

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 82

**SUBJECT: Christian Science –  
December 25th, 2016**

## The Mission of Christian Science

“...the mission of Christian Science now, as in the time of its earlier demonstration is not primarily one of physical healing. Now, as then, signs and wonders are wrought in the metaphysical healing of physical disease; but these signs are only to demonstrate its divine origin, – to attest the reality of the higher mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world.” (*Science and Health*) Most people are quick to want to be healed physically, but when it comes to addressing pride, hatred, willfulness and all the other etcetera’s of mortal mind – well, not so much. Mrs. Eddy calls this process of self-examination, “mental anatomy” – to dissect false thinking and to destroy it with the power of Truth. This is what leads to transformation, a change of base from the material sense of things to the spiritual and this is what also leads to complete and total healing – “he (the Christ) touched me, and made me whole.”! \*\*\*\*\*

“That in 1875, after nine years of arduous preliminary labor, she wrote the Christian Science text-book, ‘Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures;’ ...that it has healed multitudes of disease and has revealed God to well-nigh countless numbers—facts which prove, (1) that Science and Health does not need to be interpreted to those who are earnestly seeking Truth; (2) that it is not possible to state truth absolutely in a simpler or more pleasing form.”

Excerpt from a Letter by LEWIS C. STRANG  
Pleasant View, April 21, 1906 (published in May 1906 Journal and the forward in Miscellany)

I am so grateful that the correct sense of Christian Science, as Mary Baker Eddy intended, is lived and shared here, including the importance of “mental anatomy”. Mr. Strang’s letter, written at Pleasant View, is a powerful antidote to human pride, which

thinks to operate outside of God and succeed. Something I am learning needs continual guard against. We can see the effects of pride trying to permeate the holiness of this season for a more “pleasing form” of worship. Pride is the absolute opposite of the beautiful Christmas story and would try to “deceive the very elect” but by its fruits—emptiness, depression, disappointment, etc. we can be awakened to this counterfeit. We are blessed to have the true sense of Christmas understood and explained here. \*\*\*\*\*

## With Some Measure of Power And Grace

“Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea – the reflection of God – has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth.” (*Science and Health*) And haven’t we seen this Christ-presence throughout all generations? You don’t have to name the name “Christian Scientist” in order to receive God’s blessings. This is why we needn’t despair if a loved one is not a “Christian Scientist” or if someone on the other side of the world is not a “Christian Scientist” – which is what I hear being voiced sometimes, as if Christian Scientists have a corner on God’s Love! All that is needed is a preparation of the heart to receive this Truth. This is why our watches can be so effective. God’s Love reaches far and wide with no limitation as to person, place or thing. “... ‘God is All-in-all,’ and the light of ever-present Love illumines the universe.” (*Science and Health*) \*\*\*\*\*

## ...Wrought in God

**RESPONSIVE READING: John 3  
21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light,  
that his deeds may be made manifest, that they  
are wrought in God.**

From the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary:

## **Wrought**

### **1. Worked; formed by work or labor; as wrought iron.**

I was struck by the word “wrought” here, as this verse shows not only that God is substance, but also that the only way for our labors to amount to anything is if they are done with Truth and understanding. Otherwise, they can have no manifestation or basis.

This helps to explain more to me why selfish prayer brings no relief, as it is wrought in self and not in God.

It also shows why evil has no history, as nothing was made, so nothing can be remembered.

Finally, I feel it shows why there is no need for fear or worry: Evil and error can manifest only fleeting beliefs which can never compete or compare with the eternal goodness manifested from the only real substance that is God.

### **8. 350**

#### **Unless the works are comprehended which his words explained, the words are blind.**

I am grateful for the explanation of Christian Science here — giving the means to understand how to have our work “wrought in God.” Learning to live this Science is little-by-little easing all fears; filling me with so much gratitude for all that Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy did; and, imparting an increasing desire to do whatever God would have me do. Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you. This is a major step in our spiritual growth, — to appreciate that the power behind the works that Jesus is referring to is divine Mind, not a human being. Jesus didn’t do the healing, and neither can we! Jesus saw clearly the perfection of God’s creation. The healings followed as a result of his refusal to accept any false beliefs about God’s creation, and that is all that we can (and must) do. This is why humility is essential to follow in his footsteps. If I think that I have any power other than God, then I am on the wrong foot to begin with and will accomplish nothing. When I realize that God is the only power, and that power is my life, and I have nothing without the power of God, then I am able to see Him in control and my consciousness clearer. Jesus refused to accept

anything other than the perfection of God’s creation, and those who were receptive to that truth were healed. This shows the power of Truth to correct all errors.

Our job is to have this line of demarcation in our own consciousness, and not let anything cross it. I am so grateful to be catching a glimpse of this powerful truth. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Born Not Of Blood**

*John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

This speaks to me about my spiritual birth, man’s new birth, which teaches our true nature, our true identity as of God. Without this knowledge I could have gone on thinking as many do as being “born again” and yet believing in the existence of evil and thinking of myself as still subject to sickness, sin and death! The new birth, as explained through mankind’s salvation (Christian Science), teaches what is true about every man and empowers us with the Truth of man’s spiritual heritage. It annuls every belief in subjection to sin, sickness, and death or life in matter.

**Spurgeon** – This new birth is something that brings change to life. “The man is like a watch which has a new mainspring, not a mere face and hands repaired, but new inward machinery, with freshly adjusted works, which act to a different time and tune; and whereas he went wrong before, now he goes right, because he is right within.” \*\*\*\*\*

## **Purpose And Motive To Live Aright**

“The purpose and motive to live aright can be gained now.” (*Science and Health*) I truly believe so much of the suffering that goes on in the world is due to lack of right motive and purpose. If you have a dear one lost to drugs or alcohol, depression, unemployment etc. awaken in them their true purpose and motive for living. God created all His children with a divine plan for them. No one is ever excluded from His Love. I remember how depressed I was until I found a reason for living and then my Father did “open the way.” Our spiritual

nature needs to be fed. Just like a flower droops and dies without proper sunshine and water, so we all need to be sustained by a higher power which loves and care for us all. Find your purpose in Him and all will be, all IS, well!! \*\*\*\*\*

Resisting all false beliefs that come is a mighty purpose for all of us with the wonderful effect of making holier our world's thought!  
Where ever we are, and whatever our tasks, this, resisting false beliefs, must be included. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Lean On The Sustaining Infinite**

“To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.” (*Science and Health*) I love this statement – it is the very first line in our textbook and we also have it inscribed on the walls of our church. If you are ever feeling a little down, weak, discouraged, overwhelmed – think about “leaning on the sustaining (which means, according to Webster, – to uphold, to keep from falling, to keep alive, to keep from sinking into despondency) infinite.” These blessings are for today, right now! As a very dear lady once described it, “He (God) is my invincible friend and ever with me.” \*\*\*\*\*

Nothing comforts more and calms more than the constant awareness of GOD WITH ME and GOD LOVES ME (and all)!!

### **SUBJECT – God – January 1st, 2017**

#### **GOD'S ALLNESS!**

This Allness is what Jesus' life, His teaching, and works all proved; the very Principle of Christian Science!

And the lie, the wickedness of mortal thinking presented the opposite of this Truth: *Science and Health*, p. 133 That he made “himself equal with God,” was one of the Jewish accusations against him who planted Christianity on the foundation of Spirit, who taught as he was inspired by the Father and would recognize no life, intelligence, nor substance outside of God.

Thus we must be alert to re-interpret every false

claim that presents to us; to see and rejoice in the existing and unchanging Truth. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Don't Forget God**

The warning of Moses and the example of Uzziah is so appropriate. The tendency to get comfortable and then forget the source of the good or the purpose of having good surroundings is easily fallen into, but demoralization, chaos, and worse follows. The one constant and steady influence in life is God with us. The purpose of life is to live for our God. Too often comfort is sought just for the sake of being comfortable, and nothing else. The danger with our comfort zone is that although it may appear appealing, nothing grows there, it is a state of stagnation, and what appears good fails. Only the goodness of God endures, so let's stay close to Him. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Evil Should Be Regarded As Unnatural**

“God is natural good, and is represented only by the idea of goodness; while evil should be regarded as unnatural, because it is opposed to the nature of Spirit, God.” It is well to examine how much you regard good as being natural and evil as being unnatural in your life. For instance, do you believe that it is “natural” for a two-year old to be naughty going along with the psychological belief of the “terrible twos” rather than knowing that every child is “obedient to the Mind that made them” (*Science and Health*)? Do you believe that it is “natural” to catch the flu during the so-called “flu-season” or “natural” to have allergies during the so-called “allergy” season rather than rejecting it as unnatural and a spurious lie because opposed to the goodness of God's creation? Do you accept unemployment being “natural” and unavoidable because of certain economic conditions? Or do you know God has right employment for every one of His children and anything less is unnatural? Mrs. Eddy states in “Miscellaneous Writings” on page 109, “Examine yourselves, and see what, and how much, sin claims of you; and how much this claim you admit as valid, or comply with.” There were so many wrong beliefs I claimed for myself until I began to question their validity and learned to reject those lies and to replace them with the Truth about God's

good creation for in Truth He is All, and there is nothing else! \*\*\*\*\*

I sincerely appreciate how Christian Science is practical, right down to how there are these checks and balances that we can apply to our thoughts and actions. Knowing “good as being natural and evil as being unnatural” is an excellent one to keep close, as is what you mentioned in your testimony from the Wednesday meeting this week, which is, does this thought or action take me closer to God, or further away.

For some time I have been asking myself, when faced with a choice, is it more loving to do this, or less? I am sure that this had its seed in something I learned at this church, because I never did this before. Now I will be able to additionally refine this by asking myself “Does this thought or action show the naturalness of good?” and “Does this bring me closer to God?”

At this point, I was reminded of the “What Would Jesus Do?” bumper stickers that were popular at one time. It is easy to see that when you don’t have any understanding of Christ Jesus’ teachings or the Science he lived, by asking that question you are left to answer with the highest sense of human good you possess. \*\*\*\*\*

This is why we are taught to emphasize and remember the good and discard the evil as quickly as possible. The good is the only reality. It is also the only power. That is why it is the only contagion. I have noticed that when someone is aggressively emphasizing the good, it brings out the good in those around him. Whether in our homes, our schools, or work places, this influence is a powerful one that blesses everyone that comes into your presence. And why not? It is God manifest, and God is All. It is Truth, Life, and Love which are “a law of annihilation,” as Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, “to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God.” \*\*\*\*\*

## Forever And Ever

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

2. Psalm 48: 10, 14

10 According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

14 For this God is our God for ever and ever:

And then Mrs. Eddy says on page 264:13-19, As mortals gain more correct views of God and man multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible. When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in nor of matter, this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness... than our merciful and everlasting God... for ever and ever. \*\*\*\*\*

“this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness.”

This statement is actually more scientific than might appear. The reason we do not need any other consciousness than our merciful and everlasting God is because THERE IS NO OTHER CONSCIOUSNESS than God, the Mind that knows all and made all and governs all. If I am not listening to that Mind (in that Mind) and acting in accordance with my spiritual sense, I am actually un-conscious, not conscious. As in sleep when I am dreaming, the dream seems real, but I am actually unconscious until I wake up.

So it is when I am “physically” awake. If I am full of envy, greed, lust, I am full of pride, which is ingratitude and which is fatal. If I am full of fear of disease or sin, then I am full of superstition, which is a denial of Truth and is also fatal. These are the waking dreams Mrs. Eddy refers to. They are not states of real consciousness because they are not conscious of God, or reality.

I used to think it was harmless to drift into an “unconscious” state of accepting the mortal picture, whether it is the belief of pain or pleasure in matter, or intellectualism, or acceptance of illness; but it is not harmless, because it is a denial of Truth, which Mrs. Eddy states is fatal. We always have experiences that “wake us up” out of this unconscious state, but it is a real challenge to keep ourselves awake and in our right mind. This is where a good church and good practitioners are so valuable. They don’t let us “sleep on.”