

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Truth – July 24th, 2016**

## The Eternal Truth

“The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man’s real existence as a child of God comes to light.” (*Science and Health*), So what have you seemed “to have learned from error”? What would error claim of you? Some unhappy memory that would try to torment – a past disease, divorce, failure? Whatever it claims to be, rest assured God’s Love and mercy can erase it from your thought so that even the “smell of smoke” no longer remains. Instead of dwelling on the negative, replace these errors with “the eternal Truth.” Remember your oneness with the Father, know you have never been outside His loving care, whatever painful experience you might have had was no more than a dream, the Adam dream and once you awaken from a dream it has no hold on you. Declare the eternal Truth about yourself and stay with it – you will find God’s Word does destroy error and your “real existence as a child of God” WILL come to light! It has never been otherwise. \*\*\*\*\*

## Can We Overcome Evil

To continue the issue of handling all the heartbreaking evil in the world, here are a few insights I gleaned from Martha Wilcox’ Association address of 1941, titled: “What is war? War and evil sums up the same thing, and it seems to exist only in the human, mortal consciousness. She talks about universal mass-mesmerism, an obsession. Since mortal mind is both belief and believer, as one, it is its own self-destruction ..... quote: “The end of error will come to us individually when the error becomes extinct within our human consciousness.”  
“Each of us can and should assume the responsibility of handling the errors in his own

thinking. We should do this as if we were the only one upon whom rested the responsibility for the correction to be made. In this way only do we work out our own salvation, and at the same time aid in working out the salvation of the world.” She also says that our right thinking or our treatment has its origin and laws in omnipotence, and that failure is impossible.

The one Mind is conscious of everything that is true of men and nations, and whatever is not true of men and nations does NOT EXIST AT ALL.

All that can ever be done to a problem must be done in the realm of thought. And this is Truth. \*\*\*\*\*

To answer the post’s question: can we overcome evil? is “No, we cannot, **BUT THE TRUTH** can! Hence the emphasis on our understanding the TRUTH of Spiritual REALITY and the falsity or UNREALITY of matter. To Mind, nothing is incurable nor is sin unforgivable because when Truth is understood as stated above these are uncovered as UNREAL anyway!

This from the Lesson is helpful:

*Science and Health*, p. 450 The Christian Scientist has enlisted to lessen evil, disease, and death; and he will overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good. Sickness to him is no less a temptation than is sin, and he heals them both by understanding God’s power over them. The Christian Scientist knows that they are errors of belief, which Truth can and will destroy. \*\*\*\*\*

As this is never an easy question to answer, I will quote Mrs. Eddy from page 563 in *Science and Health*, “Human sense may well marvel at discord, while, to a diviner sense, harmony is the real and discord the unreal. We may well be astonished at sin, sickness, and death. We may well be perplexed at human fear; and still more astounded at hatred, which lifts its hydra head, showing its horns in the many inventions of evil. But why should we stand

aghast at nothingness?” As we begin to obtain the divine sense that “harmony is the real and discord the unreal” – this viewpoint will not be callous or unfeeling, but be so filled with God’s Love for His creation the false concept will disappear and give place to the real and eternal. We can feel this with the utmost tenderness and compassion. As our hymn states, “From sense to Soul my pathway lies before me, from mist and shadow into Truth’s clear day...” Don’t let the mesmeric picture deceive you into believing its lie. And yes, as Martha Wilcox states, this is an individual process! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for these posts. It is true that the work we must do to understand is individual, but the teachings and sharing that happen at Plainfield are a marvelous support for the striving student of Christian Science. Reading and rereading this post reminds me of the story of the Christian Scientist who walked out of a concentration camp during WWII through locked doors, high walls and soldiers. He left unnoticed and unharmed. Now that is good, individual work! \*\*\*\*\*

### Right Talking Wrong Acting

“Right is radical. The teacher must know the truth himself. He must live it and love it, or he cannot impart it to others... Expect to heal simply by repeating the author’s words, by right talking and wrong acting, and you will be disappointed.”  
*Science and Health*, p. 452

I can see why so many years I made no progress because of the habit of “right talking and wrong acting.” Coming here, I see that I lacked the moral courage based on this Science and a relationship with God. Nothing compares to the results of learning how to live God’s Word. I am learning that there is no way around it but step-by-step growth in the knowledge of our God.

“We now read the Bible with the understanding that each promise is for us individually, here and now, if the required conditions are being fulfilled by us. There are no promises in the Bible that are not given on conditions. Let us consider a few of the promises, ‘All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies’ (Ps. 25: 10). ‘Thou wilt keep him in

perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:’ (Isa. 26:3)...’the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever’ (Isa. 32: 17). See the promises and conditions in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, particularly Matt. 5:3-11. His words (teachings) are spirit and are life to each one of us, in just the ratio of our putting them into actual practice, in our daily life. Mrs. Eddy says, ‘He worked for their guidance, that they might demonstrate this power as he did, and understand his Principle’ (S. & H., p. 330). This is true of all his teachings, they are of benefit to us only in the proportion of our putting them into practical use in our daily life.” by A. P. BLACKLER, Nov. Journal 1900 \*\*\*\*\*

### Truth

I found the Roundtable discussion today helpful regarding Truth, which expanded upon attributes and thoughts of how to use these Scriptural names for God ( Life, Truth, Love, Mind, Soul, Spirit, Principle) in our daily prayers.

1828 Webster’s

TRUTH, n.

1. Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. John 17.

2. True state of facts or things.

3. Conformity to moral truth.

4. Veracity; purity from falsehood.

6. Fidelity; constancy.

7. Honesty; virtue.

8. Exactness; conformity to rule.

9. Real state of things.

10. Sincerity.

God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4.

11. The truth of God, or his revealed will.

I have walked in thy truth. Ps. 26.

## **SUBJECT – Love – July 31st, 2016**

### **Love is Enthroned**

*Science and Health*, p. 454 Human hate has no legitimate mandate and no kingdom. Love is enthroned.

This citation stands out to me, emphasizing Love's supremacy and authority.

Legitimate: 1. Lawfully begotten or born; born in wedlock; as legitimate heirs or children.

2. Genuine; real; proceeding from a pure source; not false or spurious; as legitimate arguments or inferences. (Emphasis added)

Illegitimacy is used for slavery as well. Then on pg. 43:32 of *Science and Health*, Mary Baker Eddy says: Love must triumph over hate!

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### **The True Sense of Love**

In *Footsteps*, Chapter 34, by Gilbert Carpenter, it talks about what Mrs. Eddy said concerning love. It is a short chapter and here are a few sentences in her own words, "The true sense of love is to love God, good, then we love all, for God is all. That love is unlimited and flows out freely to all, and all feel it. The human sense of love narrows itself down to a concept, or person, and shuts out others; that is not love. This true sense of love brings freedom and an enlarged sense of things. Keep awake by loving more; love the idea of God, and you will love God; you can only love God as far as you love His idea; and love will be expressed..... Prove your love. Love is God and expresses itself." \*\*\*\*\*

### **Love Your Enemies**

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth the rain on the just and on the unjust." (Christ Jesus) In *Science* we

often refer to ourselves as children of God. It is important to note in this quote from Christ Jesus he is giving us a requirement in order to align ourselves up with this blessing – and that is to love your enemies. Now everyone knows loving one's enemies is not always an easy thing to do and yet think about all the anguish you inflict upon yourself when you hold hatred, resentment, revenge etc. in your heart. Is it any wonder that you cannot be a child of God and hate at the same time? It would be an impossibility. I found this inspiring quote from Janet Coleman about Mrs. Eddy, "I can say one thing truthfully, that if I were asked today after all my experiences with our Leader, which was the greatest of them, I would say this: I always found her loving her enemies, always ready to do them good, always would see those who had injured her if she could help them before one who had been loving her... I have learned this lesson well from our Leader to love your enemies." \*\*\*\*\*

It is difficult to separate between what people do and what they really are. \*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Eddy says in *Miscellaneous Writings* on page 10... Heaven comes down to earth, and mortals learn at last the lesson, "I have no enemies." Even in belief you have but one (that, not in reality), and this one is yourself - YOUR ERRONEOUS BELIEF that you have enemies; that evil is real; that aught but good exists in *Science*. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Neither Give Place to the Devil**

The tale of Saul and David is very fascinating! Here we are, between I Samuel 18 and 19, having Saul go from loving David and giving him command of the army, to hating David and attempting to kill him. Reading the entirety of chapter 18, the turning point comes down to something so small — women singing a song about how Saul killed thousands and David killed "his ten thousands." (I Samuel 18:7) After this, Saul was angry and said, "...what can he have more but the kingdom?"

Such strong evidence that jealousy, competitive feelings, and hate are unreal, and exist in mortal

thought only. The only reason it had any outward manifestation is because Saul gave “place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27) Had Saul maintained “the unity of the Spirit” then he and David would have continued to have “the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

I know there have been many times I’ve given “place to the devil” and it has never ended well. I am so grateful for Christian Science, and this church, for helping me to move toward being exactly what God created me to be. Thank you!

## My Neighbor

A colon means “that is to say” or “here’s what I mean.” And the golden text says from Leviticus 19:18 **“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.”** Does that not tell me that no matter who my neighbor appears to be, I must, in obedience to God, work on seeing the Christ in every man? If I do this, I go to work, shopping, everywhere, with the thought of seeing correctly; that is loving, unselfishly practicing our greatest command. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this topic. I’m so grateful for all that I’m learning in this church about seeing the Christ in every man—not just someone living next door: it includes the world. The Webster’s 1828 Dictionary includes in the definition of neighbor: “One of the human race; any one that needs our help, or to whom we have an opportunity of doing good. Luke x” Also, “a country that is near.” No one is left out. What could be greater? As you said, “Practicing our greatest command.” \*\*\*\*\*

Actually, in the context of Leviticus, it is limited to fellow tribe’s men, and not to humanity as a whole. The Jews felt themselves God’s favorites, and looked down on the heathen nations. That is why they thought God told them to commit ethnic cleansing. Jesus Christ changed all that, and brought Truth to this dark, illusive world of mortal mind. “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou

shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good unto them that hate you, and pray for them ....” Matthew 5:43, 44.\*\*\*\*\*

## This Hour of Development

(*Science and Health*, p. 256) “... even if you cling to a sense of personal joys, spiritual Love will force you to accept what best promotes your growth. Friends will betray and enemies will slander, until the lesson is sufficient to exalt you; for ‘man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.’ The author has experienced the foregoing prophecy and its blessings.” In this regard, I find Drummond’s book, “The Greatest Thing in the World,” very helpful. He instructs: “Do not quarrel with your lot in life. Do not complain of its never-ceasing cares, its petty environment, the vexations you have to stand, the small and sordid souls you have to live and work with. ... That is your practice. That is the practice which God appoints you; and it is having its work in making you patient, and humble, and generous, and unselfish, and kind, and courteous. Do not grudge the hand that is moulding the still too shapeless image within you. It is growing more beautiful, though you see it not;” \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this beautiful quote from Henry Drummond. I am sure we have all been put in very difficult situations as thus described and yet when we remain faithful to our God wonderful things transpire! The story of David in this week’s lesson is a perfect example. \*\*\*\*\*

## Love Removes Sorrow

Words from hymn number 40 kept coming to me this week. In reading it in its entirety I see it fits with the subject of this week’s lesson on Love. One line for example reads, “Earth has no sorrow but Love can remove.”