

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Mind – August 21st, 2016

Mind

KJV Dictionary Definition MIND:

1. intention; purpose;
2. desire
3. remembrance; (this reminds me of what we are told that we are not learning anything new about God, but bringing it to our remembrance)
4. the understanding; the power that conceives, judges or reasons
5. the heart or seat of affection
6. will
7. the implanted principle of grace. Rom.7.

I found the Bible definitions of MIND very interesting because it brings home the importance of how you live and think. I was humbled the more I investigated the Bible in connection with this attribute. It all comes back to God and our relationship with Him and turning your life over to His care; unlike the world, which is more concerned with how “smart” or “clever” you are. I am learning here, that unless you are thinking with God and obedient to His precepts, you are not truly thinking. “Mortal mind is the absence of the divine Mind.” Laura Sargent

This Bible lesson was a powerful treatment and really helped clarify the synonym Mind for me and the importance of identifying myself and others as children of Mind. It made me appreciate even more the Watches we are given at this church to handle the false lies about man as having a disordered mind, a weak mind, a strong willed mind, hateful mind, disobedient mind, hypnotized mind, etc. As our Watches affirm God, Mind is All. “There is only one Mind, and that Mind is your

Mind. No matter if you seem to be thinking erroneously, that does not change the fact that the divine Mind is the only Mind that exists.” Bicknell Young 1936 Primary Class. *****

Let This Mind Be In You

In his epistle to the Ephesians, Paul writes, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Paul was very careful about his use of language. He wrote, LET this mind be in you... He did not write, “Put this mind in you,” or “Go find the mind.” You don’t have to put it there. That mind is God (Mind). It is already there. You only have to let it be.

Whenever I struggle for an answer to a tough problem, it is a great comfort to know that the answer is not somewhere “out there” that I have to look for. Nor is the answer ever in any human theory or belief. The answer is already in Mind, and that Mind is already in me (if I LET it!)

The lesson gives us the recipe for knowing whatever we need to know. “All we correctly know of Spirit comes from God, divine Principle, and is learned through Christ and Christian Science.” And then it tells us what we must do: “This Soul-sense comes to the human mind when the latter yields to the divine Mind.” I do not always find it easy to “yield” my human sense of things to the divine Mind, but I have found that when I do, I am amazed at the answers. God really does take good care of us, when we LET Him. *****

Error Cannot Hide from God

“Error of any kind cannot hide from the law of God.” This is a good Truth to know for yourself, your family, church, nation, world...Mrs. Eddy states once error is found out and uncovered, it is two-thirds destroyed and the final third will destroy itself! The only chance the serpent has is to hide itself and it will try every subtle and devious way to

do this – but Truth, with its eternal laws, uncovers the lie for its total and final destruction. *****

As we grow in Science, this law is what governs every activity and enables us to recognize any mistake (error) for what it is and correct it. Whether the mistake is a belief in the reality of disease, a false belief about someone else (envy, hatred, etc.), or a false belief about yourself (too good, too bad, too old, too young, too poor, etc.), all these mistakes will come to the light of day and be corrected by what you know of the truth.

Our job is to prepare our hearts for the law of God to work in us. It works in us through our spiritual sense, which as Mrs. Eddy writes, “this Soul-sense comes to the human mind when the latter yields to the divine Mind.” This yielding is the humility that is required in order to think clearly and to do anything correctly. It is the sense by which we can perceive the things of God, distinguish between the real and the unreal, and know right from wrong. It is the only safety we have. *****

Right Motive

“Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action.”(S&H) Have you ever felt depressed, lazy, unmotivated? All of this is a definite sign of selfish thinking – and it is one of my definitions of everlasting punishment!! The only way out is letting un-selfed love – God’s Love enter in, and to replace this negative and selfish behavior with His Light and His Purpose. God has given all His creation a unique plan to fulfill. When we are feeling unmotivated, it is because we are not in tune with His wonderful and inspired plan. To jump start yourself, begin to pray and ask God what work does He have for you to do today? How can you bless someone? If you are truly sincere and your motive pure, God will answer this desire and fill the void...you will find yourself on the road to lasting joy and fulfillment. *****

The LORD...Shall Keep Thy Foot From Being Taken

8. 84

Acquaintance with the Science of being enables us to commune more largely with the divine Mind, to foresee and foretell events which concern the universal welfare, to be divinely inspired, — yea, to reach the range of fetterless Mind.

This made me check the definition in the 1828 Webster’s...

FETTERLESS, adjective Free from fetters or restraint.

FETTER, noun

1. A chain for the feet; a chain by which an animal is confined by the foot, either made fast or fixed, as a prisoner, or impeded in motion and hindered from leaping, as a horse whose fore and hind feet are confined by a chain.

...which brought me back to the Responsive Reading:

Proverbs 3

26. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

For most of my life, fear kept me from expecting and accepting a good and meaningful life. I was always feeling lost, and alone, and not sure why I was here. I never understood how to get past all that before coming to this church. Learning about Christian Science these past years has helped me to get past much of that fear and all of that feeling of being lost. What wonderful healings these have been for me, and I am grateful to no longer be concerned about myself, but to join with this church to bring Christian Science and God’s goodness to all, because I know there must be so many that felt as I once did. I am so grateful for this opportunity! Thank you!

A Sense of Freedom And Safety

What a comforting feeling to wake up in the morning to read this:

496: 3 (there)-5 ...there is but one Mind, and this ever-present omnipotent Mind is reflected by man and governs the entire universe

Omnipotent: 1. Almighty; possessing unlimited power; all-powerful. The being that can create

worlds must be omnipotent

2. Having unlimited power of a particular kind; as omnipotent love. (Emphasis added).

If we accept it is Mind declaring these definite spiritual facts, we ought to feel comforted.

Thanks to the Lesson writer!

SUBJECT – Christ Jesus – August 28th, 2016

His Master Was Spirit

This description of Jesus, that His **master** was spirit, inspired me this morning; here's what the inspiration led to; the clear contrast between God's man and His opposite. The list can go on.

Christ Man

Inseparable from Christ

His master was Spirit

Serves God

Inspired by God, Truth, Love

Obeys God's laws

Challenges material laws/claims/beliefs

Pure affections

Spiritual clear-sightedness

Not sensuous, not selfish

Evidence of health, holiness, life

Material Man

Belief of separation from God

Master is matter/mammon

Serves Mammon

Motivated – pride, envy, cruelty,

Obeys and influenced by matter

Agrees with material laws/claims

Carnal affections

Blinded by material beliefs

Sensuous and selfish

Sin, sickness, death

Gives us something to think about.

Hearts Made Ready

“As aforetime, the spirit of the Christ, which taketh away the ceremonies and doctrines of men, is not accepted until the hearts of men are made ready for

it.”

I see from this week's lesson again the importance of uncovering and destroying sin. My heart is not ready for the Christ if I entertain thoughts of envy, pride, self-will, etc.

The qualities of thought of those who persecuted Christ. Those who allowed themselves to act on these unrepented impulses were self-deceived in the worst way. This is what the wrong sense of religion does to man. It makes you believe you are in the right while you cherish hate in your heart. I am grateful to be here at Plainfield, which has been stripping me of attitudes which separated me from the Christ-mind and are teaching me how to truly be self-aware. The teachings here show how sin operates and how to destroy its seeming activity. This is the true Science of Christ. If it weren't for them, I most likely would continue to think I was serving God (human activity in guise of goodness) while not addressing hidden sin in the human mind.

I looked up the word “envy” in several sources and found it interesting that it is *malice*, *sense of lack*, and *rivalry*. It is considered a lack of gratitude. This opened my eyes to be more alert to this negative thinking because it may present itself as harmless “wishing”. Unless the mask is stripped away (the evil recognized), it can hide behind self-justification and self-pity.

“Let your prayer be daily: Reveal to me, O God, my secret faults, every error, every sin. Earnestly desire to know thyself, to have thy heart searched, to let thyself be humbled, and the man of God stand revealed. Never for one instant say, ‘Thank God, I am not as other men.’ There is no I. If you are a personality, you are as other men; but if you are the idea of God, there is but one I, God.” Prayer by Mary Baker Eddy the Blue Book p. 63 *****

“My heart is not ready for the Christ if I entertain thoughts of envy, pride, self-will, etc. The qualities of thought of those who persecuted Christ. Those who allowed themselves to act on these unrepented impulses were self-deceived in the worst way. This is what the wrong sense of religion does to man. Makes you believe you are in the right while you cherish hate in your heart.”

Thank you for putting this so eloquently! Error is very sly... and tricky ... so I must be on the alert to

how I might get off track. This is very helpful.

The Judas Thought

In Carpenter's book, *Mary Baker Eddy Her Spiritual Precepts Vol. 3*, he says some very helpful things pertinent to our own lives about the Judas thought: "A fault may be called a 'Judas fault' when a student harbors it, because he does not see or acknowledge the need of demonstrating over it.

The Bible indicates that it was Judas love of money that betrayed him. He saw no harm in retaining an appreciation of its value and purchasing power, as well as his practical ability in handling it. It was as if he felt that this trait fitted in with his spiritual activities, enabling him to be the one who watched over the finances of the disciples; so he did not handle the error, and it finally became the obstacle that shut him off from God.

Every student of Mrs. Eddy who failed, who became disloyal or who went apart in paths devious, did so because of human traits they could not or would not see were inimical to spiritual progress. Finally, these errors created a deterrent that barred further progress. Knowing this fact, students should look themselves over for any lurking 'Judas faults.' As Mrs. Eddy writes on page 128 of *Miscellany*, 'Ofttimes examine yourselves, and see if there be found anywhere a deterrent of Truth and Love, and 'hold fast that which is good.'" (pages 395-396)

Persons or Races Not Responsible For Devilry

I opened to this in the Eustace book today, which brings further enlightenment to this week's lesson, "It was not the Jew who originated the devilry loosed upon Jesus, and it is not persons or races who are responsible for like devilry today. All are victims of malicious mind, 'the great dragon...called the Devil and Satan which deceiveth the whole world.'

This thought is elucidated in *Science and Health* in the statement, 'It is the animal instinct in mortals,

which would impel them to devour each other and cast out devils through Beelzebub.' And again, 'The author is convinced that the accusations against Jesus of Nazareth and even his crucifixion were instigated by the criminal instinct here described.'" Eustace also explains it was the same malicious animal magnetism which caused the Jews to persecute and to crucify Jesus that also led to their own (the Jews) persecution during WWII. When we see error as neither person, place nor thing we are able to handle it effectively as an impersonal claim, a lie about God's creation and so utterly destroy its seeming existence! *****

Crucify Him

Science and Health, p. 133 To-day the cry of bygone ages is repeated, "Crucify him!" At every advancing step, truth is still opposed with sword and spear.

For the first time, I saw most vividly how those words "crucify him" applied to me, if I did not work to render the false claims that come powerless and unreal. After all, it is the same mesmeric influence which puts us to sleep, keeps us discouraged, and makes us complain, that motivated the hatred against the Christ in those days!!

How different is it then if I allow my Christ to be attacked; would I not also be on the side of the accusers shouting, "Crucify him!?"

Error Can't Hide

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin." John 15:22

This meant to me that Jesus came into the world to detect sin, destroy it completely and leave no room for anything unlike God to remain. He stripped the error and there wasn't any place for any error to hide, no cloke (a cover) or excuse. "Progress is the law of God" (*Science and Health*) and doing the best we can every day will destroy error. *****

This destruction of error is to see its total nothingness; important not to ever give it any reality and then work to destroy it.