

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement –
October 16th, 2016**

Three Statements from The Christ!

“I and my Father are one.”

“...the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.”

“And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.” (John)

These three statements of Christ Jesus found in the lesson this week are important ones. They meet every human need, when understood and lived. We have been taught here to work with them on a daily basis, to imbibe their true meaning. We like to claim we have the mind of Christ, but what is that mind? These three statements are the basis of all that Jesus said and did. Understanding these Truths enabled him to do tremendous healing work. Remember, you too are at one with the Father. He dwells in you and does the works. You are never alone! And remember to work daily to please your Father and don't be concerned with pleasing persons. These powerful and life-transforming declarations will help enable you to prove that the same mind which was in Christ Jesus is also yours!

Thank you. Yesterday I wrote down, “He doeth the works” to carry with me all day. I have been working a long time on demonstration and these three statements from Christ Jesus help me to understand ...and to please God first in all I do and say. Sometimes the doing is easier than the saying. “...the Science of being was demonstrated by Jesus who showed his students the power of Mind...” I know now that I can't demonstrate higher than I understand so I continue to let God do the work and humbly ask Him to show me the way. *****

Thank you so much! This is incredibly helpful in my daily work.

Quite a while ago, when contemplating why the

Bible is called “The Chart of Life,” I began to see that I need to move beyond reading the Bible as just stories about people in history, and on to actually seeing how they are teachings and examples for me to live up to. From there, it became clear I was to read Science and Health not as Mrs. Eddy's words, but as God's direct guidance for me.

During that process, I needed to work through the thoughts of “I don't deserve this,” “I am not worthy of this,” and all the other excuses I had to not be what God made me to be. Each day, I feel I see a bit more about how to “Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith [I am] called” (Ephesians 4: 1) and it is because of the understanding I am gaining from posts like this, as well as the lessons, Bible Studies, Roundtables, etc.

I am so grateful to learn these truths, and grateful that Plainfield provides the place to learn how to demonstrate them in a practical way. I feel that I NEVER would have understood any of this without the teaching at this church, together with practitioner support! Thank you!

I think this is why Mrs. Eddy asks the question, “Why are the words of Jesus more frequently cited for our instruction than are his remarkable works? Is it not because there are few who have gained a true knowledge of the great import to Christianity of those works?”

Every one of his works illustrated divine Principle, or law. So many then, and even today, regard his works as “miracles” that are beyond most of us, and therefore do not contain a useful lesson for us. However, thanks to Mrs. Eddy, we can see that these miracles illustrate divine Principle, and, as she did, if we strive to put into practice the Science of Christianity, we, too, can experience healing and progress in every way.

The drug industry sees disease as physical, and tries to cure matter with matter. Jesus understood disease to be a product of wrong human thinking (“mortal” or “carnal” mind) and taught us that God alone

(divine Mind) corrects that wrong thinking, and thus destroys disease. The drug industry is aggressive, but its premise is wrong, so it can only disappoint. And that disappointment can only serve to turn us to God – the mind of Christ (Mind).

A Very Different Starting Point

The readings in Science and Health start out, “Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man’s oneness with the Father...”

This statement does not say, “His” oneness with the Father, but man’s. That’s us! That’s a huge departure, a very different starting point from old theology that would have Jesus be one with God, but have us be separate from God...and very far from emulating Jesus! And yet, we are all truly one with God, and through Science, now available to all through Mary Baker Eddy’s discovery, we have the tools for following in Jesus’ footsteps, as he instructed us to do.

It is a shame that old theology does not stress our oneness with God, when it is such a simple and beautiful fact of our being that can be practically demonstrated and proven every day through healing of all types of problems. So with this different starting point, we must step up to the plate and prove it. How tremendous it is to know that we—and every child of God—are one with the Father. I must remind myself more often how radical and freeing Mrs. Eddy’s discovery of Christian Science truly is! *****

Forever In The Bosom Of The Father

In Science and Health, it says “the spiritual idea, Christ, dwells forever in the bosom of the Father, God, from which it illumines heaven and earth.” I found this very comforting and encouraging that despite the noise and clamor prevalent at this time, still the Christ dwells in the bosom of the Father, the rock of, our salvation. And if there is enough light to illumine all of heaven and earth, there is plenty to guide each and every one of us, step by step. I found this very reassuring. *****

Regeneration

“He to whom ‘the arm of the Lord’ is revealed will believe our report, and rise into newness of life with regeneration.” (*Science and Health*, p 24:11)
Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “regeneration” as: “new birth by the grace of God; that change by which the will and natural enmity of man to God and his law are subdued, and a principle of supreme love to God and his law, or holy affections, are implanted in the heart.” This is what Christian Science does for all of us. Such an infinitely wonderful change! *****

Let Us Run With Patience The Race

The race before us is the same that was for the Hebrews. From Matthew Henry commentary: The persevering obedience of faith in Christ, was the race set before the Hebrews, wherein they must either win the crown of glory, or have everlasting misery for their portion; and it is set before us.

We cannot become aware of this Christ within each of us without the quality of patience, since there is the giving up of the old involved in this process, in order for us to see correctly what we have always had...our true being. We cannot run the race effectively with those old habits of wrong thinking. With the many examples from Jesus’ life, Mrs. Eddy’s and many others, we can press on, denying all that would hinder us and be encouraged, instead of discouraged, when the race appears slow.

From (Poems, p. 69):—
“Father-Mother good, lovingly
Thee I seek,—
Patient, meek,
In the way Thou hast,—
Be it slow or fast,
Up to Thee.”

This is helpful to remember when the evils of impatience and discouragement try us. *****

SUBJECT – Probation After Death – October 23rd, 2016

Progression And Probation

Everyone likes the progressive steps, but what about the proving times? Everyone has them and Science

and Health states that salvation is unattainable without them. So, if there are problems to be overcome, this is not a badge of shame, but rather an opportunity to prove the power of God. God is infinite and all good, and also He works with each of us individually, so He is not far off, but near to each. We all want stability in our lives, but I think it would be rather boring if there were no problems to overcome. God is with each one and has an answer for every issue. *****

I understand that God can only help us in the proportion that we have allowed Him to be our consciousness, in the coincidence of God and man. Our very own human, carnal, mortal mind is the only enemy we face. The kingdom is within, and so is hell, or the world. *****

Ah, but remember it is not “our very own carnal mortal mind.” Evil belongs not to you or to anyone. It is only the lie and is as impersonal as is Goodness. Knowing this Truth rids one of shame and discouragement, as well as of pride and ego. **

Yes, it claims to be us. Right! That is what I always felt was wrong when I hear songs that state that Jesus died for “my” sins. Jesus destroyed all sin, but they are never anyone’s sins. I like it when my posts get a reaction, because I don’t know it all. Thank you. *****

Progression During Probation

I’m very grateful for this wonderful lesson, which shows how, through progression, we can raise our understanding of God. Previously, when this was the subject for the Lesson Sermon, I had a lot of misunderstanding of ‘probation after death’ that was clarified through the Roundtable discussion that week. This lesson teaches how to work through progression until, as Mrs. Eddy states; *Science and Health*, p 46:30 “His students then received the Holy Ghost. By this is meant, that by all they had witnessed and suffered, they were roused to an enlarged understanding of divine Science, even to the spiritual interpretation and discernment of Jesus’ teachings and demonstrations, which gave them a faint conception of the Life which is God.”

That is such a wonderful goal and I’m so grateful for the teachings on how to attain it! *****

I love the fact that each day we each have opportunities to prove our progress through how we handle the false claims that come up. As we get better at mastering error, we discern more of the present Christ in us, a continuous process well worth engaging in. *Science and Health*, p 21:12-14 If honest, he will be in earnest from the start, and gain a little each day in the right direction, till at last he finishes his course with joy! *****

Disease Cannot Destroy Life

Science and Health, p 426. When it is learned that disease cannot destroy life, and that mortals are not saved from sin or sickness by death, this understanding will quicken into newness of life.

To gain more understanding of this Truth is real progress; it begins to lessen some of the fear underlying sickness, which renders us helpless and keeps us in bondage.

As I become more convinced that my life is “entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living” *Science and Health*, p14, the more I can appreciate this Truth that disease is powerless to have any effect on my real life...this gives a freeing joy, a sense of the promised freedom the Truth of life in God reveals. *****

Thank you! That is such a beautiful thought. It goes along completely with the wisdom of starting each day knowing, “God is Life. God is my Life. God is the only pure and perfect Life.” The Lesson also states, “...God alone is man’s life. It is evil that dies; good dies not.” When we are tempted to look to matter, to the belief that somehow life is in matter, well, that’s when we run into trouble! Remember then - God is your life and the only life there is. What wonderful freedom you will find in uplifting your thought to God and finding all true being in Him! *****

Thank you for this post. Declaring that, “God is Life. God is my Life...” and keeping thought focused on God and His infinite goodness, is the best preventative medicine!

“What wonderful freedom you will find in uplifting

your thought to God and finding all true being in Him!" THIS is true freedom—"finding all true being in Him." Beautiful thought, thank you. *****

Slow of Heart

7. Luke 24

25 Then [Christ Jesus] said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

How wonderful that Christ Jesus said that and then immediately showed them how quick Love is by explaining all they needed to know, right up to the point where their "eyes were opened."

I think back on times when I have been "slow of heart" and I feel such gratitude for Christian Science! The human sense of "love" I relied upon was, for the most part, slow as molasses. Until coming to Plainfield, I had no idea that there was anything better.

In learning about Christian Science, I was not surprised to find that there was much I still needed to understand about Mind and Truth and Life. I knew I didn't know everything. I was, however, absolutely shocked to learn that Love is just as infinite, equally ever-present, and that I practically knew nothing of it! What a blessing Christian Science and this church is, because this opportunity to learn more each day about God and the reality of His creation is what all mankind needs! Thank you!

Your heart has been quickened! It never was really slow, just waiting for the right impulse. *****

Perception of Infinite Possibilities

Science and Health talks about the example of Jesus's resurrection, that it raised others to the perception of infinite possibilities, which is an awesome thing to contemplate. I know from my experience that Christian Science in the Plainfield

church found me at a time when I suffered from many limitations, largely self-imposed and brought about through fear and ignorance. What a big change came about from my experience with the Plainfield church. Many times, I was told to think big. I took this to mean to think about what was possible to God and to how this applied to me as His reflection. This did wonders to break down limitations and open up opportunities. I can't help but think of the first statement in *Science and Health* "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, today is big with blessings." *****

Yes, I think Mrs. Eddy wrote that the things that are possible to God are possible to His image. *****

Enoch

"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Genesis 5:24). From a purely superficial standpoint, this sounded so easy and delightful to me... As Mrs. Eddy states, "Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them." (*Science and Health*) So much of this lesson so well addresses this necessity. *****

I, too, appreciate Enoch and how he "walked with God". To please only God and do right by mankind as God directs ... not with grandma mind. Today, during rough spots, I would just say Enoch to myself. *****

By pleasing God and doing right, we gain a little more understanding each day. That patient and consistent attaining of the Truth would lead to the full appreciation of what we are to understand. ****

Eternal Progress

"Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs, rather than professions of Christian power... and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfill." *Science and Health*, "Run with patience the race that is set before us." *The Holy Bible*. We are never alone for God is right at our side. HOW WONDERFUL!