

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 145

SUBJECT: Truth – January 27th, 2019

Semper Paratus – Truth's Motto

I'm so thankful for *Science and Health*, it has made all the difference in my living. Years ago when pouring over the textbook during a challenge, I came across the passage "Divinity is always ready. *Semper paratus* is Truth's motto."

That simple truth brought a big SMILE of relief and healing ensued. Now, I have a spiritual tool box with helpful Bible sayings and S&H quotes that pop up when needed. **Semper paratus!** became one of my favorite commands to silence the robotics of mortal mind.

It also brought to mind an amusing visual in the 1950's sci-fi film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, that helped to reinforce Mrs. Eddy's quote. "Divinity is always ready. *Semper paratus*!" In the movie, a spaceship landed in D.C. capturing the world's attention. The alien emissary on a world peace-seeking mission had befriended Patricia Neal, a secretary. In case he was killed, he gave her a command to stop the giant robot from destroying the earth. There comes a time when she must use it. As the robot wakes up and comes toward her, she overcomes fear and bravely issues the given command, to shut down the giant robot and save the earth. "Klaatu barada nikto," she commands, just in the nick of time.

So **Semper paratus** became one of my favorite commands to stop the robotics of mortal mind whenever it tried to close in on me. **SEMPER PARATUS!** I'd say with authority. It gave me a laugh that helped to break the dreamspell! Truth is forever present. There is nothing to fear. God is Love.

(Also interesting to note that *Semper Gumby* means Always Flexible. Guess the creator of that green stretchable GUMBY toy knew what he was doing when he named it.)

Thanks for the inspiring Bible Lesson and all of your wonderful online resources. *****

"My Heart An Altar and Thy Love the Flame"

1 Kings 18:38 – "Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed . . . the stones, and the dust . . ."

In the days of Elijah, animal magnetism had gripped Israel in the form of institutionalized Ba'al worship. During the reign of King Ahab, it seemed that error had succeeded in completely reversing Israel's original purpose — first to overcome the false gods of Egypt, then the false gods of the promised land. This reversal process had begun during Solomon's reign: his taking strange wives, at first tolerating, then eventually worshiping their gods alongside the God of his father, King David. So King Ahab's fateful marriage to Phoenician princess Jezebel was only following Solomon's disastrous example.

"Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." (*Science and Health*, p. 243:27.)

The altar that Elijah built and baptized in water was completely consumed by the fire of God, the heat of which can only be compared to that of a nuclear blast in that it de-materialized even its twelve stones and the dust surrounding it. The appearance of the fire of God, the presence that annihilates everything

unlike itself, meant also the disappearance of Elijah's material altar, and this prefigured what Jesus said to the woman at the well, They that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. (John 4:24.)

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move . . .
The kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.*
— George Croly

The Confidence Inspired by Science

“The confidence inspired by Science lies in the fact that Truth is real and error is unreal. Error is a coward before Truth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 368)

Confidence is a very important trait to cultivate. It silences all doubt, fear and negativity. It is always reassuring to be with someone who expresses confidence in what he is doing and saying. And how does one become confident? Mrs. Eddy gives the answer in the two quoted sentences first stated above. It comes from the inspiration (the infusion of ideas into the mind by the Holy Spirit) taught in Christian Science. Truth, God, is the reality and error, mere belief, is the unreality and we can prove this to ourselves in our daily lives. Every time you challenge the false beliefs that come to you or the false situations you may encounter – when you challenge them with what you know to be true – you will find them disappearing from your life. And, as you do this bravely and consistently, you will find your confidence in God increasing and your belief in error diminishing. It is a rule that must be practiced and also backed up by right living.

“Because Truth is infinite, error should be known as nothing. Because Truth is omnipotent in goodness, error, Truth's opposite, has no might.” (*Science and Health*, p. 367)

So remember, Truth is confident and “always the victor!” Error is the coward, and always the loser!

Earnestly Consider

“In a world of sin and sensuality hastening to a greater development of power, it is wise earnestly to consider whether it is the human mind or the divine Mind which is influencing one.” By Mary Baker Eddy from *Science and Health*, p. 82

During the Sunday, July 21st, 2019 Roundtable discussion on the topic of Life, the importance of being aware and watching your feelings was addressed. One of the points that stayed with me was that when you are indulging in negative feelings such as jealousy, resentment, etc. you are in the “human mind” which is opposed to God.

For so many years, I indulged in these feelings, while thinking I was practicing Christian Science. This false sense of being good and under control was self-deception, which led me to ignore and suppress feelings. This lack of awareness has a disastrous affect from unhealed resentment and fear to people-pleasing behaviors and dishonesty. As mentioned in the class, these emotions would drive my actions, and at times like a galloping race horse. There was no God in any of this. I am so grateful to be learning how to face daily living and emotions head on with the correct practice of Christian Science using the practical tools given here and practitioner support. *****

Rock of Ages

“Truth is the rock of ages, the headstone of the corner, ‘but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.’ ” (*Science and Health*, p.380:5-7)

Our nation is founded and built upon this rock of Truth — man's unassailable right to worship God freely, and to live in the unity of the one Mind and harmony of divine Love. This moral correctness, Truth, is the only “correctness” governing our nation, — and every nation — and is grinding to a powder anything that would oppose or deny it. ****

Confidence in the Power and Supremacy of Truth

I have learned to come to God in reverence, recounting His wonders, and in humble obedience to Him, cultivate the faith and absolute reliance on Truth which in time enthrones the potency and supremacy of Truth, God in consciousness. Jesus did that. Elijah did the same. Therefore, they went everywhere at-one with this God power. Hence, they did not doubt, while mortal thought was wailing, pleading for help. They stepped up with absolute confidence in their expectancy of Truth's unfoldment! In Elijah's experience, fire came and even licked up all the excess water. And in Jesus' so-called "death" saw its supreme opposite "Life." What a wonderful demonstration that "Truth is always the victor."

So, in practice I must ask myself if I am reflecting this Mind that has Truth's power or am I going to continue always doubtful, fearful, and remain ungrateful enough and unable to feel the power of God at hand? Even when just learning Science, how I come to Truth matters. Am I coming with some other beliefs to challenge to see if God can heal me or am I coming full of myself, wondering why I have had healings before but I cannot demonstrate this time? It is the Truth that heals, not us; how wise then to do all possible to have its power enthroned as my consciousness. Thank God for Christian Science...that teaches that Truth IS LAW!! *****

SUBJECT: Love – August 4th, 2019

Stronger Faith and Purer Love

Science and Health, p. 410: 14-21

"Every trial of our faith in God makes us stronger. The more difficult seems the material condition to be overcome by Spirit, the **stronger should be our faith and the purer our love**. The Apostle John says: 'There is no fear in Love, but perfect Love casteth out fear. ... **He that feareth is not made**

perfect in Love.' Here is a definite and inspired proclamation of Christian Science."
(Emphasis added)

Without these attributes, faith and Love, we live in fear, and our thoughts, all our motives, beliefs, and days are fear-filled. Thus, we cease to live, since if not loving, we are not "living," regardless of any material camouflage that could deceive that we are "living!"

We must stay grateful. It increases our faith in God's power and Love. The effect of the command, "Peace be still" is gained when we acknowledge, respect, and LOVE the power and love of God and revere its Omnipresence. Through faithful application of this knowing and practice in all circumstances, we realize our freedom from all discords and unjust conditions. This is obedience to the first commandment.

"... He that feareth is not made perfect in Love."
We cannot fear and say we love at the same time. Both cannot come from God. It is clear God does not send fear to His own; He sends us Love to overcome any false sense of fear. *****

Christianity Done Right – Lovingkindness

Vancouver Coffee-stand Workers Comfort Grieving Customer <https://tinyurl.com/y3bwzjoq>

Awesome post!! Thanks for sharing this link... speaks to having God with us at work everywhere and ready to bless. These young men are an example of the "natural Christian Scientists" Mrs. Eddy referred to in *Science and Health*, p. 483:19; they demonstrated "the spirit of Christian Science"! **

With Lovingkindness Have I Drawn Thee

"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."
(Jer.31:3)

DRAW — “to raise from any depth; to attract; to pull up or out; to engage.” And also, “to image in the mind; to describe; to represent by lines drawn; to form a picture or image.”

God has truly drawn us in lovingkindness, in His image and likeness. Also, like a shepherd, God has drawn each one of us with lovingkindness, out of the depths of hopelessness, sorrow, or sickness to Christian Science and Plainfield Church. This lovingkindness is everlasting and all mighty, and holds us forever, safely, and securely in the holy mission of this church. This same lovingkindness continues — forever — to draw other ready hearts in need. *****

Enlarged Individuality

Science and Health, p. 265 “**This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for Spirit, by no means suggests man’s absorption into Deity and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man enlarged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action, a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent peace.**”

There have been many times before coming to Plainfield where my world felt like it was getting smaller and smaller. These times brought more indecision, more fear, less love, and a feeling of being lost and alone in a chaotic world. This statement, taken in reverse, shows exactly why that happened: I was forsaking Spirit for matter. It was like looking in the wrong end of a telescope. It also shows why my time studying and living Christian Science here has opened my thought, my heart, and my world to such inspiration, opportunity, and blessings. I am so grateful to God for this wonderful increase that has been brought about here! Thank you!*****

Saul Eyed David From That Day...

“And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have

ascribed but thousands: and *what* can he have more *but* the kingdom?” (I Sam. 18:8)
“And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.” (I Sam. 18)

“The following is copied from a notebook kept by Mary Baker Eddy in her own handwriting: ... ‘Envy, jealousy, or rivalry will kill the spirit of this Science in the person who possesses it and will thwart the establishment of it in this age. Oh, why is not this *realized* by everyone who has the Cause at heart and who has labored faithfully in some directions for its advancement?’”
from *Collectanea of Items by and About Mary Baker Eddy* compiled by Gilbert Carpenter, Jr.

Rivalry: Competition; a strife or effort to obtain an object which another is pursuing; an endeavor to equal or surpass another in some excellence. (Webster’s 1828)

During our last Roundtable, the importance of feeling reverence in our heart for God was addressed. It made me ask myself, “If I am not feeling this, then what am I feeling?” As instructed, I am not thinking with God while harboring jealousy, resentment, etc. I am grateful to have these deep lessons that are meant to protect this Science and those striving to practice it correctly. *****

The Saving Principle

Science and Health, p. 285 : 23-31
“By interpreting God as a corporeal Saviour but not as the saving Principle, or divine Love, we shall continue to seek salvation through pardon and not through reform, and resort to matter instead of Spirit for the cure of the sick. As mortals reach, through knowledge of Christian Science, a higher sense, they will seek to learn, not from matter, but from the divine Principle, God, how to demonstrate the Christ, Truth, as the healing and saving power.”
After talking to another Plainfield member about this citation, it made me think about how Principle, or divine Love is the **ONLY** reality and it is staying with the Truth as taught here at Plainfield that can’t

help but lead us to reform and salvation. At the July 28th, 2019 Roundtable which was about not tolerating poor behavior, it gave me the courage to confront something with one of my family members. I felt great love and knew that I had done the right thing. *****

This citation gave me much to think about, also. In Roman Catholicism, one is taught to turn to a “human” Savior, thus always asking God for forgiveness and pardon, but never taught to really reform one’s thinking. It wasn’t until I came to Christian Science and Plainfield Church, that I learned to reform — change my thinking — and thereby change my life for the better. Such a wonderful blessing! *****

Who or What Shall Separate Me?

Romans 8 : 35, 37-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Scriptural truths, and their clear interpretation through Christian Science, form our formidable arsenal in this combat between metaphysics and material concepts. I find that when I make these Truths my own, like the above; when the moments when error seem or feel so real approach, I can question what would attempt to separate me from infinite Love. Can these lies with their fancy names like anxiety, headache, dizziness, eczema, psoriasis, materia medica verdicts, that unpaid bill, discordant relationship, injustice, etc. separate me from my eternal **UNITY** with God? Can they change that unchanging spiritual perfection? If I accept any of these lies, would I not be forfeiting

my “sonship” with my loving Father-Mother. Faith in this **ONENESS** is our salvation.

In these moments, my choice to honor my Ever-present Father-Mother with the words in the above verses, followed by a praise or thankful hymn like 280, would lift the clouds of gloom and allow the feel of the light of Love. Try it, you will love the effect! The knowing of our inseparability from Truth and Love, comforts, uplifts and heals.

Yes, who or what can separate me from the **LOVE** of God? *****

SUBJECT: Spirit – August 11th, 2019

Rise in the Strength of Spirit

“Rise in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth to overthrow the plea of mortal mind, *alias* matter, arrayed against the supremacy of Spirit.” (citation 14, p. 390)

“...rise to the true consciousness of Life as Love,...” (citation 15, p. 391)

“Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good.” (citation 16, p. 393)

“Rise” – to leave the place of sleep; to ascend, move upward; to get up to an erect posture; to swell in quantity or extent; to shine forth.

(Webster, 1828 Dictionary)

I love these statements from Science and Health. We’ve been taught here that these are not passive statements, but commands of God given to us through Mrs. Eddy. The only way we can fulfill these commands is by turning whole-heartedly – consciously – to God, Spirit. This turning to God, Spirit, wakes me from the sleep of mortal mind, lifts up and inspires my thought, enables me to stand in my true stature as God’s idea, swells my thought with all the power of Truth, and thus God’s healing power shines forth. These promising and encouraging commands of Truth help me hold on, and turn whole-heartedly, to God in every situation. I thank my practitioner for turning me often to these commands, and thank you to the writer of this Lesson-Sermon. *****

Reflecting Spirit's Infinitude

“In Christian Science, Spirit, as a proper noun, is the name of the Supreme Being. It means quantity and quality, and applies exclusively to God.”
(*Science and Health*, p. 93:22-25.)

The jurisdiction of Spirit is not quantifiable because the Allness of Spirit is not quantifiable. My purpose is to reflect Spirit as All: no lesser quantity is acceptable.

This is a step-by-step process of repeated withdrawals of a portion of self from mortal selfhood's bank account to purchase and make room for an equivalent “quantity” or measure of Christ-expression. The sum of all these withdrawals is the ransom that I must pay in order to redeem my life from matter-consciousness.
(Job 33:24, *Science and Health*, p. 276:1-4.)

Reflecting God's Allness means refusing to put up with the slightest negative thought or emotion that would add to personal self's bank account. At any given moment of thinking or feeling, where am I investing my energy?

Another practical example of reflecting Allness is refusing to limit God in a particular sphere of my “outer” life; for example, refusing to put up with partial healing, partial reflection of the totality of Well-Being that is God, not allowing a minor symptom to grow stronger, but rather banishing it outright – immediately – and replacing it with consciousness of the Allness of Well-Being that takes up all space. “The understanding that Life is God, Spirit, lengthens our days by strengthening our trust in the deathless reality of Life, its almightiness and immortality.”
(*Science and Health*, p. 487:27-29.)

With every footstep, Enoch “walked with God,” following the first great commandment (and the second which is like unto it), so ardently that he was at last able to express God's Allness

completely, by transforming belief in mortal life's limited span of days into limitless length of days.
(Gen. 5:24, Heb. 11:5.)

It is a Warfare With the Flesh

The dream, wrong concept of material existence insists on keeping mankind in bondage and from all we learn through Christian Science we must get busy learning and KNOWING the Truth of our spiritual individuality..... Our work can improve with these from the Lesson.

Rom 8: 8-9 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.
Science and Health, p. 232:9-12, 22-23.

‘Scripture informs us that ‘with God all things are possible,’ — all good is possible to Spirit; but our prevalent theories practically deny this, and make healing possible only through matter. ...He referred man's harmony to Mind, not to matter...’

Science and Health, p. 324: “Be watchful, sober, and vigilant. The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the only Life. It is a warfare with the flesh, in which we must conquer sin, sickness, and death, either here or hereafter, — certainly before we can reach the goal of Spirit, or life in God.”

These citations instruct that I must know the Truth that makes free; the Truth that God is Spirit, He IS Life, and since He is All, I, as His expression, AM spiritual. This Truth is what proves all the material beliefs, including materia medica's so called laws unreal.

We do the best with each opposing claim of material existence but our loyalty to God, Spirit, must keep us coming back to the eternal Truth of our unchanging spiritual perfection.