

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: SACRAMENT - 07/12/2015

Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With Thy God

"...what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

"Justly" means in conformity with what is morally upright or good (Webster), and "mercy" means being compassionate. As we go about our day, it's sometimes a little inconvenient to be morally upright all the time--but that is what God requires! It also says to be compassionate in our dealings with others. Are we so morally upright that we feel superior to someone who we feel is not as morally upright as we are? We are to be ambassadors for Christ, and draw mankind to God--that would certainly turn people away!

The last requirement is to "walk humbly with thy God." Interesting that that comes at the end. After we've done a good job of being upright and merciful, then the human mind tries to come in and say, "I did a pretty good job on that one!" We need to remember to stay humble, and give God the glory and the credit. He did it, not us. We thank Him for the opportunity to let Him work through us. As an early worker said, are we doing it to make ourselves look good, or to make God look good? *****

The word "require" stood out to me. This is not a burden or difficult thing. The LORD doesn't require us to give any things to Him but to give our whole heart. In that way, with our hearts open to humbly follow His direction, we can bless others. Then, we are blessed in being useful to God. There's nothing greater! *****

As an early worker said, are we doing it to make ourselves look good, or to make God look good?

Thank you for this wonderful post. I was just thinking along those lines yesterday--thinking how God is always active and communicating with and loving all of His ideas, and that I, as His reflection, should always be active and doing something to help others! Sometimes I might grumble at how much I have to do, but then I can quickly correct my thinking to know I am working for God, and isn't that wonderful in and of itself? I better get my act together to "make God look good"! The idea that "I am nothing without God" puts everything into perspective for me--it is humbling. For yes, "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good..." We are showered with His blessings, and what the Lord requires of me is very, very doable! *****

The Cup

This concept has been a hard one for me, but after the Lesson and speaking with a Practitioner on this subject I think my understanding is unfolding. The cup, as pointed out, is not sadness, but rather facing up to and rebuking sin or error wherever it may seem to appear. Well, as I was pondering this, I realized that I have to start with myself before I can be "baptized with his (The Christ's purity)". An ongoing process, but necessary and possible.

Prayer and Fasting

"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Matthew 17:21

"Error is sustained by mortal man's belief in it, and Truth is put into operation by being brought into consciousness as a reality; fasting and prayer, must mean denial and affirmation, starving error and accentuating Truth. You starve error by making nothing of it, by refusing to acknowledge it, think about it, or believe in it; you feed truth and build up a consciousness of good by emphasizing it, affirming it and trusting in it.

Thus we have the perfect rule: starve error by seeing its nothingness, until it falls and is self-

destroyed from lack of support; build up a consciousness of good until it becomes so real to you that you can feel its presence constantly, trust in it as a power outside of yourself which you reflect, and know that it is operating in the world and through you by your reflection of it." Watching Point 87, from 500 Watching Points by Carpenter. *****

No Ascetic

Science and Health, p 53: 3 (Jesus) -7 Jesus was no ascetic. He did not fast, as did the Baptist's disciples; yet there never lived a man so far removed from appetites and passions as the Nazarene.

ASCET'IC, noun retired from the world. (From Webster's 1828)

1. One who retires from the customary business of life, and devotes himself to the duties of piety and devotion; a hermit; a recluse.

When we are out and about in our ordinary living, at home, at work, anywhere can our work be most tested; because there we meet the unfriendly customer care employee, the rude taxi driver, the "obnoxious" relative, the irritating comments; we see the ambulance, the fire truck; all mortal mind suggestions. How we respond to these is a sure way to gauge to what extent the carnal suggestions are yielding to the divine.

A great way to test our progress. *****

Would it be right to say that Jesus sanctified his life by remaining apart from the trade winds of mortal mind? *****

Jesus indeed kept himself apart from the trade winds of mortal mind. There was never any doubt to him that God was his Mind, and that all the beliefs of mortal mind were wrong and only enslaved mankind. What made his life so invaluable to us all, however, was that he was willing to confront "mortal mind" and do battle. He described his mission several times in different

ways, but it was always in defiance of mortal belief. In this week's lesson he is quoted: "I am come to send fire on the earth..." (Luke)

As Mrs. Eddy wrote in the textbook, "and for this we owe him endless homage." *****

Open Thou My Lips

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise." I have always found this verse helpful when working for our Wednesday testimony meetings, as well as in other instances. It handles any reluctance to speak by knowing it is God who will open my mouth and it is God who will give me the right and healing words to say. And how can I ever - in good conscience, withhold my gratitude for Him?

"Come let us sing, Praising our God and our King, Should we be silent? Ah, never."!! (Hymn # 283) *****

Thank you for the instruction on using that verse. Before giving my testimony, I always pray, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14 *****

Sanctify the Lord

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." What a beautiful Golden Text! What a beautiful verse to begin any day! And the word sanctify has many relevant meanings from the 1828 Webster's dictionary...."To purify; to prepare for divine service, and for partaking of holy things. To make holy by detaching the affections from the world and its defilements, and exalting them to a supreme love of God."

There can be quite a bombardment of mortal mind as we go about our daily walk and how helpful it is to keep this in mind - a perfect protection and antidote from the cares of this world. If our love for God and obedience to Him remains supreme we cannot be taken off His path.

SUBJECT – LIFE 07/19/15

Wait, I Say, On The LORD.

The Lord Is The Strength of My Life

GOLDEN TEXT: PSALM 27: 1

“The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

As I learn about Christian Science in Plainfield, two points become clearer all the time: Most problems I have ever had—which have been a lot—come right down to not being loving enough, and any fear I ever had—again, a lot!—is me not trusting God enough.

As an example, a big problem I had was impatience, so I first worked at being patient only to catch myself thinking, “Good job being patient, even though this person is a moron!” When I realized I was thinking that, it sent a clear message something was wrong. Afterward, during a Roundtable, the idea of loving more came out, and it was clearly the answer to my impatience and other faults. It is something I work with daily now. Fear has been with me as long as I can remember. Fear of living, dying, success, failure... let’s just say ‘fear of everything’ isn’t too far off. I thank God that this church gives the opportunity to make demonstrations—such as posting here on the forum, giving testimonies, writing lessons, reading, and more—that I have needed, proving that God is with me always. These small victories have incrementally allowed me to move forward with less fear, and I love God and this church for that!

I am grateful to Christian Science for showing me that a greater love of mankind is what I need to break through my negative traits, and also that a greater love of God destroys fear.

So, I guess I really just learned one thing: I need to love more, and that only God can give me the strength to do that. *****

Psalm 27:14. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:4. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Reading this psalm, I found that the 4th verse gives a sound reason that would help someone work and wait on the Lord, no matter what. If the one thing you desire is to seek God, to love Him, have Him in your heart, and do His will, it focuses attention on something more precious, takes the gaze to a different level, away from the appearance of the presenting error. Then the wait is even beneficial; because it increases trust, more reliance and confidence in God.

Moreover, where and from whom can our best direction come from, except from our loving Father/Mother God? *****

Those waiting periods when I did not know what was going to happen and could not see any sign of resolution to any of the challenges were difficult. But what was comforting was the certainty that God never fails, He does not leave us halfway, He has promised to give us an expected end, He loves us and His giving is always good, always better than we could ever imagine. Hence, no matter what the problem, it is always best to wait on the one All-knowing God.

We wait listening for His voice, direction which always comes as in Isa. 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, “This is the way; walk ye in it,” when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left. *****

I looked up the definition of wait in Webster's 1828 Dictionary. One definition was "to rest in expectation and patience." Also, "to look watchfully, be ready to serve and to obey." Waiting for anything has always been hard for me. Through

this church I have learned that challenges are helpful!! They lead us to God! "All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come." Job. 14:14. Thank you for this helpful post.

"To rest in expectation and patience." This really struck me this morning. Expectation. This is being active not passive in the Truth. Patience. Letting God unfold what I need to know, to do—not forcing anything. God has a perfect plan for everything, for everyone. Thank God!! *****

Your statement, "God has a perfect plan for everything, for everyone" reminds me of the wonderful books which we have been told about in our Bible Studies and Roundtables. "The Spiritual Journey of George Washington" by Janice Connell and "The Light and The Glory" by Peter Marshall and David Manuel show clearly God's plan for the freedom of man. We owe much to those who were dedicated and faithful to God and the good of their fellowman, and who paved the way for Christian Science to be discovered in this country, for all mankind to realize true freedom! *****

I looked up the definition of wait in Webster's 1828 Dictionary. One definition was "to rest in expectation and patience." Also, "to look watchfully, be ready to serve and to obey."

Thank you for this. This is active expectancy, not "waiting around" or "twiddling one's thumbs" or complaining! It's so helpful to know these definitions.

This can also be applied to the smaller everyday waiting. When in a longer line at the post office or supermarket for example--if I use that time for a few moments of quiet contemplation, to know that God is right there, is in control and that His timing is perfect and that He has a perfect plan for each of us, sometimes I can connect with someone with a few loving words. And if there's any audible negativity, I can pray that all God's ideas are obedient to the One Mind that made them and are a reflection of Love. I usually don't mind long lines because it's an opportunity for quiet reflection and an opportunity to witness what's truly going on

from a spiritual viewpoint.

These definitions really enhance my understanding of this Bible passage, thank you! *****

Not Waxen Old

“And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.” This verse from Deuteronomy is the antidote for what is sometimes termed as “planned obsolescence” – the idea that everything has to quit, get run down, and broken! When you understand for example that your car is a spiritual idea, it was given to you by God as a means for transportation, when you understand this and are grateful for this idea, when you endeavor to keep it in good running order and express your gratitude to God for His care – well, you will be surprised at how long anything can last! I have seen so many wonderful examples of this in my own life as well as in the lives of others. Mrs. Eddy has said, “If we do not control our possessions with the understanding that they are spiritual, they will control us with the belief that they are material.” (Collectanea page 117) *****

“Planned obsolescence” is given to us by mortal mind all the time. Your car is good for 100,000 miles, your water heater is good for 5 years, etc. They are given a limited life sentence. I have learned in Plainfield Church not to listen to the “authorities” but to know the Truth. The human mind is limitation, but with God there is no limitation. I have seen many times that things do not wear out. As has been said, you have to love them and take care of them. Thank God for this practical Truth and learning to express gratitude for everything God has given and done for us. *****

SUBJECT- TRUTH -07/26/15

Come Into The Light

“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be

reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light; that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” Error tries to hide and fester in the dark. I have come to understand that anytime I ever felt like “hiding out” there was an error in me that did not want to be exposed. Thank God there was a practitioner who loved enough not to let me do that! Sometimes she dragged me into the Light – kicking and screaming but always from the standpoint of Love so these insidious beliefs could be seen for what they were – utter lies and so destroyed! If you ever feel you have some problem you don’t want to talk about, you want to hide under the rug – let this be a warning sign. Get it out to be healed! Call a practitioner! Mrs. Eddy has said error uncovered is two-thirds destroyed and the final third destroys itself. Step into the healing presence of the Light of Love and be free!

So true. It is clear that if we do not come into the light (be prepared to bare it all out to be healed) we do our own condemning instead of saving ourselves. For there is no condemnation; John 3:16 For God sent **not** his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

From Webster's: The act of condemning; the judicial act of declaring one guilty, and dooming him to punishment.

We sentence ourselves, especially when we know what can save and yet hold out on certain things that need to be out for healing. We are "free born" and to enjoy this state we should be willing to come out into Love's merciful light, so that all darkness can flee!*****

This thread reminded me of this quote:

"Christian Science brings to the body the sunlight of Truth, which invigorates and purifies." *Science and Health*, p. 162

When the sun shines, it shines on everything. The sunlight of Truth must be all encompassing--what a

wonderful thought of it invigorating and purifying us! *****

This is the mission of Christ and should be our mission too! *Science and Health*, p. 474. The apostle says that the mission of Christ is to "destroy the works of the devil."

"Cherish Humility"

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (Christ Jesus) This state of being, realizing your nothingness without the Father is essential. It is what enabled Jesus to do tremendous healing work – knowing that it was the Father within him that did the works. Mrs. Eddy emphasizes the importance of humility in her article “The Way” – “This virtue triumphs over the flesh; it is the genius of Christian Science. One can never go up, until one has gone down in his own esteem. Humility is lens and prism to the understanding of Mind-healing; it must be had to understand our textbook; it is indispensable to personal growth, and points out the chart of its divine Principle and rule of practice. Cherish humility....” In someone’s blog it’s stated - "Unto Thy name give glory"!!

Humility is so important! Staying humble may at times be difficult, but it is so necessary. A line from hymn 330 states "I am His and He is mine FOREVER". The Bible reminds us "Of mine own self I can do NOTHING". With God and God only are all things possible! *****

Not Helpless Victims

In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy says, “Instruct the sick that they are not helpless victims.” When I came to Plainfield I was a victim. All kinds of different problems assailed me and I felt I couldn’t do anything about them. But the Bible says, “All things are possible with God” and through the teaching and practical application of Christian Science I learned that I am not a helpless victim, but

through God the victor. Every problem was healed and spiritual growth took place.
Thank God for this church, practitioners, Lessons, teaching, and healing. *****

Keep Them From Evil

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." John 17:16

"He (Jesus) pleaded with his holy Father, that he would keep them by his power and for his glory, that they might be united in affection and labors.... He did not pray that his disciples should be removed out of the world, that they might escape the rage of men, for they had a great work to do for the glory of God, and the benefit of mankind. But he prayed that the Father would keep them from the evil, from being corrupted by the world, the remains of sin in their hearts, and from the power and craft of Satan. So that they might pass through the world as through an enemy's country, as he had done. They are not left here to pursue the same objects as the men around them, but to glorify God, and to serve their generation. The Spirit of God in true Christians is opposed to the spirit of the world." Matthew Henry

Protected "not from afflictions in it (world); nor from the reproach and persecution of it; but from its wickedness and lusts..." Gill Exposition

This speaks to me of the biblical model for our protective work for ourselves, fellow workers, and our church as we fulfill our mission." Never absent from your post, never off guard, never ill-humored, never unready to work for God,— is obedience; being "faithful over a few things." Misc. 116
I am grateful for Plainfield workers for their continued teaching of this biblical principle and teachings of Mary Baker Eddy. *****

**...Not Unto Us, But Unto Thy Name Give
Glory**

GOLDEN TEXT: PSALM 115 : 1

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

Peter and Faith are finishing their CD—it is coming soon—and after one portion of the design, I was thinking about my part in it: I didn't create color; I didn't create words; I didn't create CD's; I didn't create the music; I didn't create the software used; I didn't even write the text. What portion of it can I take any credit at all for? None! That made me laugh at myself because it's hard to ever feel too amazing when you didn't do anything.

I used to work in print design, and if anyone ever looked at the art and said, "Jeremy did a great design" I knew I failed. Even back then I knew there should be no "me" in my work—it should be all about the message. However, I didn't ever know to have God be where my work came from and ultimately be for. What better patron and audience for art — and all we do! — than God? What better message than God's message? What better result than, "There is no 'me' in this?" *****

Gratitude For Spiritual Blessings

From a commentary:

If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but, let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and it would at once draw to itself the most invisible particles by the mere power of attraction. The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no underlying blessings; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day; and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some spiritual blessings hitherto unrecognized; only the iron in God's sand is gold.