

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 190

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man —
June 13th, 2021**

A Tried-and-True Means of Preserving God-Consciousness

In essence, God preserves man only to the extent that man preserves the promises of God, keeping them living and fresh in consciousness, firmly in mind. Hence Mrs. Eddy wrote, “Be firm in your understanding that the divine Mind governs,” (*Science and Health* 393:16).

One of the most convenient, available, and practical means of preserving God-consciousness in firmness of understanding is discussed in Ralph W. Coffin’s article, “Our Hymnal” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, December, 1922). Here’s an excerpt:

“The small edition of *The Christian Science Hymnal* for soldiers was a great blessing to the writer; and in many instances the truth written therein saved the day against error. Upon embarking for foreign service, while the submarine warfare was supposed to be at its worst, the hymn which begins, ‘In heav’nly love abiding,’ on page 168 of the Hymnal, (148 in current hymnal) drove out all fear; and many nights the student of Christian Science would go out on deck alone, and sing this song over and over, until peace, confidence, and perfect assurance of God’s ever-presence were gained.

“Another time, when the danger of crossing the English Channel was voiced, almost immediately the words, ‘Make channels for the streams of love’ (p. 89), echoed through his consciousness. This song brought a vision of the only real channels, that they are eternally filled with love, and that no danger could possibly lurk therein.

“Many times the writer was confronted with problems of such seemingly large proportions that

even a start to get at the trouble by mental means seemed well-nigh impossible. Then sometimes the Hymnal was taken, and hymn after hymn was sung until light began to dawn in consciousness, leaving the student able to cope with the errors by the mental affirmation and denial which Christian Science teaches.”

Thank you for this post. There is something so utterly uplifting about hymns that I feel they are heaven sent and one of the greatest gifts. There is a God-blessed reason that churches have magnificent organs and as Christian Scientists we are blessed with an especially wonderful hymnal.

Some of the most memorable testimonies I have recalled involved singing hymns at a piano into the night, or just simply singing hymns, one after the other. The uplifting effect inevitably brought healing, and it’s that state of joy that hymns lift us into that brings about the needed release from whatever earth-weight was the problem. I sometimes sing through Mrs. Eddy’s hymns, and it is always transformative.

Made Superior to Sin, Sickness and Death

“To hold yourself **superior to sin**, because God made you superior to it and governs man, is true wisdom. To fear sin is to misunderstand the power of Love and the divine Science of being in man’s relation to God, — to doubt His government and distrust His omnipotent care. To hold yourself **superior to sickness and death** is equally wise, and is in accordance with divine Science. To fear them is impossible, when you fully apprehend God and know that **they are no part of His creation**. (*Science and Health* 231:20-29, emphasis added)

What a glorious heritage, to be made superior to sin, sickness and death. Mrs. Eddy says to be a law unto ourselves on page 442 of *Science and Health*,

“Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake.” This is something I can obey as a great law unto myself, that **I AM MADE SUPERIOR** to sin, sickness and death!

Thank you for pointing this out!

In the *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, superior is defined, “Being beyond the power or influence of; too great or firm to be subdued or affected by; as a man *superior* to revenge. There is not on earth a spectacle more worthy than a great man *superior* to his sufferings.”

In a world that constantly wants to *define* us by labels of sin, sickness or death, it is all-important to not be ensnared in such traps but to recognize our true spiritual and immortal nature. I love how you put it: “This is something I can obey as a great law unto myself...” What an excellent reminder!

Perfection: At What Price

“*Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.*” (Job 9:21)

How easy it is to fall prey to a misguided sense of perfection. How many times have I constructed ways to attain that perfection within the mortal experience, — the perfect marriage, the perfect work, the perfect spiritual discipline, — despite the deceptive nature and futility of such pursuits. While perfection remains ever the goal before me, like Job, I may know less of my Soul, if I pursue the counterfeit or tout what I have accomplished as proof of my own spiritual growth.

“Human opinions are not spiritual.”

“Human opinions are not spiritual.” (*Science and Health* 192:6)

“Opinion: The judgment which the mind forms...that renders it probable, but does not produce absolute knowledge or certainty.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

There is no way around it, human opinions are not spiritual; period, no exception. So if I think my

personal sense opinion is “from God,” or a truth, then I have mesmerized myself. “Truth is ever truthful, and can tolerate no error in premise or conclusion.” (*Science and Health* 129:5)

“Notes from the Class of 1889...Come, empty of all preconceived opinions, creeds, prejudices, doctrines or ‘isms,’ to receive the Truth, and with charity of open minds receive the Truth I give you; then test the reality of your own by it. Except one is empty, he cannot be filled.” (*Collectanea* by Mary Baker Eddy, pg. 27)

Job and Carpenter — What They Have in Common

When I was reading the story of Job in our Lesson this week and came upon the last Chapter 42, I realized that the “power of prayer” demonstrated by Job, was the same “[Power of Prayer](#)” written about by Gilbert Carpenter, Sr.

In his article on the same topic, Mr. Carpenter said, “I let my thought go out to all who needed God realizing that God is All-Presence, All-Power, and Love. When I returned from this mental journey, I found myself well. Through this prayer, I restored my thought to being a channel for good, and eliminated the ill-effects which were evidence of an in-turned thought.”

This is exactly what happened to Job. “And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10) So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.” (Job 42:12) I was so happy to see the spiritual thread of the Science we are being taught at Plainfield, flowing out from this Biblical story.

Psalm 37:37

“Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright; for the end of *that man is peace.*” (Ps. 37:37) (Lesson citation #2)

“**Mark**” – (Hebrew) shamar – “to guard, keep, preserve, protect, watch, hedge around something.”

“Perfect” – (Hebrew) tam – “complete, whole, upright in moral sense, having integrity, sound, undefiled.”

“Behold” – (Hebrew) ra’ ah – “to see with the mind, perceive, understand, be fully aware of, to have added vision.”

“Upright” – (Hebrew) Yashar – “that which is pleasing to God, that which is right in his eyes, having integrity, uprightness, does what ought to be done.”

“Peace” – (Hebrew) shalom – “completeness, soundness, a sense of well-being, even health.”

Using the original meanings of the main words, Ps 37:37 can thus become: “Watch, guard, preserve the complete, whole, undefiled man. See this fact about man with the mind. Become fully aware of doing that which is pleasing to God, for the end of that man is health and a sense of well-being.”

Source – Virtual Tour of Israel – *Jerusalem – The Pool at Bethesda*, by Kristy Christian, Biblos Foundation.

**SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man,
Evolved by Atomic Force? —
June 20th, 2021**

FROM the heavens IN the heights

“Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD FROM the heavens: praise him IN the heights” (Ps.148:1, emphasis added)

I understood this to mean that we must pray outward/proceeding FROM the heavens — see ourselves/all from the standpoint of the heavens, perfect manifestation of God. We must see ourselves/all IN the heights in order to know/praise Him as Being in the heights — the Highest.

Praise ye the Lord

Our Lesson-Sermon this week opens with the first 7 verses of Psalm 148. “Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.” (Ps.148:1)

Spurgeon Commentary says “There are five “Hallelujah Psalms” at the end of the book. They are so named because they begin and conclude with Hallelujah “Praise the LORD”... He is charmed with the prayers of his people — they hold him, they prevail with him. He will do anything for them who know how to pray. ‘Prayer moves the arm that moves the world’ (John Aikman Wallace, *There is an Eye That Never Sleeps*). The Lord’s people bring Him pleasure. What is there in us which the Lord can take pleasure? Nothing, unless he has put it there. If he sees any beauty in us, it must be the reflection of his face. The Lord takes pleasure in us not only because of all he has done but because he sees something in us that pleases him, something that is his own work.”

More and more I am seeing the importance of being grateful and joyful no matter what we are confronted with, or activity we are doing. To praise God continually as much as we are able, is to be in the presence of God, “...or oneness with God, — a unity which sin recognizes as its most potent and deadly enemy.” (*Unity of Good* 54:15-16)

A thought, a seed, a flower.

“The only intelligence or substance of a thought, a seed, or a flower is God, the creator of it.” (*Science and Health* 508:5-6)

“To successfully treat children, cut off the parent thought. Man is the offspring of God, not man. The material birth is but the false conception. Realize that matter cannot transmit good or evil. It is inert, unintelligent, and cannot be the medium of intelligence. Seedless oranges are produced by turning the top of the parent plant back to earth, and when rooted disconnecting it. The offspring produces seedless oranges. Detach the thought of the child from the parent and the germs of erroneous seed of the parent thought will cease to impress the child.” (*Divinity Course and General Collectanea* [the Blue Book], page 147)

“Seed: That from which any thing springs; first principle; original.”

“Erroneous; false; mistaken; not conformable to truth; erring from truth or justice.”

“Impress: To imprint; to stamp; to make a mark; to fix deep.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

I have been using the above line from *Science and Health* in my prayers for children, to cut off “the germs of erroneous seed of the parent thought,” replacing it with affirmations such as the line above from this week’s lesson in order that the lies “will cease to impress the child”. I love to think about the seeds God is planting in our thoughts, in the tablet of our being.

Matthew 11:1, 20-30

While Christ Jesus is certainly imparting some difficult words to hear at first, he was doing this after quite a while spent healing and teaching and doing good works. I have known people who — after claiming the name of Christianity, Christian Science, or whatever they think gave them the moral high ground — go straight to the rebukes and indignation, without spending any time healing or teaching or doing good works.

Because Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy actually lived Christian Science, and demonstrated it constantly, when it came time to rebuke, they had not only the authority to speak Truth to error, but also the responsibility to do it. In the same manner, the practitioners in this Church have lived and demonstrated this Science, and they teach or heal or rebuke as directed by God, moment-by-moment.

Those who go straight to the indignation — the ones who actually seem to enjoy giving rebukes — are the ones who turn people off from Christ’s Christianity, because anyone listening can feel the words have no power behind them. And, since the words have no power, the listener mistakenly feels that means Christianity has no power.

Christ Jesus lived and demonstrated and earned every step, so there is no doubt that the words God gave him to say in these verses moved at least some who heard them. There are always receptive hearts listening, even up until today!

And then — something certainly taught in this Church as well — Jesus didn’t leave the situation in the negative. While the pretender’s words have the effect of stealing hope and putting a stone on the heart, Christian Science is the Comforter. He

thanked God, reiterated the impersonal nature of his work for the world, and then let others know how to follow him.

These verses reminded me of the following from page 27 in *Watches, Prayers, and Arguments*, given by Mary Baker Eddy:

“We must *feel* the danger and lift our thought to God; He will save us. If we do not feel the danger, and go right on, as though everything were all right, declaring you are all right, you cannot die, etc., when the seeming is all wrong, you will not be watching with God. When we *feel* the danger, then we earnestly turn to God. Keep awake — watch; the right kind of watching.” (emphasis added)

Thank you so much!

Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum

“Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.” (Matthew 11:21-23)

The following is from online research from www.Ancient-Origins.net:

“...Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum are the three and only cities mentioned in the Bible that Jesus allegedly cursed, according to the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Chorazin was a city in Galilee a few kilometres from the city of Capernaum, where Jesus lived after he left Nazareth.

A synagogue was discovered in the 19th century and has been partly excavated. An interesting finding was the Seat of Moses which was carved with an inscription in Aramaic on the back.

More evidence includes images of MEDUSA carved onto stones, something that wasn’t common to Synagogues. It is no wonder legends later

claimed that the Antichrist would be born in Chorazin.

Britannica: MEDUSA, in Greek mythology, the most famous of the monster figures known as Gorgons. She was usually represented as a WINGED female creature having a head of hair consisting of snakes; sometimes represented as very beautiful. Medusa' serpentine locks of hair turned anyone who met her gaze into stone.

Hypnotism: Medusa surely contrasts with the Revelator's vision (chapter 14:6) of the holy angel that did "...fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth".

"Man Evolved by Atomic Force" — Dust vs. Deity

"It is a slightly arresting notion that if you were to pick yourself apart with tweezers, one atom at a time, you would produce a mound of fine atomic dust, none of which had ever been alive but all of which had once been you." — from *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson (a "slightly arrested" atheist), whose book is better titled *A Short History of Nearly Everything According to the Five Personal Senses*; in other words, a brief exercise in futility.

On the other hand, "...the material origin, growth, maturity, and death of sinners, as the history of man, disappears, and the everlasting facts of being appear, wherein man is the reflection of immutable good." (*Unity of Good*, Mary Baker Eddy, pages 50-51)

Jesus said to his learned, materially minded persecutors, "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world." (John 8:23).

The man from above said to his disciples: "In my Father's house [consciousness] are many mansions [higher 'houses' — increasingly higher states and stages of consciousness]. I go to prepare a place for you. Where I go you cannot come as of now. But I go to prepare that place ... that where I AM [above], there ye may be also" [in other words, you shall dwell in the consciousness that is above all. Thus, as they grew in grace, the disciples no

longer thought of the Father's house according to their own ideas of it, but thought, spoke, and acted from it.]

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever." (*Science and Health* 578:16)

"Four and Twenty Elders"

"And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev. 4:4, 10, 11)

When I read this, I thought of the 24 hours of the day, and how each hour is governed by God and is an opportunity to know and praise God; that Truth, Life, and Love reign this and every hour. In *Watches, Prayers, Arguments*, Mrs. Eddy says: "This day is unfoldment, in which every detail and incident is but an illustration of divine presence, power, and wisdom."

I love this idea of the 24 hours of the day governed by God, and I think it fits very well with the notes about this verse in Rev. G. A. Kratzer's "[Revelation Interpreted](#)" on the "Publications" section of the Plainfield website. This refers to the elders as "symbolizing the leading ideas or manifestations of Mind, such as liberty, justice, changelessness, purity and the like," and that the phrases "clothed in white raiment" and "on their heads crowns of gold" indicate that the elders are "free from sin, and crowned with the authority of God."

Thank you very much.
