see that the writing that we are bound to in our "duty to God, to [our] Leader, and to mankind" (from the Daily Duties) is the Bible and *Science and Health*.

Daniel's Immunity

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.
(Daniel 6:15.)

Daniel was tested with error "that would impose through belief a penalty for transgressing *law that is not law*, insomuch as justice is the moral signification of law, and injustice implies its absence." (*Science and Health*, 1st edition, 229, emphasis added.) Daniel's death-sentence was based not upon the presence of a law active in the Mind of God: the lawbooks of heaven contain no such law, never did, never could. The law that Daniel supposedly broke was based upon absence of law. To attempt to break the law of God – the first great commandment – by decreeing it to be against the law is error's greatest – and most foolish – wish.

Three times a day, Daniel affirmed and reaffirmed the reality of his oneness with God: absent from the body and present with the Lord, absent from matter and present with Spirit, absent from sense and present with Soul. Daniel's utter devotion to God and to the Truth of his position in God, as God's

indomitable image and likeness, placed him "in a large place" that Mrs. Eddy describes as the "Jurisdiction of Mind." (*Science and Health*, p.379.) Securely ensconced in the jurisdiction of Mind, Daniel was granted immunity from the power of every "law" outside that jurisdiction.

Daniel had **real/true** immunity because he never wavered in obeying THE LAW, the highest one. He lived a life which proved his obedience honestly and wholeheartedly, as mentioned above. Am I doing the same? Am I living close to what he did, with a predominant desire to obey THE LAW, which when obeyed, makes the spurious laws, all forms of deception and temptations less likely to enslave! In all of these Bible stories, which have so many saving experiences, we find that obedience to the greatest of all commandments was first in the hearts of those involved.

Is this not the result of heeding, James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...." Or as we learn through Science that "You stand with Principle and Principle stands with you?" Perhaps the question that should be asked when required to obey some law is: Whose Law, whose verdict? Because even "the right laws" of the land should have their source in God's laws!! *****

"Three times a day, Daniel affirmed and reaffirmed the reality of his oneness with God: absent from the body and present with the Lord, absent from matter and present with Spirit, absent from sense and present with Soul."

Thank you for this wonderful post. Every day I think of the teachings here that there is no such thing as material laws! We are bombarded with such supposed laws right and left all the time. They are a Pandora's box, a prolific source of troubles, and we must watch that we be not tempted to believe in them.

"Securely ensconced in the jurisdiction of Mind, Daniel was granted immunity from the power of every "law" outside that jurisdiction."

Thank you for your valuable comments providing continual 'class instruction' in Christian Science.

Silence the Lie

“The material senses originate and support all that is material, untrue, selfish, or debased. ... We must silence this lie of material sense with the truth of spiritual sense.” *Science and Health*, p.318

(1828 Websters) Silence: To put an end to; to cause to cease, to silence complaints or clamor, to restrain from noise or speaking, stillness, calmness; quiet; cessation of rage, agitation or tumult; absence of mention.

This word “silence” caught my attention after the Lesson last week on the Comforter, “who is to be with the disciples forever, arguing down opposition and silencing cavil (objections).”(from *Pulpit Commentary*) This Comforter being the Science Mrs. Eddy discovered. Since coming to Plainfield, I am learning how to use this Science to “silence,” “all that is material, untrue, selfish, or debased” and be more consistent in my practice of it. Recently, I have been taking some notes on an index card during our Roundtables. I keep the card with me to use during the week. This week, in my notes, I have used hymns to lift thought (writing them down using them throughout day); focus on my blessings; make a list of what God has done for me; and work with the article, “The Attitude of Love” by Edward Kimball. The notes make useful “mini-Watches.” I am so grateful for the deep, generous, life-changing teachings we are freely given here! *****

Rejoice

“Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” (Revelation 19 : 6)

I’ve always known Alleluia to essentially mean “to rejoice.” What a great way to start the day, week or year! Before wasting a millisecond on what may be “wrong” in the world, rejoice that God is omnipotent. Awesome!

Thank you, Lesson writers, for this illuminating Lesson.

SUBJECT: Sacrament – January 13th, 2019

The Substance of All Devotion...

Science and Health, p 241 : 19-21

The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin.

Devotion, from the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary:

- 1. The state of being dedicated, consecrated, or solemnly set apart for a particular purpose.**
- 2. A solemn attention to the Supreme Being in worship; a yielding of the heart and affections to God, with reverence, faith and piety, in religious duties, particularly in prayer and meditation; devoutness.**

During the January 5th, 2019 Bible Study, it was said that the most important thing to Daniel was his relationship with God. This has stayed with me. When I was younger, I thought Daniel’s obedience to God got him thrown into the lions’ den. It is apparent now that was a very incomplete, glass-half-empty thought. With what I am learning here, it is clear how Daniel’s “reflection and demonstration of divine Love” had him always in the place where he could do the most practical good. His devotion to God brought him through the lions’ den, and was so undeniable that the king made a decree before the whole world that God is God!

By learning to live Christian Science, I am beginning to understand that my relationship with God must be of utmost importance, as well, and through this devotion, I will be “set apart for a particular purpose.” Mary Baker Eddy was certainly clear on what that means:

Science and Health, p. 494 : 30-32

Our Master cast out devils (evils) and healed the sick. It should be said of his followers also, that

they cast fear and all evil out of themselves and others and heal the sick.

I am very grateful for how each Weekly Lesson, Forum post, Wednesday reading, Bible Study, and Roundtable build upon each other. Thank you! **

Sheep

“Sheep. Innocence; inoffensiveness; those who follow their leader.” Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health p. 594

“INNOCENCE: harmless; purity and simplicity of heart; as the innocence of a child.

INOFFENSIVE: Not obstructing; presenting no hinderance; harmless; doing no injury or mischief.

FOLLOW: To go after; pursue; to walk in the same direction; accompany; to attend in a journey; to follow a pattern or model; to embrace; to adopt and maintain; to obey; to practice; to adhere to; to serve.” Websters 1828

I appreciate more Christ Jesus’ love for children and use of sheep in his teachings. To be in His pasture requires an active participation, not just mindless apathy. Even sheep must pay attention. We were instructed at the last Roundtable to demonstrate God’s omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience, also brought out in the Lesson this week. I picture a sheep listening, obeying, and following because it knows, trusts, and loves its shepherd.

“I will listen for Thy voice,
Lest my footsteps stray;
I will follow and rejoice
All the rugged way.” by Mary Baker Eddy, Hymn 304 *****

“I appreciate more Christ Jesus’ love for children” “as the innocence of a child.” I agree completely and have noticed how much Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy refer these attributes to children, so I

have gone to the Glossary in Science and Health to compare ‘sheep’ and ‘lambs.’

590:9 LAMB OF GOD. The spiritual idea of Love; self-immolation; innocence and purity; sacrifice.

I LOVE “The spiritual idea of Love” in particular and need to become more of a lamb.

God's Requirements

What is required of us is a common concern. We have the answer in one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible, Micah 6: 8, which says, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” The simple purity in this verse would appeal to anyone who is in touch with their heart, regardless of their background or other affiliations. Humans impose on each other willfully, and it causes many problems. But the release of this and return to the real requirements to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, can resolve any problem and accomplish much good in this world. *****

“BUT IF YE HAD KNOWN”

“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.”

Mrs. Eddy’s unpublished sermon based on Matthew 12:7 quoted above harmonizes completely with Micah 6:8’s call for justice, mercy, and humility to be inseparably united in my service to God. Here are some excerpts from that sermon:

The great question determining and encompassing all fact resolves itself into this inquiry: What is God? A person or a Principle? But if God is a person influenced by a petition or prayer and loves you more for the asking, He is not unchanging.

And this Truth, this Life, and this Love, yea, this Principle that is God must be understood to be

demonstrated, brought out in our lives and, when understood, we shall know what this meaneth: “I will have mercy and not sacrifice,” and cannot know until we understand God as a Principle, instead of [believing] in God as a person

Justice is the true demand of mercy and we should only help those who help themselves. Justice condemns sin, while mercy points out the escape from sin. But unless justice joins hands with it, mercy is a mistake: a word without the spirit of the word, and a deed that is uncharitable. The history of religion is replete with examples proving the sad results of believing God a person and that this person pardons sin. If God pardons criminals, while yet the motive and malice lie latent to reenact the crime, their blood would be upon His hands according to scripture

As we near the boundary of Science wherein Soul instead of sense furnishes the conclusions of man and the explanation of God, we shall improve our sense of sacrifice and gain the true definition, and reach exercise of mercy. The only sacrifice we shall then retain will no longer be a demand on others, but a requirement of one’s self in obedience to the command, “Take the cross and follow me”: it will be a forgetfulness of self, and this is science. Self-abnegation is indispensable to science, and why? Because the first chord — the keynote — of Christian Science is: put being into the hands of Principle instead of person, and this Principle or God demonstrated by what is good only, and by works rather than words.

The Message For All Nations

Matt 28:19, 20

“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever

I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus’ earnest instruction after His most inspiring experience (resurrection) was for the disciples to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . . .” To get this Truth of salvation to all the world was most important to Him. He had overcome even death and the message in this triumphant experience must be shared. From Spurgeon’s expositions: ‘Teach’, that is, disciple, make disciples of ‘all nations.’

Matthew 28:19-20. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: There is teaching again. It is as much the duty of the Christian to teach after baptism as to teach before baptism; he must be ever teaching. Hence, believers are always to be learners, since Christ would have His servants always to be teachers: “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” We are not to invent a gospel; we are not to change, and shift, and cut, and shape it to meet the advancement of the age; Christ’s command is plain: “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:20. And, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

They have their commission, here is the seal to it; here is the source of their power; here is the society in which they are to work: “Lo, I am with you always.” God grant that you and I, going forth to teach for Christ. may always have the sound of our Master’s feet with us, even to the end of the world! Amen. *****

THE TRINITY

Father, is man’s divine Principle Love.
Son, is God’s man— His image, or spiritual idea.
Holy Ghost, is Divine Science, the Messiah or Comforter. Jesus in the flesh was the prophet or wayshower to Life, Truth, Love, and out of the flesh Jesus was the Christ, the spiritual idea or image and Likeness of God.” MARY BAKER EDDY