

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 91

**SUBJECT: Everlasting Punishment –
April 30th, 2017**

Ever-present Love illumines the universe

“Divine Science, the Word of God, saith to the darkness upon the face of error, ‘God is All-in-all,’ and the light of ever-present Love illumines the universe.” (S&H) I often dwell on this statement during my watch time. Whatever “darkness” I may be handling, the answer is always in knowing the supreme FACT that God is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient, All-in-all – there is nothing else! And then to continue knowing this wonderful ‘light of ever-present Love’ is in fact illuminating every corner of the universe, lighting up all the dark places of the world with God’s Love! Think of it! This is the “Word of God” and it has tremendous power –for it is the ONLY power! It cannot be reversed! *****

The First Commandment Bases the Science of Being

SH 340 : “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus xx. 3.) The First Commandment is my favorite text. It demonstrates Christian Science. The divine Principle of the First Commandment bases the Science of being, by which man demonstrates health, holiness, and life eternal.

This Truth of God’s Allness, expressed as His Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience and Omniaction from the spiritual fact that there is none beside Him is extremely helpful to keep constantly in thought. It helps to strip error of its disguise as something real! Because of this, we can accept our perfection as His reflection; since there can be nothing imperfect, discordant, or vile in connection with perfection. There is NOTHING outside of that PERFECTION. Keeping this in thought I can be consistent with what is my true being of health, holiness, and immortality; what a

foundation to work from each day!! *****

"Truth Guards The Gateway to Harmony."

Truth is the unwavering, standard pitch to which I must constantly attune myself in order to participate in the choirs of heaven intoning the music of the spheres. Atonement is “attunement”: keeping in tune with the Infinite.

On the other hand, personal sense is constantly attempting to create and maintain lasting expressions of human harmony apart from God, a sham, forced inclusiveness that is completely outside the laws of harmony established by God. All such attempts yield not harmony, but only its opposite: discord. A monumental example of this is the tower of Babel, built by those who united their hearts in intense desire to ascend to heaven, to pass through the “gateway to harmony”, in an exclusively human, material way, without acknowledging Spirit. The result of such humanistic hubris was a greater expression of discord and confusion on earth than ever before.

God grant me the humility to strive for the only oneness that truly unites all of us, which is oneness with the One. *****

This is beautiful, especially your opening sentence. Thank you! I love the idea of “attunement” in relation to atonement.

Also, I was struck by the words “forced inclusiveness”, which reflects personal sense and human will. We certainly are experiencing in this time new forms of the “tower of Babel”. Thank goodness we can counteract these expressions of seeming discord by “keeping in tune with the Infinite” as you so eloquently stated. *****

The Importance of Meekness

I never liked the word meek. It always conveyed to me a sense of being mushy, timid, complacent – letting someone walk all over you. And that would

be true if understood humanly.

But understanding the word in its spiritual sense turns it around into something to strive to express daily.

From the lesson: Psalm 25: 9:

“The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.”

Barnes’ Notes on the Bible:

“The meek will he guide – The humble, the teachable, the prayerful, the gentle of spirit – those who are willing to learn. A proud person who supposes that he already knows enough cannot be taught; a haughty person who has no respect for others cannot learn of them; a person who is willing to believe nothing cannot be instructed. The first requisite, therefore, in the work of religion, as in respect to all kinds of knowledge, is a meek and docile spirit.”

From A.W. Tozer (a Christian pastor and author, 1897-1963)

“The meek man cares not at all who is greater than he, for he has long ago decided that the esteem of the world is not worth the effort ... The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather, he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself.... In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.” *****

That is beautiful! Thank you...another definition that has helped me get over this mushy sense of the word “meek” is “submissive to the will of God”! It is always so helpful to dig deeper into the real meaning of words, to look up definitions, in order to deepen our understanding. A quick skimming over never works. *****

Quote from Matthew Henry About Daniel

“Though Daniel was himself a great prophet, and one that was well acquainted with the visions of God, yet he was a diligent student in the scripture, and thought it no disparagement to him to consult Jeremiah’s prophecies. He was a great politician, and prime minister of state to one of the greatest monarchs upon earth, and yet could find both heart

and time to converse with the word of God. The greatest and best men in the world must not think themselves above their Bibles.” *****

The Stumblingblock of Iniquity

5. Ezekiel 14

2 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?

Part of the definition of iniquity from the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

A particular deviation from rectitude; a sin or crime; wickedness; any act of injustice.

This led me to look up rectitude, again in the 1828: **In morality, rightness of principle or practice; uprightness of mind; ... Perfect rectitude belongs only to the Supreme Being. The more nearly the rectitude of men approaches to the standard of the divine law, the more exalted and dignified is their character.**

In the years before coming to Plainfield, I “stumbled” so often I began to think my natural, deserved state was down. I lived my life very far from “the standard of the divine law.” The transition away from that, to coming here and learning about Christian Science feels very much reflected in this verse:

4. Ezekiel 2 : 2

2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

This authentic Christian Science has taught me that the stumbling block of iniquity is whatever wickedness would topple my “uprightness of mind.” What is more, I am being taught how to recognize and avoid these stumbling blocks before I am toppled. *****

Christian Science gives us the awareness of our true self as a child of God, and you have such a gift of relating exactly how you’ve come to express your true “uprightness of mind.” *****

“... avoid these stumbling blocks before I am toppled.” Yes! Being toppled is no fun, and being taught here at Plainfield how to live in the straight and narrow, listening to and obeying God, certainly keeps us upright! *****

Thank you for this wonderful post, which reminds me that I can “keep it simple”: if feeling overwhelmed, I can go back to the straightforward and powerful First Commandment. It immediately puts everything into perspective! *****

I Will Betroth Thee

Hosea 2:19, 20

...I will betroth thee unto me for ever: yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.

The word betroth in Webster 1828 dictionary means: To contract to any one, in order to a future marriage; to promise or pledge one to be the future spouse of another; to affianc.

To betroth in these verses is said 3 times. I wondered why this word was used, but it is a promise from the Lord. We choose to accept being joined with the Lord. We are pledging our faith or fidelity. When we give our whole heart, as in a marriage, we receive the blessings.

Matthew Henry says: God’s making a covenant for them with the inferior creatures was a great favour; but it was nothing to this, that he took them into covenant with himself and engaged himself to do them good. The nature of this covenant; it is a marriage-covenant, founded in choice and love, and founding the nearest relation: I will betroth thee unto me; and again, and a third time, I will betroth thee. All that are sincerely devoted to God are betrothed to him; God gives them the most sacred and inviolable security imaginable that he will love them, protect them, and provide for them, that he will do the part of a husband to them, and that he will incline their hearts to join themselves to him and will graciously accept of them in so doing.

This is a promise of eternity. God will not forsake

us or turn his back on us. This is the greatest love there can be. *****

SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man – May 7th, 2017

Mrs. Eddy, from Watches, Prayers, and Arguments, page 92

This is my support, that the male and female natures are equally expressed, coexistent in me. This is the way that I exist, and is the reason I never lack. It is because I am of the nature of infinite completeness; there is never anything in my experience in which the male and female qualities are not infinitely at one, supporting each other. It is because my spiritual inspiration is perfectly balanced with scientific understanding; because my joy is perfectly balanced with courage, and because my love is perfectly balanced with strength. My tender emotional nature is perfectly balanced with thought, reason and understanding; therefore I am a state of perfect protection, perfect substance, and I am supported by my own infinity. I am the consciousness of infinity. I am the presence of substance, because there is no unsupported idea in me.

My manhood takes care of my womanhood, defends, protects, and supports her. My joy is defended and protected by my courage. My love is protected and defended by my understanding, by the strength of my scientific understanding, which is omnipotence. I am never undefended, and my womanhood cherishes my manhood. My tender affection cherishes my scientific understanding, and unfolds love to it, takes care of it, watches over it with love, and gives it every opportunity to unfold and demonstrate itself in perfect harmony, unity, equality, and unfoldment. So my nature is complete. *****

He Shall Rule Over Thee

Gen 3:16 16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow

thou shalt bring forth children; *and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

This Scriptural saying has been taken literally by many cultures as a way of dominating woman! I once had a very “Christian” man use this to tell me how his wife should obey him.

What we have in Science and Health beautifully answers this lie on page 517: Divine Love blesses its own ideas, and causes them to multiply, — to manifest His power. *Man is not made to till the soil. His birthright is dominion, not subjection. He is lord of the belief in earth and heaven, — himself subordinate alone to his Maker. This is the Science of being.* Man as generic for Woman and Man! What a great day it will be when this Truth is realized the world over! In most of these cultures it is the women who are holding the households together in more ways than one! *****

The Role of the Feminine Nature

I was definitely impressed in the lesson by the role of the feminine nature. She was first to confess the fault in the Garden of Eden, first to discern spiritual creation, gave birth to Jesus, first to behold the risen Saviour, and enabled to interpret the Scriptures in its true sense. Where would we be without the feminine role? No wonder it says in Science and Health that “Love imparts the clearest idea of Deity.” *****

Thank you. Mrs. Eddy once wrote to a student “Love is a powerful spiritual force.” The emphasis on divine love in all her writings, and in the Bible, is for a reason. I remember years ago, we once had a member who was offended when Mrs. Evans stated that women were generally more spiritually minded than men. He didn’t last very long as a member of the church.

This helps explain why those cultures in which “male” chauvinism is prevalent (Islam, Roman Catholicism, etc.) are the poorest, most ignorant and tyrannical. In contrast, those societies in which women have equal rights generally experience the greatest progress and stability. *****

I also noticed that the woman admits to her mistake. She said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I

did eat.” She did not justify or make excuses. Mrs. Eddy says that self-justification is the adamant of error. The admission of error opened the heart of woman and this type of thought was able to be used by God *****

For many years, it felt like there was this external push for me to bury any traits that were feminine, vulnerable, and loving in myself. Because I didn’t have Christian Science, I kept being hurt and saw that the only way to stop being hurt was by shutting down the “weak” spots. I became very cynical of people and life in general, and of course, increasingly godless.

Now I see that this external push was animal magnetism doing its best to shut me off from recognizing the Christ and listening to God. It is so clear now that these feminine qualities are what make me strong, and receptive, and useful to God. Shutting them down was actually becoming weak, useless, and as close to nothing as someone could be.

I am so grateful to Christian Science and this church for teaching me about my true nature and how to handle malicious mind. Thank you! *****

I found an original copy of the Christian Science Journal from the early 1900s. As I counted, I noticed something remarkable, so I did a recount; the ratio of women practitioners was 5-6 for every male practitioner!! A few other random cities I checked had the same ratios :) Certainly “Love imparts the clearest idea of Deity.”! *****

Mrs. Eddy once said some of her best and most reliable workers were the simple housewives who had no other aim or ambition than to humbly serve their Father-Mother God.

Stick to the Truth of Being

1. My real spiritual source is all blessedness
2. My relationship with God is indestructible and unchanging
3. I am perfect in God
4. Hold truthful conversations with self (not Adam dream talk).
5. Yes, I possess all the qualities of God’s nature (male and female).