

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 39

SUBJECT- MAN -03/08/15

## How Do I See Others?

This Bible lesson is so instructive in how we are to see others, and it took me a long time to get this straight.

Although I thought I was seeing others correctly, I was "sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived..." It took a lot of suffering to mend my ways. I went from passivity in Christian Science to active obedience--a process that took many years--for me to be able to begin to understand Mrs. Eddy's words, "The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, -- perfect God and perfect man, -- as the basis of thought and demonstration."

"Perfect God and perfect man"--I never had a grasp on this really until I came to Plainfield. Sometimes it seemed like a hollow mantra. Over time, as my thinking progressed, it went from an airy fairy idea out there, to "the basis of thought and demonstration"--from thinking I didn't have to do much, I could kind of skate through my days half asleep, as if Christian Science was some kind of protective fairy dust--to understanding that Christian Science has to be demonstrated!

Now that the veil has been lifted after coming to Plainfield, I can see more clearly! And see others correctly. I am very grateful to this church and for these wonderful lessons.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mortal mind would insist on seeing people differently, especially when we feel we are better than them. And yet we read in Job 34:19, "for they all are the work of his hands."

As posted above, we know better now through Christian Science and can do better!

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Washing of Regeneration

RESPONSIVE READING: Titus 3:5

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

From the 1828 Webster's:

REGENERATION, noun

1. Reproduction; the act of producing anew.
2. In theology, new birth by the grace of God; that change by which the will and natural enmity of man to God and his law are subdued, and a principle of supreme love to God and his law, or holy affections, are implanted in the heart.

He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5.

Regeneration feels like such a modern word to me, and yet for the whole of mortal existence, it has been sought. Many books and movies—and usually the best biographies—are about overcoming past mistakes and remaking lives in a meaningful way. It seems that we seek fulfillment through regeneration our whole lives, and often that leads us on a million digressions.

I chased many mirages in that journey, but it wasn't until after putting aside my agendas—how I thought it should go—and my pride, that I asked God for help, and He helped me take my first right step. Learning the right idea of God, and all these lessons that Christian Science is bringing, has helped me to understand that the only true regeneration is through God. Anything else was just me fooling myself.

I am so grateful to be here, learning about Christian Science, and how to truly love and live for God.

I chased many mirages in that journey, but it wasn't until after putting aside my agendas—how I thought it should go—and my pride, that I asked God for

help...\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your testimony. I feel that for me, the "washing of regeneration" or the "new birth" finally came when I obeyed God in a way I never did before, because I was stubborn and hoping that some of God's laws could just be kind of set aside... and through Christian Science, I would be somehow off the hook. How delusional!

It was only here at Plainfield with its strong teaching that I was finally set free. Ironically, the "freedom" outside of obeying God is actually very terrible bondage.

I truly feel like a new person, and the more I find myself working for God--striving to keep God at the center of my thoughts and everything I do--the more wonderful life is! Every day I thank God for all that He has done and for the Plainfield Church, because I truly have been saved!

"...but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration..." This is so wonderful. I pray that all may be saved in this way--like the young people in the article "The Youth"--a wonderful illustration of this. \*\*\*\*\*

## God Hath Shewed Me

Thanks for the great Bible study today.

I took away a new sense of the importance of continual prayer and humility.

Having a direct relationship with Jesus, Peter could have easily tried to position himself in place of authority and control over the church. His pride could have made him think he had all the answers or through his lineage thought he was more connected to God. He could have believed only he could accurately hear God or stuck with tradition. He was willing to learn more about God and change direction rather than being overly sure of his views. His prayer and obedience kept him from jumping in and admonishing Cornelius, causing a different outcome. He was willing to live up to his new understanding and follow his conscience. In his devotion to God, he led by example. Cornelius

was also a wonderful example of faith and humility.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! What a great take away from the Bible study - Peter and Cornelius were both tremendous examples of humble obedience to God.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Apply It To You!

I think it was Peter V. Ross who said Science and Health should be thought of as your biography – it speaks to you and about you directly. Apply each sentence when appropriate to yourself. For instance, in reference to citation #1, “The Scriptures inform (me) that (I) am made in the image and likeness of God.... (I) am spiritual and perfect; and because (I) am spiritual and perfect, (I) must be so understood in Christian Science.” This will help you think of yourself in the correct way and not feel like this “man” often referred to is someone other than you!  
\*\*\*\*\*

*I think it was Peter V. Ross who said Science and Health should be thought of as your biography – it speaks to you and about you directly.*

Wow, this is a neat idea. It was here at Plainfield that I first heard the words, "Make it your own. Apply it to yourself." Unbelievably, this was a new idea after being brought up in Science, showing how I was not being active but simply being passive, which did not allow me to progress.

On my path to finding Plainfield, it was the wonderful Irishwoman Myrtle Smyth who helped shake things up in the movement back in the 1990's as she went on speaking tours around the world. One of the things she said that really stuck with me was that the answer to the question "What is man?" on page 475 of *Science and Health* is in itself a treatment, and to replace "man" with the person's name (or oneself). That helped a lot to get me going on my way to breaking out of the "Boston culture" mentality and being stuck in a permanent state of inertia! \*\*\*\*\*

## A Needful Admission

Admission from 1828 Webster's is: Allowance; grant of an argument or position not fully proved.

*Science and Health*, p. 90 : 24-25 The admission to one's self that man is God's own likeness sets man free to master the infinite idea.

Our striving can be in vain if we have not first admitted that we are the likeness of God and work from that basis for the realization of that Truth; that we are the spiritual image and likeness of God. No wonder it all seemed such a struggle because I was trying to put holiness upon unholiness, something that cannot be done! \*\*\*\*\*

"Daily watchfulness" is a significant discipline Mrs. Eddy speaks of in striving to "assimilate" our Godlike qualities in life as the likeness of God, but as Robert Frost said in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" "I have miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep." \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks. Without the admission, what would I set forth daily to watch for? In other words, I can go for years holding on to my material self-hood as "the real," while using the words of truth and thinking I am letting go of the old beliefs. The old man must be given up as a lie and it is the admission/acceptance of this and the daily recognition of it that sets me free to master the truth about man.

The admission that the spiritual is the truth gives us what is to be mastered. Mrs Eddy is warning us of this subtle error with the statement above \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT - SUBSTANCE – 03/15/15**

## A Diligent Man

"The substance of a diligent man is precious." I have been thinking about the Golden Text this week – about what it means and how to apply it to myself. One interpretation of it is - "diligence is man's precious possession." And an 1828 definition of the word "diligence" is a "constant effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken." It is true that anything worthwhile

that has ever been accomplished in this world has required diligence. It is an important quality of God and is an essential part of doing His work. The following statement from *Science and Health*, has always been invaluable to me "In the figurative transmission from the divine thought to the human, diligence, promptness and perseverance are likened to 'the cattle upon a thousand hills.'" They carry the baggage of stern resolve, and keep pace with the highest purpose." How diligent am I? Am I prompt? Do I persevere? \*\*\*\*\*

*"The substance of a diligent man is precious."*

I love this passage.

In the French Bible, the translation is, "A man's precious treasure is activity." There's nothing quite like the feeling of a job well done! And Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labor wears." \*\*\*\*\*

## Christian Science Takes Exactly The Opposite View

In Christian Science, substance is understood to be Spirit, while the opponents of Christian Science believe substance to be matter. They think of matter as something and almost the only thing, and of the things which pertain to Spirit as next to nothing, or as very far removed from daily experience. Christian Science takes exactly the opposite view. *Science and Health*, p. 349:31 – p. 350: 1-10.

"Christian Science takes exactly the opposite view". Thankfully it does! In *Science and Health*, we read, "Matter is impotent, matter is mindless, matter can afford you no aid." Where is the substance in that?

I have learned in Christian Science that true substance is God, Spirit. I have asked myself how do I demonstrate this daily? Mrs. Eddy, in *Miscellany* p.165:20-21, gives me the answer. "...I am able to impart truth, health and happiness, and this is my rock of salvation (my true substance) and my reason for existing."

I have learned in Christian Science that true substance is God, Spirit. I have asked myself how

do I demonstrate this daily? Mrs. Eddy, in Miscellany, p.165:20-21 gives me the answer. "...I am able to impart truth, health and happiness, and this is my rock of salvation (my true substance) and my reason for existing." \*\*\*\*\*

I love this--just to be sure of the meaning, I looked up "impart", which means to communicate or make known, so when we are sharing truth with others, healing and uplifting them, we are fulfilling the law of Love. I remember it has been said, "if we're not loving, we're not really living!"

Thank you for this quote about our reason for existing! It's very inspiring. \*\*\*\*\*

### ...And Upbraideth Not;

**James 1: 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**

I realized I didn't have a firm understanding of what "upbraideth" meant. Upon looking it up, I feel that James may have been trying to make the distinction between the loving, constant God that Christian Science knows, and the god(s) of old theology and mythology. Those false gods were thought to dole out rewards and punishment at a whim, and people felt beholden to the caprices of the supernatural.

In a way, that is what I felt growing up in the Christian churches my family went to: God was unknowable, and no matter how much I prayed, bad things would happen, but I need to remember it is all the will of God. What a thing to put on a five year old! Or anyone!

I am so grateful that God brought me here to learn Christian Science. What a relief it is to learn that He is not subject to whims, but is constant and everlasting Life, Truth, and Love! Also, if anyone wants to see the definitions, here they are from the 1828 Webster's:

UPBRAID, verb transitive

1. To charge with something wrong or disgraceful; to reproach; to cast in the teeth; followed by with

or for, before the thing imputed; as, to upbraid a man for his folly or his intemperance.

Yet do not upbraid us with our distress.

He upbraided them with their unbelief. Matthew 16:14.

[The use of to and of, after upbraid as to upbraid a man of his gain by iniquity, to upbraid to a man his evil practices, has been long discontinued.]

2. To reproach; to chide.

God who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. James 1:5.

3. To reprove with severity.

Then he began to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done - Matthew 11:20.

4. To bring reproach on.

How much doth thy kindness upbraid my wickedness!

5. To treat with contempt. Obsolete .... \*\*\*\*\*

### What Am I Leaning On?

To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.

*Science and Health*, p vii : 1-2

The sustaining infinite is the one Source of all the good there can be. It is Spirit. That is why to persist in being constantly conscious of my spiritual substance is crucial to my well-being. It is being obedient to what God knows about me (the spiritual facts of being), which provide the certainty of good that I can lean on. Absent from the body (materiality) and present with the Lord (spirituality); cherishing my spiritual worth, my spiritual identity avails much. \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, this is so helpful...."being obedient to what God knows about me". It is like waking up. Before I read this post, I was looking up being in the Concordance because I found written that substance is the "essence of being." *Science and Health*, p. 516:3 states " As the reflection of yourself appears in the mirror, so you BEING SPIRITUAL, are the reflection of God. The SUBSTANCE, intelligence, Truth and Love, which constitute Deity, are reflected by His creation;....." So I can lean on God because He already knows this about me and all His ideas!