

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 19

SUBJECT- EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT
05/11/14

Murmuring

“And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.” What made the children of Israel “evil?” Murmuring! And what is murmuring- “uttering complaints in a low voice or sullen manner; grumbling; complaining.” (1828 Webster) and in this case against God! Anytime there is any grumbling going on it is helpful to understand this as not some little thing – but is “evil” and therefore not to be tolerated in one’s mental household! Murmuring kept the children of Israel wondering in the wilderness for 40 years and then kept them out of the land of milk and honey – which, in their perpetual, murmuring, negative state of mind they had failed even to recognize. *****

“ Anytime there is any grumbling going on it is helpful to understand this as not some little thing – but is “evil” and therefore not to be tolerated in one’s mental household!”

I have been guilty of murmuring many times in my life when I thought that God should answer my prayers while I held on to my old beliefs. To see how ridiculous that thinking was has been a life-saver; so instead of murmuring, I seek to know what God, the **ONLY GOOD** wants me to know in all circumstances. *****

The word murmur has come up in two other lessons this past year:

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a

crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Isaiah 29:24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

Each time I read this, I feel that there is something I need to learn in it; and now I finally see how murmuring is rebelling against God. As I work to put off the old man, I am astounded as to how much work that entails, but grateful for each lesson God gives me to advance into newness. *****

Why did they murmur? Many miracles had been wrought shortly before the scouts were sent out to spy. I doubt they forgot these events happened. What was going on?

A denial of Truth? They refused to accept God was responsible and thought another power saved them. So this problem was too big. Accepting God as the cause of all things good - magnifying Him enlarges our sense of good and bars the door to evil suggestions and illusions.

They wanted an easy road to salvation? The walled cities presented an obstinate error and they had no faith to persevere. We must be fit for holiness. We can't just stroll in with our baggage and claim it. We have some work to do.

Limited sense of God's power? "I can't do it" is a sure sign of human will. If God is directing you - who can stop Him?

No wonder they felt like grasshoppers – out numbered and puny and weak. They had no proper sense of God with them. *****

Finite Belief Self-Deceived

"Such belief (finite belief) can neither apprehend

nor worship the infinite" *Science and Health* p 280. Ouch! That is cruel. Even if you do all things right, attend church, be a good boy or girl... "Finite belief limits all things, and would compress Mind, which is infinite, beneath a skull bone." *Science and Health* p 280 10-11.

In the church where I grew up, being a good person and professing to be a Christian was enough. But in Science, unless there is an awareness of Intelligence and Soul outside of body, we have not reached square one!!

The promise of Christ Jesus was "the works that I do, ye shall do also" and everlasting life - not to be a good person in the eyes of the world, but powerful to overcome sin, disease, and death. Finite belief has nothing in common with Christian Science. Professing Christian Science is finite belief. *****

In Christian Science, It's "Clear, Correct Teaching" by Eustace, the following paragraph with the heading "What is your goal?" (page 834) stood out and felt relevant to this post:

"Why are you a Christian Scientist? To have an easy time? That brings no satisfaction. You cannot be happy until being is understood and so demonstrated. Formerly, the Christian Scientist may have accepted Christian Science as a belief and so have caught reassuring glimpses of health, prosperity, and happiness. But that day is over. You can know that it is understanding alone that can satisfy you permanently, and that understanding is the goal of your consecration."

This also emphasizes to me the reason why in Plainfield, we are guided away from the writings of later teachers who obviously have no understanding: Because believers are satisfied with the letter and the "easy time". They are incapable of imparting the understanding of Spirit. What good would reading their work bring us?

I am grateful to find that having the opportunity to be useful to God is more fulfilling than an easy life could ever be! *****

I love the definition of "Children of Israel." You don't get there by inheritance or human relationships. You don't become a Christian Scientist by inheriting it from your parents or attending "class."

It is a state of being that is obtained by wrestling with error (finite belief), sin, and mortal sense. Only by wrestling, building faith in the Truth of being, by trusting spiritual sense as Joshua and Caleb did, do we gain the dominion that is God's promise. This reminds me of Jacob's wrestling on his way to see Esau. *****

Willingness to 'Go Up Higher'

"Your eyes have seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did....Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the [promised] land . . . " Deut. 11: 7-8

"Christian Science . . . is the 'still, small voice' of Truth uttering itself. We are either turning away from this utterance, or we are listening to it and going up higher." *Science and Health* 9.

In working with at-risk children, I have sometimes seen a battered wife return to the enslavement of her unrepentant husband, putting her own life and her children's lives at risk simply because she was afraid of the unfamiliar land of freedom that her new life was offering her.Accustomed to the roller-coaster, they automatically out-picture in their relationships with others and their professional lives the same chaos that they grew up with, repeating what's familiar and safe to them: unconsciously seeking out people and situations that put them back on the mad ride. *****

What is the explanation for this self-destructive behavior? In the 1st Edition of *Science and Health* p 323:28-32 the term "personal sense" is used to describe that false sense of things based upon what we see and hear (material senses) and yet see not and hear not. Why? Because God is to believe in, hope for, but not to understand and obey. Soul and Intelligence outside of body...

This same personal sense enslaves the rich man, destroys the superb artist, etc. - self-centered existence rebels against the real order of things, where God is all Intelligence, Life, Spirit/substance, etc. and man is His idea, image, with absolutely no existence apart from Him..***

Mrs. Eddy refers to this type of mentality in the "authentic history of Kaspar Hauser" on pages 194-195 in *Science and Health*. This poor gentleman was so accustomed to dungeon life – "Outside of dismal darkness and cold silence he found no peace." It was her life purpose to free mankind from the brutal tyranny of mortal mind. I am sure our unity watches will help to "overturn, overturn, overturn" as Bruce read last night and to set free the enslaved mind. "Thus said the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go!!!" *****

SUBJECT: ADAM AND FALLEN MAN
05/11/14

Dust, Rib, Egg - Really?!

Part of the definition of "Eve" in the Glossary section of *Science and Health* is the belief, "that man started first from dust, second from a rib, and third from an egg." Certainly the very prevalent belief now is that man starts from an egg and yet it is probably just as absurd as believing that he starts from dust or from a rib. Mrs. Eddy is so radical in stating, "A belief in other gods, other creators, and other creations must go down before Christian Science"!! Destroying these accepted but enslaving beliefs and replacing them with the Truth as given in Christian Science - gives us plenty of good work to do! *****

"Dust, Rib, Egg" Sounds more like a recipe for BBQ than the origin of man.

Where does consciousness come from in this scenario? It is absurd to think the brilliance of music and art and literature came from a puddle of mud. *****

Science and Health p 552:4-10

"That the earth was hatched from the 'egg of night' was once an accepted theory. Heathen philosophy,

modern geology, and all other material hypotheses deal with causation as contingent on matter and as necessarily apparent to the corporeal senses, even where the proof requisite to sustain this assumption is undiscovered."

Today's most current, popular, sophisticated creation cosmology: our present universe originated from a ball of highly concentrated matter undergoing a "big bang" from which sprang all creation. Is such thinking really any different, in essence, from ancient mythology's account of the universe being hatched from a cosmic egg? *****

It's interesting that such absurdity can go on this long and none of the so called intelligent (steeped in the human mind) can wake up to its lies but rather push on to find out more absurdities, more diseases, and more so called remedies! Are we *creating or destroying* diseases with these incessant ads?

But then the human mind cannot comprehend the things of Spirit.*****

What Material Foundations?

"Divine Science deals its chief blow at the supposed material foundations of life and intelligence." *Science and Health* p 535:10-11

How about the family? Ouch!! Birthdays? Oh no! Virtually everything we learned in school from Kindergarten up? Too much!

This is an outrageous attack on the status quo! But consider how much more outrageous is the status quo: God is All, good, infinite Love. He, Spirit, created man, matter, in His image, and then left the material universe to its own laws and governance where Love is irrelevant - and only periodically does He intervene! Now that is outrageous!!!

So we take Divine Science, remove our mindless adherence to family traditions, birthdays, etc. and put God at the head of the procession. Father-Mother the parent(s) we all share, the only real family the Family of God, with the One Mind - etc. God forbid we defy God, Principle, to appease a family member.

"Chief blow" is serious. We have to stop dabbling,

or else our foundations of life and intelligence will continue to be suppositional - not a secure place to be. *****

Mortal existence is a state of self-deception and not the truth of being. *Science and Health* p 403.

Admitting that mortal life is a dream is admitting it is something, when the fact remains it is nothing, since there is no mortal life. *Blue Book* p161

When students rise in the consciousness of God alone as reality, then error, animal magnetism will disappear. Why? Because it never was. *Blue Book* p198.

Day after day, we have been lured forth, have been pressed into the whirl, lost our individual peace and poise in divine Mind, and found ourselves dragged through the uncleanness, the pain of the procession. (of mortal mind.) *Blue Book* p 216 *****

Womanhood

Womanhood – It was woman who first fearlessly admitted her fault, saw the deception of error, first to discern man's true origin, was first to see the risen Christ, and brought forth the revelation that will ultimately destroy all error!

Surely it is malicious mind operating to have “womanhood” so belittled so that the saving Truth for mankind will continue to be belittled because its revelator is a woman.

We are in the 21st century and still “woman” is belittled in many cultures, degraded, and enslaved in many ways. And yet the qualities of womanhood are strongest. If a “union of the masculine and female minds are requisite for completeness” then this maliciousness that seeks to crush qualities so vital must not be tolerated. It has to be handled in my own thinking, during my watches and I need to listen for direction to take action when and if necessary.

From last week's lesson: *Science and Health* p 517
“ Man is not made to till the soil. His birthright is dominion, not subjection. He is lord of the belief in

earth and heaven, **himself subordinate alone to his Maker. This is the Science of being.**” *****

Maybe that is why in the Latin cultures’ believers cannot relate very well to a Father-God, as the males are very often macho and selfish, bad role models. So, people adore their mothers, and adore a Mother-God, even if they give it the name of the Virgin Mary. *****

Very interesting observation. One day, the Father-Mother-God will be accepted as the more complete concept, and the absurd misconception of the Mother of God will disappear. *****

What manner of love

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” 1 John 3:1. This one really spoke to me this morning. Am I truly grateful to be a daughter of God? Do I think about and appreciate this great love that “the Father hath bestowed” upon me? Do I realize what it means to have God as my Father? – That my inheritance is all good, that I can never be alone or without, sick or destitute? Thinking about the Father’s love for us all – well, this is what increases my desire to know and to obey and to love Him all the more, like nothing does or could ever do. , but to truly realize we are the sons and daughters of the King – What could possibly be better than that?! *****

“In Him we live, move and have our being. Man's origin and existence being in Him, man is the ultimatum of perfection, and by no means the medium of imperfection. Immortal man is the eternal idea of Truth, that cannot lapse into a mortal belief of error concerning himself and his origin: he cannot get out of the focal distance of infinity. If God is upright and eternal, man as His likeness is erect in goodness and perpetual in Life, Truth and Love!” *Misc* p 98:9-17

“In the eternal harmony of Science man is not fallen; he is governed in the same rhythm that the Scriptures describes, when “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy!” *Misc.* p 259:18-21