

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Truth – July 23rd, 2017

Caution! Do Acknowledge Truth

Science and Health, p 372: 25-32

“Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” In Christian Science, a denial of Truth is fatal, while a just acknowledgment of Truth and of what it has done for us is an effectual help. If pride, superstition, or any error prevents the honest recognition of benefits received, this will be a hindrance to the recovery of the sick and the success of the student.

Just think, that to ignore to acknowledge and appreciate the Truth, which is always revealing the tempting lies (however slowly), and be grateful for Truth, God, means denying God. This, the citation is saying has a consequence. Thus, whether so-called “healed or not” it would be best to often go on “my knees” mentally or otherwise to love and be grateful, just because Truth is Truth. No need to hinder my own recovery by such disobedience. **

Thank you! This is such a hugely important point. Very often, when I hear someone complaining about the lack of healing in their lives, I never have to look far to see they have not genuinely been grateful for all the good that God has already brought forth. I know this because I, too, have been guilty of this “sin.” This is why we emphasize over and over again the importance of gratitude – to be aware on a daily basis for all the good God has blessed you with and to let your heart overflow with gratitude. Come Wednesday evening, are you one who feels “I have nothing to express gratitude for?”! Let it be a huge red flag that error is trying to whisper lies into your ears and to take you off the path heavenward. This is when I have learned to get on my knees and to thank God for His blessings – and then to get on my feet and to testify for His Goodness!

“I tell you the truth when I say there is only one Source of all good, God. The conscious recognition

and acceptance of this fact, acknowledged by every activity of the mind, not two or three times a day, but every few moments all day long, no matter what the outer self is doing, and this maintained, will enable anyone to express his perfect freedom and dominion over all things human.’ Mary Baker Eddy

Having Done All, Stand on the Statutes

Science and Health, p 148 – “Truth, Life, and Love are the only legitimate and eternal demands on man, and they are spiritual lawgivers, enforcing obedience through divine statutes.” STATUTE is derived from the Latin word *stare* meaning “to stand, make or be firm”. Furthermore, Webster defines “statute” as “an act of the legislature of a state that extends its binding force to all the citizens or subjects of that state, as distinguished from an act which extends only to an individual or company...”

Thus, the “divine statutes” provide me with an indestructible foundation upon which to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” The statutes of Science also give me legal standing to pursue error, expose its perjuries in spite of its incessant, roaring testimony in the lower court of consciousness (mortal mind), “I am telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!”

The chapter heading of *Science and Health*, p 379 reads “Jurisdiction of Mind,” and JURISDICTION is derived from the Greek: “a place marked off.” Mrs. Eddy’s allegory of the trial (*Science and Health*, p 430) begins in apparent hopelessness, as if the patient’s mind is in a jurisdiction off-limits to God Himself, but at last, in the higher court of awakened consciousness, “the plea of Christian Science heals the sick,” because mortal mind, Satan, has absolutely no jurisdiction to which it could possibly lay claim, anywhere in the universe. The jurisdiction of Mind is *omnipresent*. *****

Micaiah's Example

When the king of Israel was approached about inquiring of the Lord, the first thing he did was to gather around him 400 men whom he knew would agree with him without giving any consideration to whether it was right. What kind of security blanket was this to have a large number of people pleasers, who have forsaken their conscience and had a higher regard for their position than for truth.

Micaiah, on the other hand, stood alone with God, even though he was persecuted for it, and subsequent events proved that he was the one who was right, proving that one with God is a majority. For me, the lesson is to question the motive when I feel the desire to be in agreement with others, because it may feel more comfortable at the moment. The real question is whether something is right with God; His judgments are everlasting and can't be avoided. *****

Unite My Heart

1. Psalm 86: 11

11 Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

The words “unite my heart” really caught me, and reminded me of a few other verses.

First, from last week's (July 16th, 2017 – Life) Responsive Reading, Matthew 6: 21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

And next, which we've discussed in past Bible Studies and Roundtables, is Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

I am so grateful for how Christian Science is showing me how to have my heart united. Before coming to this church, I spent a lot of time fighting what I felt was right, in order to accommodate others, and in the course of all that, felt as though I was being ripped in two or more pieces. Learning to live according to these teachings, I am not being

pulled from multiple directions because I am no longer trying to serve multiple masters.

I am grateful to have one God, and one purpose, and for all the instruction and practitioner support that are teaching me exactly where my treasure is: In serving God and His Cause! Thank you! *****

Truth Is, Falsehoods Are Not

Science and Health, p 555:32-556:2 Truth fosters the idea of Truth, and not the belief in illusion or error. That which is real, is sustained by Spirit.

Thanks for this awakening direct statement! The more Science becomes clear, we see that Truth has a powerful, supreme foundation making it real and lasting; while falsehoods or beliefs, lies, illusions are temporarily supported by our own ignorance and beliefs. Once these props are removed through our awakening by Truth, they lose the only support they have and fall. Nothing God made sustains our beliefs! And one of our daily duties tells us to watch NOT to be influenced erroneously. *****

Thank you for this important point. The last phrase of the responsive reading, “all his works are done in truth,” took on new meaning for me this week. Since all His works means everything that is real, this means that everything that is real is Truth manifest, a reflection of the laws that always govern the universe. Therefore, anything that is not of God is simply not true, — an illusion, error, a mistake.

This is the basis of Christian healing. The fact that sin, sickness, and death are erroneous beliefs, also means that they have no power, or entity, other than to destroy themselves. Mrs. Eddy says that error comes to us for life, and we give it all the life it has. God does not give life to false beliefs! That is why our honest pursuit of the truth and a just acknowledgement of the truth, as much as we know, is a sure protection against the myriad of false beliefs trying to gain entrance to our consciousness. *****

SUBJECT: Love – July 30th, 2017

The Kingdom of Heaven Within Us

Mrs. Eddy defines the kingdom of heaven: “Let

unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.”

I was always somewhat perplexed by what Jesus meant when he stated, “the kingdom of God [heaven] is within you”. One passage reads:

Luke 17:20-21

“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

After being at Plainfield, this statement has come alive and means a lot to me now.

I think for decades the importance of this statement totally escaped me! I was always searching for it somewhere else, without taking Mrs. Eddy’s words to heart, glossing over them like so many others.

It is the selfless LOVE and strong teaching found in this church that saved me, and allowed me to feel the “kingdom of heaven” on earth. Thank you!

Diligence, Virtue, and Temperance

7. II Peter 1

**5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

Here are abridged definitions from the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary of diligence, virtue, and temperance:

Diligence

1. Steady application in business of any kind; constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken;

These words from *Science and Health* (p. 95:32-3) seem to be Mrs. Eddy’s warning about what happens if we fail in this:

Humanity advances slowly out of sinning sense into spiritual understanding; unwillingness to learn all things rightly, binds Christendom with chains.

Virtue

1. Strength; that substance or quality of physical bodies, by which they act and produce effects on other bodies.

2. Bravery valor. This was the predominant signification of virtues among the Romans.

3. Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law.

4. A particular moral excellence; as the virtue of temperance, of chastity, of charity.

5. Acting power; something efficacious.

6. Secret agency; efficacy without visible or material action; or that which constitutes value and merit.

7. Excellence; or that which constitutes value and merit.

8. Efficacy; power.

The thought that I must add moral strength, courage (bravery), excellence, and power, to faith means so much more to me than “add to your faith virtue” did before this definition.

Temperance

1. Moderation; particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence; as temperance in eating and drinking; temperance in the indulgence of joy or mirth. temperance in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness, and in other indulgences, to excess.

2. Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

As for temperance, I always had this idea that it meant keeping your temper in check. Certainly patience and calmness are mentioned, but I had no idea it also meant moderation, as described.

Because of these definitions, I am starting to see how these qualities are important, but even more, that the order of qualities shows a progressive building upon that gains the most blessing.

This has given me the following interpretation (bold from II Peter 1):

giving all diligence

I must start with the ability to apply “constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken;” – that willingness to learn all things rightly.

add to your faith virtue

Then add moral strength, courage (bravery), excellence, and power, to my understanding of God.

and to virtue knowledge;

Then continue to learn more about the allness of God and the nothingness of error.

And to knowledge temperance;

As my understanding of the spiritual increases, the material must be reined in more and more. This reminds me of the tempering process of metals, which is where heat is applied to make the metal tougher so it doesn't crack during use.

and to temperance patience;

At each step – and no matter how hot it gets! – I must be grateful for where I am, and never be discouraged about not being further along.

and to patience godliness;

Progress will happen in God's time, not mine.

And to godliness brotherly kindness;

An increase in spirituality must never coincide with exasperation with someone at a “lower” step.

and to brotherly kindness charity.

I must never forget we are all in this together: Meeting the need should always be a priority. **

An Unbroken Friendship

“And David said, ‘Is there any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?’” (II Samuel) The story that is in this week's lesson about David caring for Jonathan's lame son is such a touching one.

The Bible tells us that “the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” (I Samuel) The two of them had been such good friends and it was because of

Jonathan, David escaped from the treacherous hand of Saul, Jonathan's father. So here, after Jonathan's death, David is still seeking ways he can continue to show his love for his dear friend. In her chapter entitled “Retrospection and Introspection,” Mrs. Eddy writes, “There are no greater miracles known to earth than perfection and an unbroken friendship. We love our friends, but oftentimes we lose them in proportion to our affection. The sacrifices made for others are not infrequently met by envy, ingratitude, and enmity, which smite the heart and threaten to paralyze its beneficence. The unavailing tear is shed both for the living and the dead.” These heart-rendering words of our Leader, challenge me to love more, to strive to be a better and truer friend...as in the case of David and Jonathan. *****

Spirituality isn't an end unto itself, but rather is a step to becoming more loving in the truest sense of the word.

Love Is Not Something Put Upon A Shelf

“Love is not something put upon a shelf, to be taken down on rare occasions with sugar-tongs and laid on a rose-leaf. I make strong demands on love, call for active witnesses to prove it, and noble sacrifices and grand achievements as its results. Unless these appear, I cast aside the word as a sham and counterfeit, having no ring of the true metal. Love cannot be a mere abstraction, or goodness without activity and power. As a human quality, the glorious significance of affection is more than words: it is the tender, unselfish deed done in secret; the silent, ceaseless prayer; the self-forgetful heart that overflows; the veiled form stealing on an errand of mercy, out of a side door; the little feet tripping along the sidewalk; the gentle hand opening the door that turns toward want and woe, sickness and sorrow, and thus lighting the dark places of earth.”

(Mary Baker Eddy, Prose Works, Misc. Writings, p.250)