

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 34

SUBJECT- GOD THE PRESERVER OF MAN-12/14/14

The Government Shall Be Upon His Shoulders...

" Man's rights are invaded when the Divine Order is interfered with, and the mental trespasser incurs the Divine Penalty due this crime." *Science and Health*, 106: 12

Jesus declared only the Truth. Condemnation was no part of his being or Truth. He realized and demonstrated the unreality of error, by declaring the Truth about God and Man, by declaring the Truth and nothing but the Truth. Man is the image and likeness of God, his creator. Can he be anything less?

It would be the deceptive nature of so-called mortal mind that would want us to believe that we are less than what God has made us and incapable of progress or understanding. It would be the nature of so-called mortal mind that would want us to believe that God is not governing His Idea, man. No matter how much understanding we have, it wants us to believe we have none at all. It is attempting to humanize thought by suggesting that the unfolding of God's Ideas can be stopped by a misapprehension of them. It is like an annoying gnat. It keeps pointing out faults, continuing round and round on the negative side, trying to get us to believe it. Trying to keep your focus away from the Spiritual Sense you do have.

This continual rehearsal of thought is like a man lost in the woods. He walks for hours and comes upon his own tracks. Instead of changing course, when he realizes he has walked in a circle, he continues to follow the same tracks, hoping it will lead him out of the woods, thus explaining why it took forty years for the people of Israel to find their way out of the wilderness. Animal Magnetism was telling them, " follow me, I know which way is best."

We often accept the suggestion that we are not able to realize. ...Declare that you do realize, and that there is no power to prevent your realization of Good. In fact, we realize more than we seem to. (Teaching and addresses of Edward Kimble) *****

Thank you for your post. Yes, animal magnetism appeared to have a field day with me also until I awakened to the NO-THING-NESS and powerlessness of this bully!!! And it did try to convince me I couldn't do many things; but I thank God for His grace, which empowers us if we turn to Him. Pressing on in the Truth, using what we understand, we gain more understanding and feel more of His dominion and Love. *****

Principle Done It or Nothing!

Gideon's band had to be downsized so that when they defeated the Midianites there would be no question that God did it. What was the big deal, as long as the victory belonged to them? Using Mrs. Eddy's revelation, we find that had they thought they did it themselves, they would not understand the Principle, and therefore would be in the land of personal sense, the land of belief. Thereafter, they would be helpless, thinking they were something when they were nothing. Gideon refused kingship for himself and his children to insure that Principle governed and not personal sense - and so they had 40 years of peace, unusual in those days!

This is the same in healing. Unless it is clear that Principle/Love does the healing, and the patient becomes more dependent upon that Principle, he is "fortifying" his dream in personal sense and is actually rendered weaker. *****

"Gideon refused kingship for himself and his children to insure that Principle governed and not personal sense - and so they had 40 years of peace, unusual in those days!"

It is interesting to note how many times God had to intervene to get Gideon to understand that the

endeavor He had sent him to do was for the Glory of God. Had he understood and trusted Principle from the beginning, he would not have thought to round up support and then be quite satisfied with those who were only there to ride the glory train. It was not until the end that he realized this and rebuked those who followed him that he was able to Glorify God. *****

Gideon was an admirable example of humility - he had to be convinced that God was talking to him - too often folks like to assume God is talking to them when all they are hearing is their own personal sense "dressed up" as God, which of course leads to a truckload of problems - the downfall of the CS movement, for starters. Gideon had to be convinced, and when he was, he was as good as gold - totally in tune with Principle, God - and what a success he turned out to be. To me, anyone that claims they prayed and God gave them the answer is suspect. Better to pray in secret and let God reward you openly. (hmmm, sounds familiar) *****

I am grateful for these lessons which help me to recognize God's omnipresence and to be thankful that when I stray from the exalted purpose, that God, "the preserver of man", does not give up on me even when I mistakenly turn from him.

And I recognize that when I am being praised that it is not the end of God's work for me but a defining moment which awakens me to the Truth, that I am nothing without Him.

Another really important point to notice in this story:

"throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it." Judges 6:25 He had to break personal attachment, and stand with Principle. (Do we think his father took kindly to this destruction?)

No one is much use to God who has a strong personal attachment - because He is unable to hear God through all the personal "voices." It is apparent that Gideon's spiritual sense was finely tuned after taking this vital step. *****

Our Freedom In Truth

The spiritual FACT of man's true freedom "stirs" my heart every time I read about it. We know that "he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths" all the way to the self-government which includes our unalienable rights! Isaiah 2:3. This teaching is going on now, moment by moment as we humbly seek to know more.

This supreme Teacher is ever present and does not leave us comfortless. The Spirit of the Lord is everywhere, and our liberty is sure as we work diligently according to His will. *****

This freedom is for everyone the world over who is willing to accept and understand His Truth. This is the only way we stop being victims to personal sense!!

Science and Health, p 565: 6-7 (to :), 16 (Christ) -18 Revelation xii. 5. "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:

Christ, God's idea, will eventually rule **all nations and peoples** — imperatively, absolutely, finally — with divine Science," for man's true freedom. Emphasis added.

My own experience proves to me that I would not have suffered so long had I readily, humbly, and honestly accepted the Creator and Preserver's vision of who I am (while working to gain the understanding). God never created the human mind; the Scientific Statement of Being tells me so, *Science and Health*, p 468. *****

Today, and in days gone by, it has always been disobedience to God's laws that brings the suffering. I see how I did a great deal of believing, professing, and a lot of fooling myself that I was something (a Christian in its proper sense) when I was not. It took the *awakening* to all these lies, to start a life in humble obedience to God and to the realization of true freedom. I finally saw that if I am willing to let go of what is not true about me, turn away from the down-pulling thoughts that come saying: "I cannot, I don't have enough understanding, I am not up there yet, and see all these as evil's useless and powerless rantings." Only then could I begin to

accept and understand the help being offered, for me to see myself correctly, to see my true self, which is spiritual, complete, and free.

This morning I read this in The Biblical Illustrator:

“The Church would be a good deal wiser if it always took care to distinguish between the doubt of corruption and worldliness, the cold, callous, sneering doubt, and the doubt of a brave young heart that doubts because religion is so poor an affair, that doubts because of the great wrongs in the world, because of the deeds of evil that sin works, that doubts precisely because it is crying for the reality. We should go to every such man and say: “My brother, you are not an infidel; you are called to be a religious man beyond the common. You are not an atheist. God has hold of you, and wants you for Himself. Go and do something heroic, and show that God’s religion is the mightiest force. Go and demand the reality, and win a victory for God and His kingdom such as the world has never seen yet.” *****

SUBJECT - IS THE UNIVERSE INCLUDING MAN EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE? - 12/21/14

Leaning On The Infinite

“To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.” (*Science and Health*, p vii: 1-2) We have this quote of Mrs. Eddy’s beautifully inscribed on the wall of our church. We would all like our day to be big with blessings. So what does the word “lean” mean to you? One definition is to “rely on for support or inspiration.” I will be sure to ask myself more often – how much during the day am I relying on God, “leaning on the sustaining infinite” for all my support and inspiration?! What a simple change to make and what blessings it can bring when followed faithfully. *****

Mrs Eddy puts it simply, where our relying should be, when she says: Trials teach mortals not to lean on material staff, a broken reed, which pierces the heart.....Trials are proofs of God's care. *Science*

and Health, p. 66

These posts inspired me to think more deeply about this citation from *Science and Health*.

In response to the question "what does lean mean to you" I started by looking up the word for myself.

Lean - in 1828 Webster's:

1.To rest or rely, for support, comfort, and the like; -- with on, upon, or against.

2.To bend or incline so as to rest on something; as, to lean against a wall or a pillar; to lean on the arm of another.

What stood out to me was the qualities that would be needed for the person doing the leaning, such as trust and humility, while personal will, pride, ego would be obstacles.

I ask myself if I am not leaning on God, then what am I leaning on?

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 *****

Possible with God

“...The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” What problem are you facing today that you despair of feeling it to be totally impossible to heal? Put it on God’s altar. Give it to God with “prayer and fasting.” And what is this prayer? – “The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, - a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love.” (*Science and Health*, p1:1-4) And what is this fasting? – starve yourself of all the negativity of the human mind. Refuse to listen to its lies and have a “more ready ear for the overture of angels.” (Misc.) You will then find you can prove in your experience step by step – “with God nothing shall be impossible.”! *****

It is necessary to ask often; "Is there anything God cannot do?" especially when tasks seem daunting.

Then surely, as we pause and realize that it is always God working and we work, the false responsibility that tries to stop us from doing something flees in the face of the powerful Truth of God Omni-Active!! *****

Genesis 1:2-3 -- And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Luke 1:37 -- For with God, nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 18:27 -- The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Science and Health 502:28-503:3 -- The universe reflects God. There is but one creator and one creation. This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected.

Thank you, and thanks to the lesson writer, for the reminder that whenever I find myself in especially challenging circumstances, I can follow Mrs. Eddy's example and recall the Bible's description of how Principle dealt with the problem of an earth seemingly engulfed in error, without form, waste and void, with darkness upon the face of deep, unruly waters. Principle does not magically wish difficult circumstances away, but is eternally telling its totally different story in spite of them. Thus, the Truth-story of "Let there be light" and creation silences the lying story of darkness and waste, as though it never were. The first chapter of Genesis, thanks to Mrs. Eddy's monumental revelation, tells us that the weapons of Principle are practical, always close-at-hand for me to use to decimate the strongholds of the enemies of Light.

In the first chapter of Genesis, the Truth-story told by Soul overcomes the lie-story told by sense-observation; this is the Christmas story of Light, Truth, and Love ever-creating all things according to the story of infinite possibility (the story that Soul tells) and not according to the story of abject impossibility (the story that sense tells). In the presence of God's Light, darkness is seen for what it truly is: omni-absent, omni-impotent, omni-

erring, omni-inactive. So, whenever I meet up with resistance to Light, I can man the battle stations and do as Principle did when earth was without form and void.

Where is my attention? What story am I telling myself? Is it a constant "flowing of spiritual ideas and their identities," or am I telling myself a story that impedes that flow? Sense sees not the same world that Soul sees. That which is limited and finite can never be wiser, stronger, or more present than That which is unlimited and infinite. That which is limited and finite is sheer fiction, while That which is unlimited and infinite is non-fiction: through and through, forever and ever. *****

Big Bang Theory - Certainty vs. Uncertainty

"Atomic force" in this lesson's topic could in today's language be replaced by "a big bang".

Even though there has been a lot of excitement in the scientific community about the evolution of the big bang theory, it still rests on total uncertainty. Here's a telling short video:

<http://digg.com/video/shocked-physicist-learns-his-big-bang-theory-is-true>

The scientist in the video at one point says, "Let's just hope that this is not a trick. I always live with this feeling, what if I'm tricked?"

Christian Science gives us a feeling of certainty because it is the Truth and we can prove it to be true, all the time!

In *Science and Health*, creation is explained so beautifully. Why isn't this more generally accepted? Is it because one must truly humble himself before God? It is just such humility that leads one to "a sweet and certain sense that God is Love." (*Science and Health*, p. 569) *****

Even more important for me is why as stated here: Those instructed in Christian Science have reached the glorious perception that God is the only author of man. *Science and Health*, p. 29 and yet the command to let go of the material sense of things, to relinquish personal sense and strive to attain

spiritual sense is mostly ignored? There is a false sense of contentment, which attracts many, and until something happens to wake one up, one can keep dreaming for a long time.

Poor instruction in Science doesn't emphasize how vital this concept of creation is to the understanding Scientific Truth!

State of Judaea

One of this week's bible study questions was referring to the state Judaea was in during the period when John the Baptist was born. The condition was one of horrible bondage. Everything I could relate to today. This morning I came across an interesting chapter in Footsteps p. 223 (Ch. 104) about the need to see our state of bondage to be able to work for freedom.

"The man who thinks he is free is the one who does not recognize his mental slavery. He thinks that his bodily freedom is an indication of mental freedom, when such is not the case. On the other hand, servitude is a finger that continually reminds man of the fact that he has a task before him. This is seen with the Israelites, for their servitude to the Romans cause them to desire and work for freedom. In turn, this longing and struggle made them receptive of the Christ, ready to welcome whatever promised them release from their badge of servitude. Although, it was a shock when they learned that the Christ came to release them, not from outward, but inward bondage. Hence, according to Mrs. Eddy's revelation, being a serpent symbolized a recognition that man is in bondage to mortal belief and man must free himself from it. It also represented the necessity for a four-square demonstration that neglected no phase of human experience."

The topic of inward bondage and four-square demonstration brought to my remembrance Mrs. Singleterry's testimony, where she discussed the necessity of "learning all things rightly", a quote from *Science and Health* 95 : 28-3:
"Lulled by stupefying illusions, the world is asleep in the cradle of infancy, dreaming away the hours. Material sense does not unfold the facts of

existence; but spiritual sense lifts human consciousness into eternal Truth. Humanity advances slowly out of sinning sense into spiritual understanding; unwillingness to learn all things rightly, binds Christendom with chains. "

I can see that this won't be accomplished while I continue to believe I am humanly right or avoid hard work especially in what may seem menial. I see how human comfort is deadly. This work I am learning cannot be done without humility, unselfed love, striving for spiritual sense, letting go of material sense and giving up personal sense, as Plainfield continually teaches, which is based on biblical principles and throughout Mrs. Eddy's writings. I can see, learning things rightly, is really building-blocks for greater works. I need to put my one talent to good use before I am given more. Any thing else is dangerous delusion, will impede my growth, and doing worse than nothing to help the world in bondage. So in effect, I am not doing that which I was sent. *****

SUBJECT - CHRISTIAN SCIENCE - 12/28/14

Light To The Gentiles

"I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

I found the following and thought I would share. *Rays From Christmastide* by F. E. Mason, C.S.B. From the December 1888 issue of The Christian Science Journal:

"Does not personality again crowd Christ out from the consciousness of mankind? Does not the world refuse a place for the birth of Truth? Again comes the question, Where shall he be born? Oh that mortals would open their hearts for the birthplace of Truth. Christ stands at the door of your heart and knocks for admission. Who will open to him and the heavenly host? The Star of Bethlehem shines today as of old, piercing the darkness of belief, and leading followers to the portals of Heaven...So will God's light, the light of eternal Truth,—Christ the light of the world,—remain shining in the Christian's consciousness, until our enemies,

sickness, sin, and death are vanquished. In former times, before electric lights, gas, or petroleum had been discovered, it was the fashion to light meeting-houses with candles. These candles were not furnished by the church-officers, but each worshiper brought his candle with him. One of these wicks would emit only a feeble light, but the aggregate of tiny flames illumined the place. So is it with us. The light carried by any single one of us may be flickering and faint; but let our thoughts shine together, each illumined with but a spark of Truth, and the moral region around us will be filled with divine light. Never despise the dimness of the reflection you make. A mere streak of gray dawn presages the open day 'To him that hath shall be given.' Jesus is the central light of human history. His Truth is 'the same yesterday, today, and forever.' He called himself the Way, the Truth, the Life. The Way and the Life, like the Truth, are "the same yesterday today and forever,"—that is, from eternity to eternity.*****

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Thank you! The article speaks to much that we've been discussing in Roundtable, what is in the lessons and Unity watches: *Science and Health*, p. 146 Science is the "stranger that is within thy gates," remembered not, even when its elevating effects practically prove its divine origin and efficacy.

To-day, as of yore, unconscious of the reappearing of the spiritual idea, blind belief shuts the door upon it, and condemns the cure of the sick and sinning if it is wrought on any but a material and a doctrinal theory. *Science and Health*, p. 132

The world constantly clamors for entrance in our consciousness, posturing as reality. The evil and gross stupidity, which are constantly paraded

before our senses, try to discourage us. Sometimes one could feel ashamed to be a human being, or a mortal.

But then we shake off the animal magnetism, and know that it is all the suggestion of an absence, the lack of Truth and Love, a lie, unreal in every aspect.

It is never out there. There is no exterior to consciousness, all is interior, the inner man. God as manifested in the seven synonyms is all there is. **

Simeon: "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" Luke 2:32

The Messiah is sometimes thought of as the Messiah for the Jews, but we see in the responsive reading that Isaiah said he was the Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles. This is consistently said throughout the Old Testament. Simeon also said this when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus into the Temple. Paul also said this to Agrippa. *****

Christ Not Person

"Jesus saith..., I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

Every reference in the Bible that Jesus makes to himself, he is referring to the Christ, not the personal man, Jesus. His explanation at the time was "the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." After many of his healings, he left them with reference to faith in God: "Thy faith hath made thee whole." "Thy faith hath saved thee."

And yet, very few got the point. It required Mary Baker Eddy, almost 1900 years later, to discover the Science behind his works and teaching; to define the Principle, which is divine Truth, Life and Love, as God himself, as the creative and governing power. It is her explanation of the Science that makes Jesus the Great Example.

We should be so grateful to Mrs. Eddy, and to Christ Jesus, for showing us who and what God is and what he does for us.