

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 65

**SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, And Death Real? – April 10th, 2016**

## Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real?"

**Mind produces all action. If the action proceeds from Truth, from immortal Mind, there is harmony; but mortal mind is liable to any phase of belief.** (*Science and Health*, p. 419)

What material senses detect, and attempt to explain, is simply too limited to give worthwhile results. The human mind — the intellect that intellectuals rely upon — cannot understand this great creation, because the human mind is a part of the illusion. That same human mind perceives evil as being real, and often imagines the power that created the universe to simply be a great and powerful (and vengeful and capricious) type of human mind, or that it was simply a series of accidents.

Since “**All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**” (John 1: 3), we can know that whatever “stands the test of time” is outside of the illusion, and thus was made by God. We know this because whatever exists only inside the illusion is temporal, mortal, material, and ungodly. That is how we know that God is good, and is Truth, Life, Love, Spirit, Soul, Principle, and Mind. Only these, and their expressions, transcend.

This is also how we know that Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy exemplified their teachings: Their demonstrations counter what the illusion would have us believe — namely, that sin, disease, and death are real. Even within the so-called laws of human systems we see that sin, disease, and death just don’t hold up. They do not exist, and there is no reason to put faith in anything other than God.

“**Speak the truth to every form of error** (*Science and Health*, p. 418) \*\*\*\*\*

## When Symptoms Seem Aggravated

“If the reader of this book observes a great stir throughout his whole system, and certain moral and physical symptoms seem aggravated, these indications are favorable. Continue to read, and the book will become the physician, allaying the tremor which Truth often brings to error when destroying it.” (*Science and Health*) At one time I wondered why “things seemed to get worse before they got better” when I would be working in Christian Science, but this statement certainly helped me to understand this phenomenon. Hidden or latent errors come foaming up to the top, so to speak, only to be revealed and thus destroyed! Ultimately, a very health-giving and cleansing process! \*\*\*\*\*

## Outlaw

“Let us banish sickness as an outlaw...”  
The word outlaw caught my eye when studying the lesson this morning. I asked myself ‘How many times have I been confronted by sickness and thought, “no it’s an outlaw as in outside God’s law, and what’s outside God’s law? – NOTHING.”’ Ergo, the sickness suggestion is automatically starting from the basis of “nothing” and it must be me then who makes it into “something”. \*\*\*\*\*

That’s a really good point. I know in the past—and sometimes even now. if I foolishly let my guard down—when something appeared to be wrong, I’ve wondered what it is, where did this thing come from, what did I do to let it in, and then fear creeps in. Instead, we need to see it as an outlaw—it has no law to support it, all the law that exists is *against* it, and it can’t do a thing! Slam the door on it by

turning wholeheartedly to God and His truth—then it can't cause any trouble. After all, it's nothing but an outlaw to be banished! \*\*\*\*\*

Those are wonderful thoughts! Thank you! I was going to put this under a separate topic, but I think it goes along with what is being discussed here – “Sickness, sin, and death are not concomitants (companions!) of Life or Truth. No law supports them. They have no relation to God wherewith to establish their power.” (*Science and Health*) Isn't that a comforting and powerful statement? Therefore, if you are struggling with a belief of sickness, sin, or death – remember no law of God supports it. Error has zero relationship with the Almighty God. How could it have any power?! Mrs. Eddy has said, “Error comes to you for life and YOU give it all the life it has.” Strip it entirely of any belief that it has power and companion only with your Maker! \*\*\*\*\*

I was thinking about this statement, also. I thought if someone hiding from the law came to my house, would I take them in, give them shelter, feed them and protect them? Of course not! I would turn them over to the law. That's what we need to do to the belief of sin, sickness, and death – turn them over to God's law and annul them. There's no security for evil in our thinking! \*\*\*\*\*

*Science and Health*, p 420. Instruct the sick that they are not helpless victims, **for if they will only accept Truth**, they can resist disease and ward it off, as positively as they can the temptation to sin. (Emphasis added)

I love this citation because that helpless (fearful) feeling that comes when error looms up can cause us to think we know nothing and can do nothing. Because Truth is unchanging, we all can ALWAYS turn to God (our present MIND) for its might to banish the lies. We must welcome and accept the Truth, allow it to be master in our homes (consciousness), make it the law of our lives, and see if those lies of mortal mind do not flee before Truth's might! \*\*\*\*\*

## To Make Into Nothing

Truth has no consciousness of error. Love has no sense of hatred. Life has no partnership with death. Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God.

I've always loved this sentence in *Science and Health* because it is so powerful. The word annihilation is defined as “total destruction” or “complete obliteration” ... having its root in the Latin nihil (nothing). A literal translation is “to make into nothing”.

It's total destruction of anything unlike God. And this is a LAW! \*\*\*\*\*

### Requirements for Healing

In reference to Bible citation 4. II Kings 5: 1-4, 9-15 (to 2nd : )

One valuable lesson I have learned through my study in the Plainfield Church is that healing comes with responsibility. When working with a practitioner, in particular, there are certain requirements, for example:

**Humility**– I must be humble enough to ask for help in the first place, and I must also keep in mind that I do not know all and I do not know best.

**Obedience**– I must be open and obedient to what the practitioner instructs.

Fulfilling these two requirements alone has brought about tremendous healing for me, strengthening my understanding and bringing me closer to God.

When Naaman was obedient, he was healed immediately and completely.

To me, this is like the difference between *covering* up a mess temporarily (getting a quick fix) and *clearing* it up for good (being truly healed). \*\*\*\*\*

It is no small matter for mortal mind and physical sense-based consciousness to realize reality, the glorious reality of Love's Allness! I must teach

myself to be obedient to Truth, and listen and hear it. I spend time, in bed and during the day, meditating on these things; nothing exists except the divine Mind and its ideas. Nothing exists! All the trouble and mayhem and suffering...it does not exist, period.

What a glorious realization. My Mind knows it not, my Mind is happy, free, joyful, harmonious, my Mind sings. (Not so fast, there still are stumblings and work to do, LOL.) \*\*\*\*\*

This verse supports the need for humility: Job 22: 29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

Claiming and staying in the right Mind is huge in our growth. I have found this a great help in keeping thought uplifted and that helps in the recognition of mortal mind's lies. I am the manifestation of Mind, there is no other real Mind. In the right Mind, we can do what *Science and Health*, p. 419 says: Meet every adverse circumstance as its master. Observe mind instead of body, lest aught unfit for development enter thought. Think less of material conditions and more of spiritual.

Another quality worth cherishing is patience, "patience in well doing." It proves one has faith in the healing power of Christ even if results are not evident yet. We wait not doubting but trusting God's comfort and might forever near to see us through. \*\*\*\*\*

### **A Little More Grace**

"A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and soul in accord with God."

Miscellaneous Writings, p.354 by Mary Baker Eddy. This quote was shared during our Bible study today of Naaman and his healing of leprosy when he followed Elisha's instruction. \*\*\*\*\* "

## **SUBJECT – Doctrine of Atonement – April 17th, 2016**

### **Consciousness And Individuality**

"The spiritual man's consciousness and individuality are reflections of God. They are the emanations of Him who is Life, Truth, and Love." (*Science and Health*) It is good to identify oneself with these statements of Truth – therefore declare "my consciousness and individuality are reflections of God."! This means (as you live in obedience to God) your thoughts will naturally become more loving, pure, joyous, and free. Any false sense of personality will fade away into nothingness, as you shine forth as the unique individual God created you to be - living a purposeful life full of vigor, health and activity. Thus the idea of becoming "at one with your Father" is no longer a far off impossible dream – but a living and very provable reality! \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Temple of God**

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; ...." I Cor.  
"If any man," or any disease or evil suggestion, try to "defile the temple of God..." God is ready, willing, and able to destroy it!  
But also remembering that *we are* the temple of God, we need to treat ourselves as such—by watching our thinking, and by acting as though we know we are that temple.  
And then, should anything try to invade that holy temple, "him shall God destroy"! \*\*\*\*\*

So right! How can I see myself as this temple which shows forth God's nature, and at the same time entertain as true the lies of sense testimony; be it pain, inflammation, rash etc. The latter just cannot be true. We don't have such things where God is, sorry error! \*\*\*\*\*

## **Governed by God**

“Every function of the real man is governed by the divine Mind.” Science and Health

When I first read this, I thought every action of my body is governed by God. That put a limit on what God could do. So I looked up in the 1928 Webster dictionary the word function which said: In a general sense, the doing, executing or performing of anything; discharge; performance.

Now I understand it to mean not only that my body functions correctly, but the performing of anything – my business duties, cooking, cleaning, etc. are governed by God and I must obediently listen to Him.

At a Roundtable, a practitioner said, “Christian Science goes into every part of your life.”

With God, there are no limits, all is infinite good. Thank God for Christian Science.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thinking this way takes the false sense of responsibility away, establishing the Truth of God’s supremacy that gives us peace!\*\*\*

## **Become a Fool**

I chuckled when I read in I Corinthians: “If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.” If you want to be wise, you need to become a fool! What does that mean?

It is further explained in the next statement in the Bible: “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.” It is referring to those who think they are smart and don’t understand that intelligence is of God. When you think you are smart and don’t pay attention to the divine source of all intelligence, then you set yourself up to do really stupid things. And make really bad mistakes.

Elsewhere in I Corinthians, Paul writes: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” The only way out of that dilemma is to admit that I have been a fool, and pay attention to what God is telling me. This requires spiritual sense and courage.

The world doesn’t appreciate acting on inspiration.

It has its own studied, rote methods. The person who moves at Gods command is not understood by the human mind, and is sometimes considered a “fool” by human standards. You must be willing to take that risk if you want to be useful to God and to mankind. For only then can you rise above the noise of the human dream and see what is really going on - humility and moral courage...\*\*\*\*\*

I found this citation a good reminder to watch my thought because it can drift easily into relying on human intellect, rather than turning with my whole heart and mind to God. I did not have any sense of this before instruction here at Plainfield. It has been one of the most life changing lessons for me, and definitely not over. Letting go of human intellect and pride has also been a very important part in my growing ability to hear and feel God.

This citation connects with our Bible Study discussion of Naaman last week. Naaman was quite confident in his worldly knowledge, power, plans, and ways. It was all put to silence and he was humbled by Elisha the prophet who demonstrated to him how God views man’s opinions. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Triumphing Even In Our Troubles**

The Moffatt translation of Romans 5 from this week’s Responsive Reading is this – “We triumph even in our troubles knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope – a hope which never disappoints us, since God’s love floods our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given us.” I know from my experience, as difficult as a long trial may seem to be, if I am able to persevere with God’s Love, willing to learn and to change in any way that His Hand is molding me – the results are always amazing. With his amazing Grace, the old man is being put off for the new!