

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 57

SUBJECT- GOD THE ONLY CAUSE AND CREATOR -12/06/15

By Him All Things Consist

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

For the longest time, I breezed over this Bible passage and could have sworn it read: "...and by him all things EXIST." This morning I saw that it read "CONSIST." Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "consist" -- to stand together; to be in a fixed or permanent state; to be supported and maintained."

What an eye-opener! It reminds me of the unity of this church, the members standing together in the one Mind, fixed and permanent, working for Truth, and supported and maintained by God. *****

Tender Relationship

This is the nature of mine and everyone's relationship with God, our true Father-Mother.

There is so much old material history to be expunged in many experiences; the thought of bad parental relationship, the negative harsh things that may have been said when growing up, etc. The Truth of this statement from the lesson is a great starting point to eliminate the hurt, if we begin to make it our own, into our hearts and to occupy our attention and thoughts.

Science and Health, p. 332:4

"Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation." *****

There is a cute advertisement on TV that shows people in contentious situations, then the love of

God fills their hearts and they resolve the contention and go away happy. It's a little corny, but it makes a powerful point. If we can just start by feeling God's love for us, and then see others as our brothers and sisters, whom God also loves, we put our relationship with them on solid ground. I have seen countless examples of people doing this and the result is that the contention evaporates.

This heals family relationships, business relationships, and international disputes. There is nothing outside of God's love. Love truly is the Liberator (God's love, that is). *****

After His Kind

Couldn't help but notice the use of the word "his" in the repeated statements of the creation, that each thing was created "after his kind", and that never was anything made after its kind or their kind. Nothing was made with a nature of its own, the sense of ego is therefore foreign to our make up. Also, the place the firmament has in the creation is remarkable, the distinction between the true and the false. So all is made with the character of good, and with it comes the discerning of the genuine from the imposter. Man is not therefore gullible, but discerning. *****

Yes, these thoughts are very helpful. We often speak about discerning in our discussions and bring up the importance of asking the question, "Is this from God?" Knowing that all that is real is made after his kind (and very good) helps to eliminate the necessity of being deceived by believing in, or being attracted to that which is not. *****

This is the Science of Being

"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."

This really stood out to me when reading the lesson. I don't think it means we can't be farmers--I think it means we are not to be downtrodden and earth-bound but focused on our heavenly Father, our Maker. Subordinate to God means I follow what He wants for me--His will.

I am "lord of the belief in earth and heaven"--that really puts me in charge of watching my thought, and being sure I'm always open and listening to what God is communicating to me--and being obedient--because it's always going to be good. That way, I can experience "heaven on earth." If God's continually helping me, and guiding me, then as His spiritual reflection, my purpose is to help and guide others, to see them spiritually, to witness their spiritual perfection.

"This is the Science of being." It's beautiful! *****

Blessed Are the Meek

Some promises in the Bible on meekness:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. Ps. 25:9

But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. Ps. 37:11

...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21

The LORD lifteth up the meek: Ps. 147:6

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22 *****

This may be interesting to some, but what does it mean? Anybody can quote. What does it mean to you? Are you finding these promises being fulfilled in your life? Are you missing out by failing to really be meek?

It is a deadly characteristic of the Boston culture to think that words heal. That if you can quote sufficiently, then you will accomplish something.

At best, quoting does nothing. At worst, it covers iniquity and lays a stone on the heart. "Mortals are egotists. They believe themselves to be independent workers, personal authors, and even privileged originators of something which Deity would not or could not create." (*Science and Health*) How arrogant! These promises of God are His law! They should mean something to each of us. Don't let pride sneak in! Don't let your life degenerate into covering your feelings with words. Don't let this forum degenerate into the letter without the spirit.

Receive with meekness the engrafted word! Engraft it into your being, drop all your fears, trust in Truth completely, and let it save your soul. Your life will never be the same. And that's a promise! *****

They are God's laws which bear fruit, as they serve as reminders for us, and help us to consistently, meekly, strive to live them in our journey from sense to Soul. *****

This is good. Thank you for this post. You are right. We don't want to make this a place for empty words. My original intent was share the quotes that were meaningful to me for those who may not have easy access to a Bible and allow them to come to their own conclusion. This week, the *Science and Health* citation with the quote on meekness in it jumped out at me. I struggle with what it means to live this. I was turning to the Bible to continue to understand meekness better myself, having spent my life practicing bravado and managing others. Far from meekness, I didn't have the faintest idea what meekness was. I am only beginning to get a glimpse here at Plainfield. These powerful messages were reminders to me. First, I am realizing I am not giving anything up by being meek nor is it weakness. The need to let go of self will, to allow God to guide and teach. To no longer rely on world solutions, as in the past. I find peace when He is the center of my day. Only He can save me not by my personal effort. It is not my strength when facing challenges. And I become a law unto myself when I practice the qualities found in the fruit of the spirit, one being meekness. *****

Thank you. These are beautiful reminders of the power of meekness. It should make anyone want to be truly meek.

I like the idea of being "sent" that was brought up in one of our Bible Studies. Not to do anything, say anything, or go anywhere unless sent by God. Whether it is quietly bearing fruit like the fruit trees God created, speaking up in a group, or working with others. If it is the result of being sent by God, it is done out of meekness and will bless all.

To get rid of any personal sense of responsibility or ambition is both challenging and a relief. Somebody once described true humility as obeying God in every circumstance and never fearing the consequences. *****

Obedient To Mind

"God creates and governs the universe, including man. The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them." This is a perfect treatment of Truth - for your home, church, community, nation, world... God has created all spiritually and all of it is obedient to Him. When you "see" something that is not in line with this Truth, get back to what God created and dispel the mesmeric aggressive suggestion! Obedience to God's Law brings blessings manifold. *****

Thank you for this clear teaching.

I wish I had been taught in CS Sunday School the importance of obedience and what it means. For some reason, before coming to Plainfield, I thought full obedience to God would somehow crimp my lifestyle. What a crazy notion! Oh, did I have myself fooled into accepting society's current "anything goes" mentality.

When I became fully conscious of what obedience to God entails, I realized it is our natural state, the way God made us, and it simply means being obedient to God's laws. That meant walking the walk and not just talking the talk! And yes, it only brings blessings. Coming to Plainfield and getting on the right path literally saved and transformed my life. *****

SUBJECT-GOD THE PRESERVER OF MAN- 12/13/15

Thou Art My Hiding Place

Psalms 32:7 (to 1st .)

Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

This phrase jumped out this morning and with it came many soothing truths. Yes, in God do I find my wholeness, my reality, my freedom, my all. In this place, all that is mine remains mine. No mortal thought defiles the Truth. Fearful thoughts of any degree or form yield to the Truth of Being. And here I remain safe in that consciousness of Love, the greatest and most powerful barricade to EVERY evil sense. Nothing changes here.... As Hymn 148 states. Yes, what I am is preserved in this place!!

The So-Called Law of Mortal Mind

The so-called law of mortal mind, conjectural and speculative, is made void by the law of immortal Mind, and false law should be trampled under foot. *Science and Health.*

Mortal mind is a so-called law. We believe it and make it a law in our own thinking. It has no basis. It is a guess. An experiment. Mortal mind can't be verified by a fact. It is ever changing.

Immortal Mind is God. It is a solid foundation. It is law, no guesswork. It is never changing. It is the same today, tomorrow and forever.

The way to handle so-called mortal law is to trample it under foot with triumph. Victory. It is nothing. Destroy it. Void it out.

Fill your thought with God. *****

Cannot Come Down

My practitioner recommended that I delve into the story of Nehemiah this week and really get to know

it, especially where there was an attempt to interrupt his work while building the wall.

"And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" Neh. 6:3

I have been asking myself what is calling me down off the wall. Looking at my challenges and temptations in this light makes them less personal and takes the focus off my "problem" and helps me focus on God. I can check my attitude, prayers, thoughts and behavior to see if I am getting closer to God or being drawn away. Am I using my time for building my Christian character or worrying about the problem? Some things that take me off the wall are a determined sense of problem solving, trying to control people and events around me (personal responsibility), lack of confidence (what am I doing on this wall anyway), feeling overwhelmed (this wall is pretty broken, or high up), or sometimes - I worked hard, so I deserve a vacation (drop my guard), wow, look at what I've done so far (not giving God the credit), maybe I will go have a casual chat (forgetting to use my spiritual sense). The list could go on.

I am so grateful for the Bible study here and the Bible teachings. *****

The following excerpts were helpful to me. They are from:
THE REBUILDING, BY NEHEMIAH, OF THE WALL OF JERUSALEM by Annie F. Colt, C. S.

"The walls of our Jerusalem—spiritual sense—have been in ruins, and we are exposed to the attacks of our enemies, the lusts of the flesh."

"She (Mary Baker Eddy) first realized for herself how glorious it was to be free through the Truth, from the bondage of materiality. Then, she set herself to the task of rebuilding the walls of the New Jerusalem. We have been called to help her in this glorious, and yet solemn task. As the tumult of the enemy is heard in our camps, she orders us to put on our armor, and to stand ready to use our swords, but not discontinue the work."

"The work of rebuilding, or regeneration, must first be done in ourselves. Then comes the rebuilding of the walls for all, — the preaching of the blessed gospel of Truth to every creature."

"Does not the work cease when we comply with the demands of those who are not in the Truth? If we follow every path of opportunity that God opens for us, without being turned to either side by pretended friends or open opposers, we shall in due time reap our reward, the gathering in of all kingdoms and nations into the glorious freedom of the sons of God, as revealed to us in Divine Science."

I am grateful for the rebuilding that continues to go on here at Plainfield, continuing the task and standing guard. Teaching us so we, too, can learn how to do this work and bless others. *****

Our Four-Legged Friends

"God is the Life, or intelligence, which forms and preserves the individuality and identity of animals, as well as of men." Mrs. Eddy kindly includes our four-legged friends in this passage. She once told someone who had started out in the practice and claimed she had no one yet to work for that it would be important for her to work for the birds and other creatures, as they need our prayers too. It is very comforting to know that God does form and preserve the individuality of your beloved pet, as well as of all the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea – all are held safe in His Love. *****

Helpless Human Theories

Science and Health, p. 490 - Human theories are helpless to make man harmonious or immortal, since he is so already, according to Christian Science. Our only need is to know this and reduce to practice the real man's divine Principle, Love.

We are already the best we could possibly be, PERFECT! In God, are we made whole. We need nothing to be taken away or anything added for our completeness. Knowing this consistently is putting on "the new man" with its spiritual indestructible

substance. This I need to understand thoroughly and remind myself of its Truth; especially when mortal mind tries its antics. *****

Be Free

“Jesus marked out the way. Citizens of the world, accept the ‘glorious liberty of the children of God’ and be free.” *Science and Health*, 227:23-25

This is the eternal Truth. Our freedom is not from something or someone out there, but in opening our thought to our Father-Mother God and the infinite blessings He has for us, all mankind, forever. Freedom is from within—understanding God and all His good. God’s gift. *****

IS THE UNIVERSE, INCLUDING MAN, EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE – 12/20/15

Author of All Things

“Nothing is new to Spirit. Nothing can be novel to eternal Mind, the author of all things, who from eternity knoweth His own ideas.” (*Science and Health*) This was a simple Truth I would work with when taking tests or exams. The same Mind that asks the questions has the answer to the questions. God’s man (me!) reflects Omniscient Mind; therefore I know all I need to know when I need to know it. If God is “the author of all things” how could it be otherwise?! *****

Act of Being United

“Adhesion, cohesion, and attraction are properties of Mind.” (*Science and Health*) The definitions of these first three words are interesting and are as follows: Adhesion – “act of being united by growth, union”; Cohesion – “The acting of sticking together, being united by natural attraction”; Attraction – “the power, principle or tendency of bodies to unite.” (Webster 1828 Dictionary) These forces of God are ever at work uniting that which is Good and expelling and destroying all the false

beliefs in evil. This is a good Truth to know and to apply for your body, home, church, community, nation, world... Only God’s laws and principles are in operation! Error can’t trick us into believing otherwise.

Thanks! I find that quote helpful also in handling the belief of false appetites. *****

I couldn't help but think of Einstein's great discoveries in physics. He didn't experiment, or measure things. He discovered higher ideas through inspiration. He challenged all the established so-called laws of physics and discovered, through inspiration, that matter is not a real thing, but the result of forces, which he spent his life trying to explain. His career was a practical example of "resolving things into thoughts."

Mrs. Eddy, several thousand miles away, had already discovered that these forces belong wholly to divine Mind and are inherent in this Mind. When Einstein settled in Princeton near the end of his career, he read the Christian Science textbook and acknowledged Mrs. Eddy's discovery as the "pure science." He is quoted as having once said, "Science without religion is blind and religion without science is lame." *****

Isn't it a relief to know that the so-called natural forces are really spiritual and governed only by God? I like cohesion best because that is Plainfield Christian Science Church. *****

Thank you. And today in Collectanea page 98, I read, "Adhesion and cohesion are qualities of Mind and work together for good. In weather conditions these properties cannot be reversed to harm or retard man." (Mary Baker Eddy) Our God is Good and all that He creates works together for only good. *****

The Only True Substance

I realize, once more, that my only true substance is "the thoughts of His heart," or God’s thoughts, the mental, spiritual activity of Mind, Truth and Love.

It is also the true substance of all that seems to be

out there, the nasty world with all its mayhem, the true substance of all the personalities claiming to be something or someone.

All is "the thoughts of His heart and its infinite **manifestation.**"

MBE wrote: "we overcome error by seeing its nothingness; then there is nothing to fight, it is killed." (Blue Book, p.16)

The work is in this seeing, realizing.

There is no atomic force, the power of the A-bombs dropped on Japan must have been mortal mind. *****

It is always mortal mind, distorting our view and presenting its counterfeits in such cunning and persuasive forms that we fall for them. I read it is always the culprit regardless of the guise with which error presents itself.

But we have our defense and cannot slack in using what we've been given to defend ourselves. This is what Christ Jesus did... "through spiritual ascendancy our Lord and Master healed the sick, raised the dead, and commanded even the winds and waves to obey him. Grace and Truth are potent beyond all other means and methods." *Science and Health*, p. 67

He is our Wayshower and we must follow His example.... Spiritual ascendancy.

Ascend: To go or move upwards upon. This is why the repetition for us to gain more spiritual sense. *****

One of the most important, and most difficult to perceive, facts in Science is that the laws that govern the universe are moral laws. There is no such thing as a "material" law. Mrs. Eddy's discovery of this fact was revolutionary, yet it was exactly what Jesus taught and practiced, as did his disciples, once they got it.

A practitioner once told me to thank God that I am spiritual and not material every time I feel an ache or pain, or suffer in any way. Use that ache or pain as a reminder that the belief that matter has life,

truth, intelligence, or substance, and that there are "material" laws, will always lead to sin, disease, and death. Why? It's because those beliefs are false. There is no truth in them; therefore THEY must die.

I find that thanking God that I am spiritual and not material is a state of thought that is receptive to the truth. It's much more effective than merely "declaring" the truth. Maybe that's why Mrs. Eddy insisted that gratitude is essential in order to experience healing. *****

Going to God

While I was reading the Lesson Sermon this week, it occurred to me that because" Gibeon had made peace with Israel, "they were fully protected". And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them (the enemy) not for I have delivered them into thine hands." This may be simplistic, but for me, when we go to God and the people who worship the One True God who sent the Christ, you can't go wrong. " And the sun stood still...for the LORD fought for Israel." *****

Over the Whole Earth

God has given us dominion, understanding, over all the limited, material, mortal beliefs, not a thing, place. "Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man's dominion over the whole earth." *Science and Health*, p.14:25-28 God was, is, and always will be the only power--spiritual.

Stand Still, and Consider the Wondrous Works of God

I love this statement. Many times, being confused or feeling pushed by error, getting off the track with God, I say to myself, "Stand still." To me this means silence the claims of mortal mind. It is only a lie. It is powerless and useless and not to be taken on. I need to replace the lie and see and be grateful for the good God has done. This is the reality of being.