

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28, 2018

SUBJECT—PROBATION AFTER DEATH

GOLDEN TEXT: REVELATION 21 : 3, 4

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God; and there shall be no more death.”

RESPONSIVE READING: **Colossians 3 : 1-4, 12-15, 24**

1. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
3. Your life is hid with Christ in God.
4. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
12. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.
14. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.
24. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

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. Psalm 119 : 89

⁸⁹ For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

2. Psalm 139 : 23, 24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

3. Psalm 119 : 155-157, 159, 160

¹⁵⁵ Salvation *is* far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.

¹⁵⁶ Great *are* thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.

¹⁵⁷ Many *are* my persecutors and mine enemies; *yet* do I not decline from thy testimonies.

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

¹⁶⁰ Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

4. Ecclesiastes 11 : 3 (in), 10 (to :)

³ ...in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

¹⁰ Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh:

5. Micah 4 : 1

¹ But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

6. John 12 : 1 (to 1st), 7 (to), 23 (The hour)-26, 28-32, 35 (Walk), 36 (to 1st .)

1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany,

7 Then said Jesus,

23 ...The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

35 ...Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.

7. Revelation 1 : 1 (to ;)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;

8. Revelation 15 : 1 (to ;), 4, 5, 8

1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues;

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou only art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

9. Revelation 20 : 11-14 (to 1st .)

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

10. I Corinthians 15 : 12, 34, 35, 38, 42, 54-58

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

35 But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

- 42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
- 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
- 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?
- 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.
- 57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Science and Health

1. 258 : 13-15, 26-27

God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis.

To him belongs eternal Life.

2. 240 : 10-11

In the order of Science, in which the Principle is above what it reflects, all is one grand concord.

3. 239 : 29-30

The perfect Mind sends forth perfection, for God is Mind.

4. 254 : 6-8

God requires perfection, but not until the battle between Spirit and flesh is fought and the victory won.

5. 241 : 13-14, 19-30

The Bible teaches transformation of the body by the renewal of Spirit.

The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin. Our Master said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

One's aim, a point beyond faith, should be to find the footsteps of Truth, the way to health and holiness. We should strive to reach the Horeb height where God is revealed; and the cornerstone of all spiritual building is purity. The baptism of Spirit, washing the body of all the impurities of flesh, signifies that the pure in heart see God and are approaching spiritual Life and its demonstration.

6. 233 : 1-7

Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. These proofs consist solely in the destruction of sin, sickness, and death by the power of Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them. This is an element of progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.

7. 290 : 3-10, 12 (Truth)-15, 25-31

If the Principle, rule, and demonstration of man's being are not in the least understood before what is termed death overtakes mortals, they will rise no higher spiritually in the scale of existence on account of that single experience, but will remain as material as before the transition, still seeking happiness through a material, instead of through a spiritual sense of life, and from selfish and inferior motives. ... Truth comes to destroy this error and its effects, — sickness, sin, and death. To the spiritual class, relates the Scripture: "On such the second death hath no power."

To be wholly spiritual, man must be sinless, and he becomes thus only when he reaches perfection. The murderer, though slain in the act, does not thereby forsake sin. He is no more spiritual for believing that his body died and learning that his cruel mind died not. His thoughts are no purer until evil is disarmed by good.

8. 296 : 4 (Progress)-21

Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense and self. The old man with his deeds must be put off. Nothing sensual or sinful is immortal. The death of a false material sense and of sin, not the death of organic matter, is what reveals man and Life, harmonious, real, and eternal.

The so-called pleasures and pains of matter perish, and they must go out under the blaze of Truth, spiritual sense, and the actuality of being. Mortal belief must lose all satisfaction in error and sin in order to part with them.

Whether mortals will learn this sooner or later, and how long they will suffer the pangs of destruction, depends upon the tenacity of error.

9. 291 : 12-31

Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them. Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal, because sin is not there and man is found having no righteousness of his own, but in possession of "the mind of the Lord," as the Scripture says.

"In the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." So we read in Ecclesiastes. This text has been transformed into the popular proverb, "As the tree falls, so it must lie." As man falleth asleep, so shall he awake. As death findeth mortal man, so shall he be after death, until probation and growth shall effect the needed change. Mind never becomes dust. No resurrection from the grave awaits Mind or Life, for the grave has no power over either.

No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment-day of wisdom comes hourly and continually, even the judgment by which mortal man is divested of all material error.

10. 495 : 25-31

Question. — How can I progress most rapidly in the understanding of Christian Science?

Answer. — Study thoroughly the letter and imbibe the spirit. Adhere to the divine Principle of Christian Science and follow the behests of God, abiding steadfastly in wisdom, Truth, and Love.

11. 496 : 9 (We)-13, 20-27

We all must learn that Life is God. Ask yourself: Am I living the life that approaches the supreme good? Am I demonstrating the healing power of Truth and Love? If so, then the way will grow brighter "unto the perfect day."

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law," — the law of mortal belief, at war with the facts of immortal Life, even with the spiritual law which says to the grave, "Where is thy victory?" But "when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

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