

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2017

*SUBJECT*—EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT

*GOLDEN TEXT:* PSALM 103 : 17

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*“The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children.”*

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RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 103 : 6, 11-13, 18, 20**

- 6. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.
- 11. For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
- 12. As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
- 13. Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him.
- 18. To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.
- 20. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

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*This Bible Lesson was prepared by Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. It is composed of Scriptural Quotations from the King James Bible and Correlative Passages from the Christian Science textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.*

## LESSON SERMON

### *The Bible*

#### **1. Jeremiah 31 : 3**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

#### **2. Psalm 51 : 1, 2, 6, 7, 10-13, 15**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

<sup>13</sup> *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

#### **3. John 8 : 1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

<sup>3</sup> And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

- 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
- 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
- 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.
- 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.
- 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
- 9 And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
- 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?
- 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.
- 4. John 3 : 17, 19-21**
- 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.
- 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.
- 5. I John 3 : 18-24**
- 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
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- 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
- 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
- 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.
- 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
- 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.
- 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**6. Romans 8 : 1, 2, 28, 31, 35, 37-39**

- 1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
- 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
- 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**7. Revelation 12 : 10, 11 (to ;)**

<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;

**8. Revelation 22 : 3-5**

<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

<sup>4</sup> And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup> And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

***Science and Health***

**1. 6 : 3-5**

Divine Love corrects and governs man. Men may pardon, but this divine Principle alone reforms the sinner.

**2. 384 : 6-8 (to 1st ,)**

God never punishes man for doing right, for honest labor, or for deeds of kindness,

**3. 385 : 11-18**

Let us remember that the eternal law of right, though it can never annul the law which makes sin its own executioner, exempts man from all penalties but those due for wrong-doing.

Constant toil, deprivations, exposures, and all untoward conditions, *if without sin*, can be experienced without suffering. Whatever it is your duty to do, you can do without harm to yourself.

**4. 230 : 11-18**

It would be contrary to our highest ideas of God to suppose Him capable of first arranging law and causation so as to bring about certain evil results, and then punishing the helpless victims of His volition for doing what they could not avoid doing. Good is not, cannot be, the author of experimental sins. God, good, can no more produce sickness than goodness can cause evil and health occasion disease.

**5. 430 : 13-30**

I here present to my readers an allegory illustrative of the law of divine Mind and of the supposed laws of matter and hygiene, an allegory in which the plea of Christian Science heals the sick.

Suppose a mental case to be on trial, as cases are tried in court. A man is charged with having committed liver-complaint. The patient feels ill, ruminates, and the trial commences. Personal Sense is the plaintiff. Mortal Man is the defendant. False Belief is the attorney for Personal Sense. Mortal Minds, Materia Medica, Anatomy, Physiology, Hypnotism, Envy, Greed and Ingratitude, constitute the jury. The courtroom is filled with interested spectators, and Judge Medicine is on the bench.

The evidence for the prosecution being called for, a witness testifies thus: —

I represent Health-laws. I was present on certain nights when the prisoner, or patient, watched with a sick friend.

**6. 431 : 4-12**

When the sick mortal was thirsty, the prisoner gave him drink. During all this time the prisoner attended to his daily labors, partaking of food at irregular intervals, sometimes going to sleep immediately after a heavy meal. At last he committed liver-complaint, which I considered criminal, inasmuch as this offence is deemed punishable with death. Therefore I arrested Mortal Man in behalf of the state (namely, the body) and cast him into prison.

**7. 432 : 16-19**

The Judge asks if by doing good to his neighbor, it is possible for man to become diseased, transgress the laws, and merit punishment, and Governor Mortality replies in the affirmative.

**8. 433 : 1-7, 18-24, 31-3**

The testimony for the plaintiff, Personal Sense, being closed, Judge Medicine arises, and with great solemnity addresses the jury of Mortal Minds. He analyzes the offence, reviews the testimony, and explains the law relating to liver-complaint. His conclusion is, that laws of nature render disease homicidal.

Judge Medicine then proceeds to pronounce the solemn sentence of death upon the prisoner. Because he has loved his neighbor as himself, Mortal Man has been guilty of benevolence in the first degree, and this has led him into the commission of the second crime, liver-complaint, which material laws condemn as homicide.

Ah! but Christ, Truth, the spirit of Life and the friend of Mortal Man, can open wide those prison doors and set the captive free. Swift on the wings of divine Love, there comes a despatch: "Delay the execution; the prisoner is not guilty."

**9. 434 : 8-11, 15-28**

After much debate and opposition, permission is obtained for a trial in the Court of Spirit, where Christian Science is allowed to appear as counsel for the unfortunate prisoner.

When the case for Mortal Man *versus* Personal Sense is opened, Mortal Man's counsel regards the prisoner with the utmost tenderness. The counsel's earnest, solemn eyes, kindling with hope and triumph, look upward. Then Christian Science turns suddenly to the supreme tribunal, and opens the argument for the defence: —

The prisoner at the bar has been unjustly sentenced. His trial was a tragedy, and is morally illegal. Mortal Man has had no proper counsel in the case. All the testimony has been on the side of Personal Sense, and we shall unearth this foul conspiracy against the liberty and life of Man. The only valid testimony in the case shows the alleged crime never to have been committed.

**10. 435 : 8-10, 19-23**

Mortal Man, in obedience to higher law, helped his fellowman, an act which should result in good to himself as well as to others.

Watching beside the couch of pain in the exercise of a love that "is the fulfilling of the law," — doing "unto others as ye would that they should do unto you," — this is no infringement of law, for no demand, human or divine, renders it just to punish a man for acting justly.

**11. 436 : 13-14**

Such acts bear their own justification, and are under the protection of the Most High.

**12. 441 : 11-12, 33-15**

Let what False Belief utters, now and forever, fall into oblivion, "unknelled, uncoffined, and unknown."

We have no trials for sickness before the tribunal of divine Spirit. There, Man is adjudged innocent of transgressing physical laws, because there are no such laws. Our statute is spiritual, our Government is divine. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The Jury of Spiritual Senses agreed at once upon a verdict, and there resounded throughout the vast audience-chamber of Spirit the cry, Not guilty. Then the prisoner rose up regenerated, strong, free. We noticed, as he shook hands with his counsel, Christian Science, that all sallowness and debility had disappeared. His form was erect and commanding, his countenance beaming with health and happiness. Divine Love had cast out fear. Mortal Man, no longer sick and in prison, walked forth, his feet "beautiful upon the mountains," as of one "that bringeth good tidings."

**13. 568 : 13-17, 24-30**

*Revelation* xii. 10 - 12. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

For victory over a single sin, we give thanks and magnify the Lord of Hosts. What shall we say of the mighty conquest over all sin? A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her primal and everlasting strain.

## **THE DAILY DUTIES**

by Mary Baker Eddy

### **Daily Prayer**

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: "Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

*Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 4*

### **A Rule for Motives and Acts**

Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church. In Science, divine Love alone governs man; and a Christian Scientist reflects the sweet amenities of Love, in rebuking sin, in true brotherliness, charitableness, and forgiveness. The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously.

*Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 1*

### **Alertness to Duty**

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.

*Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6*