

The
CORNERSTONE
of
**Independent
Christian Science**

*“The stone which the builders rejected
is become the head of the corner.”*

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Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

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Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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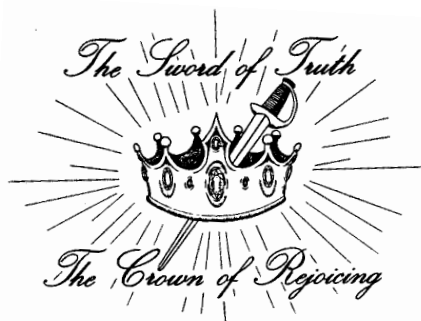
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Unfettered by institutional religion

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from various writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

(It is noteworthy that the following is the first paragraph of the Preface to Miscellaneous Writings:)

A certain apothegm of a Talmudical philosopher suits my sense of doing good. It reads thus: “The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms.”

Miscellaneous Writings

Instead of relying on the Principle of all that really exists, — to govern His own creation, — self-conceit, ignorance, and pride would regulate God’s action. Experience shows that humility is the first step in Christian Science, wherein all is controlled, not by man or laws material, but by wisdom, Truth, and Love.

Miscellaneous Writings

When will we all be anything but poor and naked and hungry? I thirst, I hunger daily for the living God, for such an active power of Love as will touch every child of His with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, faith, meekness, temperance. God bless you all, my little children. Be strong in Love, the bond of perfectness; forgive everyone his trespasses. “Be kindly affectioned one to another, in brotherly love preferring one another,” are Paul’s words. Do not doubt the talents God has given you, but use them in meekness.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

The Way of Salvation

Mary Baker Eddy

How pitiful would be our fate if it were impossible for us to work out our own salvation! The belief that it is easier to make unreal the trouble of another than to rise above *discord* in our own experience is complete reversal of the truth about the way of salvation. To believe this is to check progress and paralyze all righteous effort, and that, of course, is the purpose of suggestion.

When we understand that the one business of evil is to lie, and assiduously to urge us to believe that lie, when we understand that the Christian Scientist's business is to know enough about God and man to enable him to refute that lie, then all claims of evil will appear to be what they are in the ultimate analysis, *nothing*, and we shall find the task of refusing to believe no more arduous in one instance than in any other.

As I am the reflection of Life, which is the only intelligence and action, I am always acting, and never acted upon by fear, anxiety, discouragement, thought transference, nor any other claim of evil. The action and intelligence which I express lead me to see the right way in everything.

God never fails to be expressed through His ideas, and nothing can limit God's expression. Your mentality is the expression of God. The source of intelligence is infinite and flows on abundantly through you, and your only responsibility is to listen in consciousness and Mind will do it all. There is no place where the Saviour, the Truth, is not working. It is working with you, and with all connected with you. Intelligence is at the helm and carries with it all action. No material condition ever stopped the flow of substance from divine Mind.

Essays and Other Footprints

The Noblest Charity

Gary Singleterry

It is noteworthy that Mary Baker Eddy begins the preface to her book *Miscellaneous Writings* with this quote: “The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms.”

What is this charity that prevents a man from accepting charity? First and foremost, it is a positive expectancy that every man, woman and child has the inherent God-given ability to be self-sufficient. From the very first chapter of Genesis, God gave man “dominion over the fish of the sea, . . . and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” This positive expectation, that the image and likeness of God has dominion over his circumstances, is a fundamental point in Christian Science. Does this sound unreasonably optimistic? Jesus implored his followers to “be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father, which is in heaven, is perfect.” Perfection leaves no room for imperfection of any kind. Jesus would not have told his followers to be perfect if it were not possible!

The “noblest charity” requires that we have this expectation toward our fellow man. All too often, those who help the poor do so out of a sense of guilt. The act of giving may assuage their guilt for the moment, but if it stops there, it does nothing to improve the situation. Only the love that lifts a man out of his belief in poverty improves the situation, thus leaving both better off than they were. There is a proverbial saying: “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat every day.” What is the nobler charity? To give a man a fish or to lend him a fishing pole and teach him how to fish? If I give a man a fish, believing that he is a miserable mortal with handicaps

that cannot be overcome, or without the skills necessary to survive in this world, then I have done him no good. And if I leave him with a false sense of entitlement, then I have harmed him and society. In I Corinthians we read, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, . . . and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

The noblest charity is to accept no restriction or limitation of any kind for anyone. Yes, we help those in need. Yes, we feed the hungry and comfort the heart. But we do so while lifting them up out of their belief of limitation to where they can realize their full potential as the image of their Maker.

Jesus serves as our example. He healed many infirmities thought to be permanent, giving them a new lease on life, both spiritually and physically. Peter and John pulled up the invalid so that he could walk and care for himself.

This is the healing power of Christian Science. It requires the conviction that each one of us is, in Truth, the image and likeness of a perfect God. Mrs. Eddy describes this truth in our textbook, *Science and Health*: "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick. Thus Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is intact, universal, and that man is pure and holy."

This correct view of our fellow man is the noblest charity.



Individuality

Herbert Eustace

America is the highest expression of individuality. All this subtle attempt appearing as relief, pensioning — having something done for you, is the attempt to turn man from looking unreservedly to God. It is the stuff the mediumship of priestcraft is made of, only in this case it is the mediumship of political priestcraft.

Communism, Naziism, Fascism, Kemalism, etc., together with the New Deal, are all for the one purpose of eventually destroying individualism.

In this country, the attack upon individuality comes in a more subtle form, cloaking itself under the guise of benevolence. Had it not been for the Supreme Court of the United States, might we not be regimented today, marching under bureaucratic commands from Washington? Be on your guard if something intrudes itself between you and God. Present methods of relief, old age pensions, etc., are all forms of this effort to supplant God, and in the end would have all looking to Washington instead of to Mind. To person instead of to Principle.

Jesus gave the true illustration of God's way. He was the way, the truth and the life. Did he not have everything? He had the supper prepared for his disciples, he had the money for the taxes from the fish's mouth, and he fed the multitude by means of Mind, not by governmental largess. "Give to Mind the glory, honor, dominion, and power everlastingly due its holy name." (S&H) If we did that, would we not have the answer?



Easter — Resurrection

Mary Baker Eddy

We must be resurrected, must put off the old man and put on the new.

If you dress for Easter, your clothes are all in keeping — are clean. You do not put on some clean ones and some soiled ones. Neither can you put on part of the new man and part of the old; you must put on the whole of the new man — the spiritual idea.

If you put a new patch on an old garment, you still have the old garment. There is a time when you take off your old garments before you put on the new. Now if we patch up this body, try to make a better eye, a better limb, etc., we are not putting on the new.

We want to say: eye, you cannot talk to me, I have put you off. Rise to the spiritual sense, then your body will respond; then take no thought what you eat, your clothes, etc., for your heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of these things. This is the resurrection. The resurrection is not to be resurrected from matter — dust. There never was any life in matter to be resurrected. The resurrection is seeing the real man that was never in matter; he never was sick to be made well. That is the way I did the healing. I never saw the material man before me, but the real man, perfect, and this healed instantaneously, and no relapse. This is the way Jesus healed, as in S.&H. it reads, “Jesus beheld the perfect man,” etc. This is the resurrection.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea



“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Christian Science is dynamic. It is alert, alive, pulsating with the power, presence, and the intelligence of divine Love.

Bicknell Young

All the misery of the world is due to ignorance of God. All its sorrow, sickness, resentment, crime, oppression, deception, and glamour, can be cured and wiped away through the spiritual understanding of God.

William D. McCrackan

All that is needed in the world is Love, not merely loving, which is wonderful, but Love itself. If you really love a person, see him as never material. The nothingness of materiality in Love is the only real way to handle anything.

Bicknell Young

Whoever is the servant of good is the master of evil.

Violet Ker Seymer

Since God is All, there is nothing for evil to be.

Rosanna Woodard



Tranquility of Temperament

Peter V. Ross

Temperament has as direct a relationship to health as it has to happiness. There is no mystery here, even when health is appraised as a bodily condition; for is not the body directed by thought?

Tensity of temperament restricts mental processes and retards organic action, while genuine tranquility ex-

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presses that unlabored flow of divine energy that shines forth in clarity of intellect and buoyancy of movement.

The stern, frightened, sorrowful attitude causes a tightened figure and obstructed activity, bringing permanent decrepitude over the years, if not remedied. Yet every individual has it within his power to cultivate poise, cheerfulness, charity, geniality. These make for action, not inaction; for virility, not infirmity; for life unfettered and uncontaminated. They speak in the elastic step, the beaming countenance, the generous consideration for others.

Mrs. Eddy reminds us, "A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and soul in accord with God." (Mis.)

Making a reality of evil develops a rigidity of disposition calculated to incapacitate the person. Christian Science insists that since divine Principle is omnipotent, evil is a false belief, an illusion of personal sense, not an actuality, not any part of true being. A person may make evil real in one of two ways: first, he may pursue a wrong course himself — in which case, he has only to change his purpose and act wholesomely, for sin is not a permanent thing. It is an error of thought, chastised so long as persisted in, forgiven and destroyed when corrected.

Secondly, one may get unduly exercised over the appearance of evil in others. But evil is not genuine. Why then get so noisy and intense about it? As Mrs. Eddy says, Why "stand aghast at nothingness"? (S&H) Delinquencies are to be silenced and corrected in the way Science provides. They should not furnish occasion for indignation, righteous or otherwise. It has been observed from old that the self-righteous dig pits for themselves.

“Feed My Sheep”

The discerning man, realizing that annoying or exasperating qualities are but impersonal projections of evil into daily affairs, refuses to attach them to himself or to others, refuses to be provoked by them, refuses to dignify them with place or actuality.

An individual's attitude towards externals makes a vast difference in their reaction on him. For example, a person in the quiet of his office, with little thought beyond his own personal interests, may be driven almost frantic by the noise of a nearby riveting machine in operation, while to his companion, awake to humanity's problems, the jarring notes may take on a joyful sound, because they indicate business growth and prosperity.

So it is generally. One person may take in the chafing, fretful incidents occurring in daily affairs, until "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." Another, tempering his thought with love for mankind, and taking on the responsibilities of existence, may immunize himself to these distractions, as well as the selfishness of mortals, until he is scarcely moved by such aggravations. *That* man is equipped to make the world better.



Expressing Divine Intelligence

Martha Wilcox

There is an insistent demand that we as human beings express a higher and more active intelligence. We are intelligent humans only as we express divine Intelligence. And in the measure that we express divine Intelligence, we are not human beings, but are divine beings.

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As the facts of divine Intelligence are better understood, there takes place a great uncovering of the false beliefs in the so-called human mind, and a corresponding desire to free itself from its self-imposed materiality and bondage.

One of the first false beliefs of the human mind to be uncovered is that all seeming troubles are not outside of us, but are wholly within the human mind. These seeming troubles are purely mental — never physical — they are never apart nor outside the human mind. Another false belief that is being uncovered is that the multitudinous troubles of the human mind are not personal troubles, but are deflections of reality.

Take, for example, the mental agitations and disturbances we often experience when confronted with some unpleasant circumstance. These false emotions are not personal but are the deflections of the one and only emotion of divine Intelligence. And when we correct our thought in regard to them, we must know that they are deflections only, and never facts of divine Intelligence.

Mrs. Eddy once said to a group of us that we should never permit ourselves to react with intensity to every unpleasant thing. She meant that we should so discipline our individual thought with the truth of being, until we could stand in the presence of seeming error, mentally unmoved and steadfast in our faith in divine Intelligence. And why should we be moved by that which is deflection only? Mrs. Eddy says in the foreword to *First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany*, “intelligent thinking untainted by the emotionalism which is largely self-glorification — is a reasonable service which all Christian Scientists can render their Leader.”

“Comfort Ye My People”

Gird up your strength in Christian Science, and know what you believe, and understand omnipotence just a little, and you will be impervious to evil.

Mary Baker Eddy

When you find yourself face to face with serious or threatening conditions, or when the situation seems desperate, remember what God is. Remember in that instant that God is far nearer and more available than any human sense of persons or things.

Bicknell Young

In the face of every belief or argument of error which would claim to restrict your activity, you may remember the promise in the Bible: “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

Bicknell Young



Sorrow Not the Master of Joy

Albert F. Gilmore

Mary Baker Eddy has written, “This is the doctrine of Christian Science: that divine Love cannot be deprived of its manifestation, or object; that joy cannot be turned into sorrow, for sorrow is not the master of joy; that good can never produce evil; that matter can never produce mind nor life result in death.” (S&H)

When we learn that Life is eternal and indestructible, the hopelessness of sorrow disappears. Sorrow and grief result from the belief that we are lacking some form of

good. This is a false, limited sense of good, and its antidote is the fact that since God is infinite, good is eternal and ever present.

As we gain the true sense of existence — that God is infinite Love and can never be absent; that man is the offspring of divine Love, coexistent and coeternal with God; that man is forever in his rightful place, his life eternally “hid with Christ in God,” where no slightest phase of error can ever penetrate; that evil, error, whatever its claim, is wholly unreal and powerless to harm or to deprive us of any form of good — such understanding cannot fail to turn sorrow and grief into gladness and rejoicing, even to shut out the seeming enemies to joy so completely that sorrow may never enter.

Knowledge of God is a sure protection from the shadows of sorrow that would attend the seeming departure of a dear one. God’s bounty of good is never lessened or depleted, and the expression of good necessary to our happiness can never be taken away. The channels of Love are never closed; God’s goodness is forever. With this understanding firmly grasped, we may prove our Leader’s words that, indeed, sorrow is never the master of joy.



“Thou Turnst My Mourning Into Praise”

Carol Conroy

In everything that comes up in life, we have a choice to either trust God and exercise our God-given dominion, or to crumble before it and become a victim.

One of the most difficult situations to deal with is the

“Comfort Ye My People”

loss of a loved one. My husband passed on recently. At first I felt devastated — but I soon realized that I had a decision to make: Do I believe what I’ve learned in Christian Science or not? Do I really believe that life is eternal and can never end? Do I “trust God’s disposal of events”? Do I really believe that I am a complete idea of God, that my husband and I are both God’s children, and that it’s God who has provided for our every need? Then it’s time to prove it!

I remembered a wonderful article in the CornerStone (No. 140), written by a student of Mr. Eustace, in which the author’s husband passed on, but came back long enough to tell her that there is no death — that he hadn’t gone anywhere and was still there with her. And I also remembered reading of an instance when Mrs. Eddy was talking to someone who had lost a loved one, and told them that she could see their loved one, and that she was right there in the room with them, standing at the bookcase. That was what I felt in my heart was the truth, and all sadness and fear disappeared. I truly feel my husband hasn’t gone anywhere.

Well-meaning friends and co-workers would ask, “How are you?” I’d answer, “Fine, thanks, how are you?” They’d reply, “No, I mean how are you *really*?” So I finally began to tell them that I knew I had a choice to make: I can either feel sorry for myself and spend the rest of my life wallowing in self-pity, or I can choose to get on with life — and *that’s* what I choose to do! The questions stopped.

And then Christmas came. Some friends said very sympathetically, “Oh, I know it’s going to be hard for you.” So I told them that I expect this to be a wonderful time, just like every other Christmas. And it was.

I’ve realized that this situation does not define me. I’m still me, and my husband is still himself. I know that he’s

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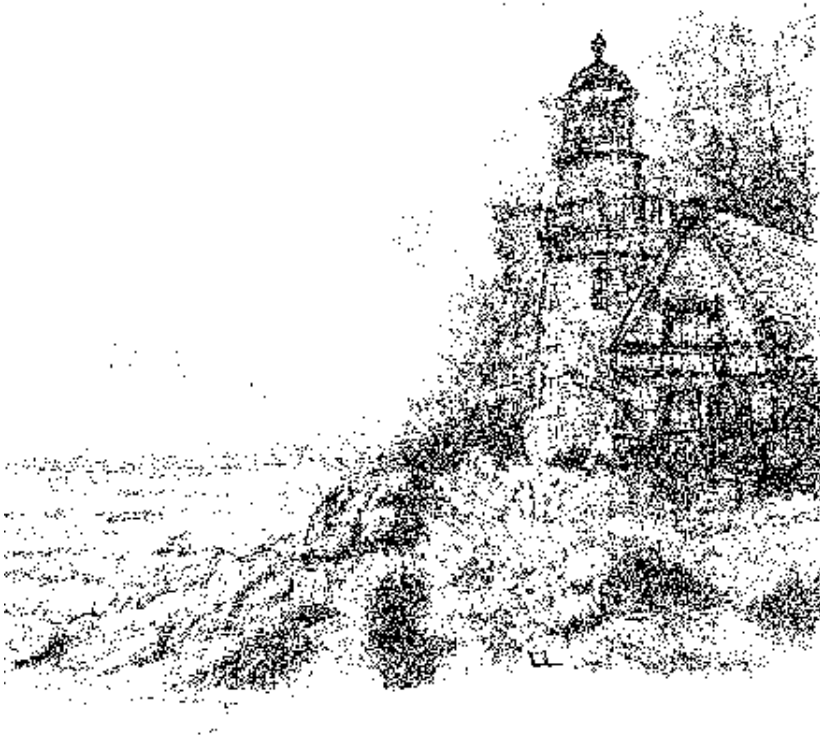
working for God where he is, as I'm doing here. And I've learned many things during this time. One is to immediately challenge error coming at me as human sympathy. As an early worker said, "Be so instant in Truth that error is always too late." I also realized that any time I felt a sense of sadness and grief, that was mental malpractice and I needed to handle it as just that, and to know this is not my thinking! As I persistently did this, the grief would disappear immediately. Negative feelings are malpractice — wrong practice — and may come either when someone is thinking sympathetically of us, or because of world belief that says we're "supposed" to feel sad and grieve. But that's not what God says! Peace, joy, and happiness are part of our very being, and are not dependent upon any person.

I am very grateful for a Plainfield practitioner, who was a wonderful support to me as I worked through this. Several co-workers have referred to me using the term "inspiration." But isn't that what we're all here for, to inspire others to turn to God to find healing and comfort? I love to sing Hymn No. 134 that begins, "I look to Thee in every need, and never look in vain," and ends with "Thou turnst my mourning into praise." That is the truth!



Do not have any regrets, but press on. There is no use in looking backward. The present moment is always all there is. Live in it, or rather, avail yourself of it to the fullest extent by realizing the omnipotence of Good. You will find, step by step, that all things will work out satisfactorily, just in the measure that you are faithful.

Bicknell Young



Look Ahead!

Sometimes the way seems dark and drear —
No need to fret, there's nothing to fear.
Just up ahead a bright light is shining,
Showing the way to a heavenly, silver lining.

Lillian Linnell

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. These watching points were written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."

Watching Point No. 93

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest your anticipation of future good tend to nullify your present effort. The successful in this world are not those who waste time in the present by looking forward perhaps to receiving an inheritance. One should face the fact that he will have in the future exactly what he works for now.

This same proposition should be held as true in the mental realm. The metaphysician's effort is to level the valleys of regret in the past, and the mountains of anticipation, so that his work is seen to lie wholly in the eternal now.

Christian Science exposes the error of future anticipation, showing that time fulfills none of its promises to bring blessings. Mrs. Eddy calls time a mortal divisor, and declares that we must take advantage of time, not let time take advantage of us. We should make use of it in the sense that it will be the alchemy that turns present right effort into right results.

Future expectation has been defined as the scourge of mortal life, and there is a danger of bringing this curse into Christian Science. It is a curse because it tricks one into placing his blessings where he cannot reach them. No man can manifest or experience heaven so long as he considers that it lies in the future. Behold, *now* is the accepted time. Behold, *now* is the time to realize that tomorrow holds

Watching Points

nothing that cannot be found in today. Let us accept as a present reality the blessings which now belong to man as a gift of God, blessings which mortal mind can only anticipate, and hence never attain.



Time

Martha Wilcox

Let us consider “time.” One often feels that next week or next year he will have more good than he has today. It is an easy thing to think that an abundance of good might come in the future, but it is rather hard to understand the fact that good is at hand now. But if I can receive a certain good next week or next year, I have been receiving the same good for a thousand years.

Eternity is here and at hand, “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” What is called a day, a month, a year, is merely the human concept of indivisible eternity. To the material senses we have “time,” but we should be losing the sense of “time” through our higher understanding of eternity.



Why search the future and the past?
Why do ye look with tearful eyes
And seek far off for paradise?
Before your feet Life's pearl is cast.

Charles H. Barlow

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

Christian Science Culture? God Forbid!

Andrew Kidd

“Culture: The set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution, organization, or group.” – *Webster*

The magnificence of Christian Science is that it is divine, not human. It is based upon revelation and reason, but depends not at all on empirical evidence, as Isaiah prophesied: “he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.” But when one takes up the study and practice of this Science, he is warned by Christ Jesus: “Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” Those who ignore this admonition are liable to sink into what we call the Christian Science “culture,” a humanization of the Science that Christ Jesus demonstrated, and therefore a humanization of the Christ!

How might we recognize this blasphemous “culture?” When one introduces himself as a third or fourth generation Christian Scientist, a student of so-and-so, or perhaps a graduate of Principia College, he is suggesting that, based on this, he has some stature. “He that seeketh aught besides God, loseth in Life, Truth, and Love. . . . Human pride is human weakness. Self-knowledge, humility, and love are divine strength.” (Misc.)

Another indication that this “culture” is in residence is the habitual quoting from the textbook, a quote for every occasion. You will find this one actually thinks in Christian Science “jargon,” making him unable to communicate from the heart! To the sufferer in need, this parroting puts a stone on the heart, for it buries “the morale of Christian

Breaking Down Misconceptions

Science in the grave-clothes of its letter.” The textbook provides the antidote: “The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them . . .” — the simplicity that is in Christ.

Finally, the “culture” carries with it a desire, above all, to show the world that “I have no problems because I am a Christian Scientist.” This state of thought is very uncomfortable when confronted with another’s problem, and extremely fearful at the prospect of having one that others might see. Evidenced from her writings, Mary Baker Eddy observed this mockery of Christian Science and fiercely rebuked it:

“Substituting good words for a good life, fair-seeming for straightforward character, mental malpractice for the practice of true medicine, is a poor shift for the weak and worldly who think the standard of Christian Science too high for them. It is important to know that a malpractice of the best system will result in the worst form of medicine. Moreover, the feverish, disgusting pride of those who call themselves metaphysicians or Scientists, — but are such in name only, — fanned by the breath of mental malpractice, is the death’s-head at the feast of Truth; the monkey in harlequin jacket that will retard the onward march of life-giving Science, if not understood and withstood, and so strangled in its attempts.” (Misc.)

Because this Science is divine and not human, we dare not become “familiar” with it: “The professors of Christian Science must take off their shoes at our altars; they must unclasp the material sense of things at the very threshold of Christian Science: they must obey implicitly each and every injunction of the divine Principle of life’s long problem, or repeat their work in tears.” (Misc.)

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The time for thinkers has come. Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity. Contentment with the past and the cold conventionality of materialism are crumbling away. Ignorance of God is no longer the stepping-stone to faith. (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy

As individual Christian Scientists, we need a greater love for God and a greater love for man in our hearts in order that our sublime life-purpose may be carried out into effect. Each one of us has a sublime task to perform. We should so live, and so love, that God or Truth is made comprehensible to us, and that we may hear His voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." (Isa.)

Martha Wilcox, Addresses

Nothing is more antagonistic to Christian Science than a blind belief without understanding, for such a belief hides Truth and builds on error. (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy

We, as workers in Christian Science, should have the conscious sense of the substance and allness of Spirit, and a consequent realization of the unreality of matter, and the unreality of a material personality. Without such a realization we do not fulfill the metaphysical requirements.

Martha Wilcox, Addresses

We know God is proving the allness and might of infinite Love, Life and Truth. The only satisfaction is knowing God, and we are learning Him. The only growth is knowing God — God with us.

*Edward A. Kimball
Teaching and Addresses*



Announcements

Audio Recordings of Science and Health

We are happy to announce that we are producing audio recordings of Science and Health on CD. On them, Science and Health is beautifully and understandingly read by Andrew Kidd, who served as Reader in Plainfield Church for ten years. His experience and great love for Mary Baker Eddy and her revelation makes for a powerful listening experience, even for those familiar with the textbook. The cost is \$7.00 per CD, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

Christian Science in Germany

We have published a newly typeset version of the inspiring book, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN GERMANY, by Frances Thurber Seal, in paperback form. This book tells of her experience in bringing Christian Science to Germany in 1897. She had found Christian Science less than a year before, and didn't speak a word of German. Yet through her love and faithfulness to God, she was able to bring Christian Science to Germany, teaching classes to people from all over Europe. The price is \$6.00.

Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons

The Plainfield Church produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8 1/2 x 11 inch booklet contains the full-text Lessons for one month. It fits easily within a briefcase or large purse. This offers a convenient, attractive alternative to carrying your marked lesson books when traveling. Each one-month issue is \$7.00, a 3-month subscription is \$19.00, a 6-month subscription is \$36.00, and a 12-month subscription is \$65.00, within the USA; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Church Services Available by Phone

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can now be

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heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and would like to listen to our services live, contact Plainfield Church for dial-in information. You will be provided with a toll-free phone number, and a pass code. This will connect you to a teleconference service which broadcasts our services at the time they are being held. Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday services 8:15 p.m. The services are preceded by 5-10 minutes of music, and you are invited to dial in early to hear this prelude. If you miss a live service, recordings can also be accessed through this teleconference service.

Our adult Roundtable is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the Roundtable.

Testimonies Given by Phone

Anyone from out of town is now able, through our teleconference feature, to give a testimony live during our Wednesday services from their telephone. If you are interested, please contact the church for the toll-free phone number, code, and instructions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Live Services on the Internet

Have you heard our live services on the Internet? Plainfield Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday adult class, live on the Internet. Recorded versions of these services are available on our Web site at any time. Just log on to plainfieldcs.com, and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

Web Site

Our Web site, plainfieldcs.com, is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post com-

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ments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

Plainfield Independent Quarterly

The Plainfield Church publishes its own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, based entirely on the Bible and Science and Health. A one-year subscription costs \$11.00. A single issue costs \$5.00. Subscriptions to overseas and Canada cost \$19.00.

CornerStone Subscriptions

The CornerStone is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The subscription rate to the U.S.A. is \$20.00 for one year. Single copies cost \$5.00. One-year subscriptions to Canada cost \$27.00, and international \$35.00.

Plainfield Independent Newsletter

The Plainfield Church Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is available to members of Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, free of charge.

Bicknell Young: Collected Writings

Collected Writings by Bicknell Young is one of our church's most popular publications. Due to widespread demand, the Plainfield Church has reissued this collection of Mr. Young's most outstanding writings on Christian Science. Included for the first time in this new edition is Mr. Young's article, Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice.

Collected Writings is bound in a blue leather-like cover. The price is \$15.00, with free postage within the United States.

New Members Are Welcome!

Do you love Christian Science, and wish to see it prosper and go forward? Then we invite you most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Its Clear, Correct Teaching and Complete Writings by Herbert W. Eustace C.S.B.

This book is now available through the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. It is an invaluable study aid for advancing students of Christian Science, containing many of the articles written by Mr. Eustace during his practice and teaching of Christian Science.

Mr. Eustace graduated from the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in 1902 with the degree of C.S.B., signed by Mrs. Eddy and Mr. Edward Kimball. After that, Mr. Eustace served the Christian Science movement faithfully for many years, as Trustee of the Christian Science Publishing Society, practitioner, and teacher of Christian Science well into the 1930s.

The following paragraphs, handwritten by Mr. Eustace, were left on his desk as his last written word (December 9, 1957):

"Mrs. Eddy gave two very important directions to every Christian Scientist before saying good-bye; in fact they were more than directions, they were commands and demanded imperative obedience. The one was to call disease animal magnetism as the specific term for error or mortal mind, and then handle animal magnetism. And the other was that Christian Scientists are not healing because they do not know how to handle animal magnetism.

"Here is a challenge to you. Do you not know how to handle animal magnetism? If not, why not; and from this moment let your every intent be to know how to handle animal magnetism and then do it; and heal the sick intelligently and instantaneously, which is the only way Christian Science does."

The book is bound in flexible red leatherette and contains 1040 pages. The price is \$27.00.

Letters from Readers

It's surely a blessing to be a member of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I send the enclosed check with heartfelt love and gratitude for all you are doing to promote the understanding and correct practice of Christian Science through your publications and website. This helpful website always teaches, inspires, uplifts, and heals. It allows us to share the Sunday and Wednesday services, live or recorded, wonderful classes, discussions, and readings.

I send special thanks to all the dear members who have participated in, or contribute in any way to, this spiritual feast you have prepared for a waiting, hungry world.

New Hampshire

Many thanks for all the uplifting things to read and listen to on the website. There is always just the right thing to meet the need, including "The Master Silversmith," which was shared Wednesday night and is so comforting. Also thanks for the wonderful music in the church service yesterday — the hymns, the chorus's "Sweet, Holy Spirit," and Peter's extra offering of "Lord, Come On In"; so enjoyable and inspired.

Virginia

Thanks to all at Plainfield Christian Science Church for the wonderful Internet outreach to the whole world.

I am so grateful for the inspiring music the organist plays before the services; it sure readies the heart to receive the service blessings.

And thanks to all the workers, the quartet, the publishing team, the Lesson writers, the Readers, the practitioners, and all who contribute their efforts to make the

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mission alive. I am expecting more to come to your doors through our own examples.

Georgia

I am so grateful to be a member of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, and for the many lessons learned from our teachers, and the many healings through the work of a practitioner.

I am grateful for the Bible class, the Roundtable, our wonderful website, the services I am able to hear over the internet, and for all the local members who pitch in to make it all happen! What a blessing to all mankind! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Arizona

Thank you, each and every one of you dear hearts, for the Roundtable (I learn so much) and the wonderful services. How blessed we are. I feel each Sunday (and also Saturday morning), with the Bible Lessons and our wonderful Wednesday evening services, that I am receiving a priceless gift from God; and believe me, my gratitude is boundless. Our weekly Lessons truly are inspired, and read with such love and clarity by our dear Readers.

Today I especially loved the quartet's rendition of one of the old beloved spirituals. I found myself laughing and crying (just like in the song). Thank you, girls and guys. You are awesome!

Illinois

Thank you for all the loving, selfless work you do for God and the Plainfield Church. I became a member years ago, and I have been blessed ever since.

Today I am especially grateful for the CornerStone magazine published by the Plainfield Church. The November 2011 issue has been particularly helpful. Each article, poem, and testimony in it is just one healing message after

Letters

another. I know (because I can feel it) that much prayer goes into every detail until one can feel God speaking to you.
California

I can't tell you how much the Plainfield Christian Science Church means to me. So often the Lessons are like they were written with me in mind. They seem to know just what I need to work on.

On the "table of contents" page of the CornerStone, I mark each item after I've read it. Beside the mark I write "excellent" beside the ones that are to be reread and studied. I find more and more, all up and down the page, is written excellent, excellent, excellent. I think everyone who reads it also feels this way.

I couldn't send this letter without mentioning the practitioners. Where would we be without them? They truly are a very present help in trouble.
Oregon

Enclosed is a donation in appreciation and gratitude for all that you do and all that you provide.

I am so grateful for God's direction to Plainfield some 8 or 9 years ago, and the loving help that one of your practitioners has given me and my family.

With loving thoughts.
Ohio

I look forward to the Bible study on Saturday. I'm learning more and more, and finding so much can be applied to our world of today.

Thank all of you and the work that contributes to the study.
Alabama

God bless you all. I really appreciate the material you sent to us. I use the calendar as my desk daily. It's great! The daily sayings are beneficial to study each day.
California

Featured Early Worker: Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr. Andrew Kidd

Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr. was instrumental in capturing and publishing the wealth of practical metaphysics that came through his father from the one precious year he served in Mary Baker Eddy's home. It is fascinating to learn that some thirty years after that experience, during which time Mr. Carpenter, Sr., worked through the many difficult-to-understand events he witnessed, he often invited a small group of interested students to his home and would share his insights. These sessions were recorded, and then transcribed and published in book form. We can imagine that Mr. Carpenter, Jr., managed the recording equipment, which had to be new technology for the time, and most likely did the lion's share of the transcribing and managing of the publishing. This would explain why the father and son are listed as authors of "Spiritual Footsteps," "Precepts," and "500 Watching Points."

But Mr. Carpenter, Jr., was a giant in his own right. He had the vision and courage to collect and preserve literature written by Mrs. Eddy and her students that was not "sanctioned" by the church hierarchy. The most popular books resulting from this labor of love are "Collectanea of Items By and About Mary Baker Eddy," and "Watches, Prayers, and Arguments given by Mary Baker Eddy." Mr. Carpenter, Jr.'s, Foreword in the latter volume is a masterpiece of instruction in "watching."

For his efforts, Mr. Carpenter, Jr., had his practitioner and teacher listings removed from the Journal by the Board of Directors. He passed on shortly thereafter. Christ Jesus' words apply to those responsible: "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he

Featured Early Worker — Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr.

should offend one of these little ones." As for Mr. Carpenter, Jr., we can be sure he passed on to glory, for he gave his life in the service of mankind, faithful to the understanding that you cannot separate Christian Science from its Discoverer any more than you can separate Christianity from Jesus.



The Widow's Mite

Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr.

The Bible states that once when Jesus beheld a certain poor widow cast two mites into the treasury of the temple, "he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasure: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." (Mark)

Jesus was not judging from a material, but from a spiritual standpoint. He saw in the woman's consciousness a quality of thought that caused him to place more value on her gift than on those of all the rest.

Christian Science shows that this simple episode involves a scientific law which, when properly applied, will heal poverty, as well as other discords. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stated, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," and again, "Give, and it shall be given unto you." As Mrs. Eddy writes, "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies. Never ask for to-morrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment." (Mis.)

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Jesus commended this woman, not because she was making a supreme human self-sacrifice, as many earnest thinkers have taught, but because she was giving according to an ever-operative divine law. Just as a small key will open the largest treasure vault, so faith, advanced to the understanding that supply is spiritual, is the key that will open "the windows of heaven."

What a joyous lesson grows out of this simple story when interpreted by Christian Science! No longer does it suggest, "Give till it hurts," but it illustrates the scientific method of giving, which enriches both giver and receiver.

Here Christian Scientists learn how to give scientifically and that the thought which accompanies one's offering is of the utmost importance. Whatever the amount may be that one has to give, it must be given as the expression of the faith that God will supply every need, the faith that understands His infinite abundance, and that is unselfish enough to give what it can today, taking no thought for the morrow. This demonstration of the spiritual law of giving will find expression also in an increasing prosperity for themselves.



I see myself as God's own child,
As perfect in His sight;
I see my brother man, as well,
A perfect child of light.
Then to complete my prayer,
I see him seeing me aright;
I see him seeing me seeing him,
As perfect in Love's sight.

*Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr.
Reprinted from Healing Thoughts No. 96*



Each Day

I live each day as it comes along,
Each hour, each moment, a prayer;
I look to God for my strength and help
And find Him everywhere.

God lives in the eternal now,
An endless forever of life,
A “peace be still” to earth’s raging seas,
A power that stills all strife.

Ah! Don’t forget that God is good
And never sends man pain;
A childlike trust is all we need,
His healing power to gain.

Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr.
Reprinted from Healing Thoughts No. 81



The Independent Lesson Forum

If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to plainfieldcs.com and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered around our weekly Lesson. The individuality of the contributors is wonderfully evident. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. It provides an opportunity to ask questions, and share with others ideas that have been revealed to you in your study. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "Soul."

"And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman."

Seems a little harsh, no? What are we to make of it?

Response:

After hearing last night someone quoted as saying "The Super Bowl has become America's God" — I can almost understand why Asa took such drastic action — to wake people up to the necessity of putting God first in their lives. If we don't have it within ourselves to understand the importance of Mrs. Eddy's statement "Spiritual devoutness is the soul of Christianity" (S&H), something will come along to wake us up and it won't be pretty! I don't have anything against football, but when it becomes a "god" — that's pretty scary!

We often go out to lunch after a Sunday service and

Forum

have been noticing fewer and fewer folks in “Sunday garb” and more and more dressed in football tee shirts, with their offspring displaying their favorite team as well. What’s that all about?!

Response:

“They made a covenant” — they made a covenant among themselves. They all agreed — it wasn’t a religious decree. All acknowledged that following God was supremely important, and that not to follow God puts everyone at risk. (Jonah put his shipmates’ lives in danger when he tried to escape God.) Whether anyone actually got the axe is another question.

On the other hand, you can see how religion and the human mind can be a horrible combination! Intolerance is not an intrinsic good — certainly the pharisees were intolerant of Jesus. It is only good if you are “in Science.”

Response:

“Truth has no consciousness of error. Love has no sense of hatred. Life has no partnership with death. Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God.” (S&H)

Only in Science can you even know Truth, Life, Love. The material, personal sense cannot be cognizant of them.

Does not this make it clear what we must do — strive to stay in Science?

Response:

This is a principle that is not well understood or adhered to. Intolerance of whatever takes us away from God is the only way to peace. Tolerance of error of any kind is

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what creates that anxious state of “peace, peace, where there is no peace,” and always leads to war. If we tolerate anything that is unprincipled (Naziism, socialism, making a god of a politician or family member, perpetuating an organization rather than obeying Principle, borrowing too much money) then we end up with no peace at all, since error must destroy itself. And if I cling to it, I suffer. War is always the result of error tolerated!

Response:

This point has huge relevance to us today. The human mind is a horrible combination with anything, because the human mind is horrible! It should be the life work of every Christian Scientist to put off the human mind as fast as possible and keep himself “in Science.”

This nation was the first in the history of mankind to be based on the rule of law and was established for the purpose of protecting every individual’s relationship with God. Today we have large numbers of people who are trying hard to remove God from the equation in our government. It is already endangering the nation. It has weakened our businesses, our finances, and it has weakened the morality of our citizens.

At one point, the Israelites told Samuel that they wanted a king. Samuel was heart-broken, but God assured him that they weren’t forsaking Samuel, but were forsaking God. Samuel gave them a king and they spent the next several years at war and in poverty. I take this as a warning that there is a huge price to pay for tolerance of anything that takes us away from God.

Asa got it right. So can we.

“The World Has Need of You”

This section of our magazine features statements and articles of Truth to help us in our prayer for the world.

God has made man spiritual, and put him in a spiritual universe, out of reach of all disease and disaster.

Peter V. Ross

The reality and individuality of every nation, as well as the reality and individuality of every man, is forever intact in God, and is eternal.

Martha Wilcox

God, Love, gives each one of us the courage, ability, and intelligence to accomplish whatever is right to do.

Edward A. Porter

Man is enriched by what he gives, and not by what he receives from others.

Willis F. Gross

Progress is not determined by the passing of time, but by the gain of spiritual understanding, with the consequent passing away of ignorance and superstition.

Violet Ker Seymer

Years mean experience, and experience is always valuable and life-giving, never destructive.

Herbert W. Eustace

The Bible tells us that God made man in His image and likeness. It is impossible to add to, or detract from, this eternally perfect creation!

Edward Reynolds

Never ask “why?” Instead, sing “Hallelujah,” for our God, the Omnipotent, reigneth in this place, now and forever.

Benjamin Ndukwe

Excerpt from Pulpit and Press

Mary Baker Eddy

Perchance some one of you may say, "The evidence of spiritual verity in me is so small that I am afraid. I feel so far from victory over the flesh that to reach out for a present realization of my hope savors of temerity. Because of my own unfitness for such a spiritual animus my strength is naught and my faith fails." O thou "weak and infirm of purpose." Jesus said, "Be not afraid"!

"What if the little rain should say,
'So small a drop as I
Can ne'er refresh a drooping earth,
I'll tarry in the sky.'"

Is not a man metaphysically and mathematically number one, a unit, and therefore whole number, governed and protected by his divine Principle, God? You have simply to preserve a scientific, positive sense of unity with your divine source, and daily demonstrate this. Then you will find that one is as important a factor as duodecillions in being and doing right, and thus demonstrating deific Principle. A dewdrop reflects the sun. Each of Christ's little ones reflects the infinite One, and therefore is the seer's declaration true, that "one on God's side is a majority."



Joy

William R. Rathvon

Rejoice always! It is a mistake to confine joy to circumstances or things. He who can rejoice even when things go wrong is the one for whom things will soon go right. Light and joy go hand in hand, as do darkness and sorrow; but as

"The World Has Need of You"

light dispels darkness, so does joy dissolve sorrow. The two cannot exist in the same place at the same time. There are no tears in heaven; since, as Mrs. Eddy says, "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation." (S&H)

But joy is not merely an effect: it may be said to be a cause also. It is not only a result of harmonious conditions, it produces them. It is a great restorer. To say of a friend, "He is happy because he is well," may indicate a wrong concept; for it may be that he is well because he is happy. Work for joy. It pays better wages than sorrow, selfishness, and sin all combined. He who smiles often when he is alone — alone with God — knows that God is Love; and God knows that he knows.

Heaven is commonly pictured as a place where joy reigns and the angels sing. But the angels never sing dirges. The thoughts that pass from God to man are clothed in lightness and brightness. Their wings are of joy, not of feathers. They soar upwards; but they can also descend to us. Where do we look for them? Down? Never! Straight ahead? Sometimes! Up? Always! Look forward and look upward for the good that cometh down from "the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Joy is the outcome of faith. The Psalmist wrote, "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Christian Science brings joy, just as Spring brings flowers, through quickening forces that operate unseen.

True joy comes in working for God, in obedience to Truth. Knowing this, Mrs. Eddy has placed an obligation upon the shoulders of every member of her church, the obligation of a selfless daily appeal to divine Mind for the establishment of the reign of eternal harmony in each in-

dividual consciousness. With the words, "It shall be the duty," she has given us the Daily Prayer, which reads, "'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!" (Man.)

This daily duty is a binding obligation, but never a burdensome one. It imparts a sense of serenity, it gives a freedom that is inseparable from Love. It tends to shape approaching events harmoniously, and gives foresight, confidence, and ability to do in the best way the things that are to be done. It imparts a joyous tinge that colors and brightens the whole day.



Spontaneity

Florence A. Gubbins

Life is the spontaneous unfoldment of good. Mortal existence is the opposite of this; its characteristics are uninspired repetition and routine.

The scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus, because his spontaneous expression of love rebuked their uninspired, ceremonial worship of God. They hated that he was not bound by manmade creeds and doctrines, but freely motivated by fresh inspiration from God.

It may seem pleasant to reach a point where life is calm and orderly, but we must not stagnate there! In fact, we do better work when we recognize that life is one continuous demonstration! That is why inactive living seems empty to the sincere student of Christian Science. True living is inspiration, revelation, and demonstration — a con-

“The World Has Need of You”

tinuously unfolding vision of God that never rests on yesterday's demonstration.

Mrs. Eddy says that books and teaching are “but a ladder let down from the heaven of Truth and Love, upon which angelic thoughts ascend and descend, bearing on their pinions of light the Christ-spirit.” (Ret.) A ladder is not something to sit on; its value lies in its enabling one to climb from one place to the other. All the activities of the Christian Science movement are to enable us to rise to a more spontaneous and ever fresh and new recognition of the truth.

The recognition of the kingdom of heaven within — the secret of true spontaneity — brings a better sense of man's individual reflection of divine Mind, and enables us to do better work for the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on earth.



Feeling empty, discouraged,
no joy to be found?
Sounds like the ol' devil's
snuck in to confound!
Be grateful, be giving,
see who you can bless.
God's harmony soon fills your thought —
you're refreshed!

Lillian Linnell

Articles

A Right Motive

Bruce Singleterry

Recently the Watch Center on the Plainfield Church website told of an explanation Mary Baker Eddy gave of the Biblical statement from James, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Mrs. Eddy explained that if you ask that a pain be removed simply because it hurts, this is not the right motive. However, if you ask that a pain be removed because it is not representative of the way as revealed by God, then this is right.

In my own experience I’ve found that I would want to have the challenges that face me each day (and at times there appear to be many!) to be resolved quickly so that my life would be more comfortable. Who wouldn’t want to get things behind them so they could get on with other things. But this is not the right approach. What was most helpful was to ask God to show me the resolution for each thing so that it would be representative of His way.

Another thing that went along with this is the realization that this couldn’t be done to manipulate the outcome of any issue, but only for the purpose of getting my thought right with God and, so, be His reflection. There can be no selfish desire for human comforts — to seek God’s way is to lay off all of that. The beauty of this is that any anxious sense is relieved and God’s way does open up. After all, He does love His idea, man!



Christian Science Medicine

Sharon Welsh

Television, radio, and newspapers are inundated with advertisements for this or that medicine. And many of these medicines are addictive, and have very dangerous side effects. It's been said that in order for the pharmaceutical companies to sell their medicines, they first have to sell the disease to the public. Mary Baker Eddy said, "it is absurd to suppose that matter can both cause and cure disease, or that Spirit, God, produces disease and leaves the remedy to matter." (S&H)

Mrs. Eddy also writes, "A Christian Scientist's medicine is Mind: the divine Truth that makes man free." (S&H) What a wonderful statement! This is the only commercial there should be on television or radio, and the only ad in the newspaper, magazine, or on billboards. This medicine, God, has no harmful side effects, there is no allergic reaction, and the healing is permanent. It can be habit forming because when you start learning about God and His goodness, you do become addicted. You want to learn more and put into practice what you are learning. When the whole world uses this Truth, we will have a healthy, happy and sinless place to live.



God's Protection

Benjamin Ndukwe

An experience I had a few months ago reminded me of how protected we are in the hand of God, even when the physical eyes cannot see it. It reminded me of how precious we are to Him, and of His promise that He will be with us — storm or wind, He will always be there. No mat-

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ter what picture is presented to us, there is God's hand upon it.

But we have a responsibility to claim His protection in every situation. We must be able to know consistently that nothing else has presence or power, but God. We must also know that every experience is an opportunity to claim and demonstrate the divine power.

One Saturday morning, as I was driving to a wedding of one of our church members, my car stopped on a ramp, just a few feet from a major highway. It happened at the worst possible place, and at the worst possible time. But I remained calm; refusing to reflect on it as something of a significant effect, despite the odds surrounding the situation.

My passenger, Ashley, one of the flower girls, burst into tears in a panic, wondering if she would be able to make it in time. I told her to be calm and that we would be at the wedding at the right time. She said, "How? Look what time it is!" To human sense, she was right; there seemed to be no way to get there. But I was absolutely convinced that we would be at the wedding in plenty of time, with or without the car. I could only see it as an opportunity to demonstrate, once again, my understanding of the truth.

I refused to see error as having any effect whatsoever on the situation. I continued to maintain, in my thought, the absolute understanding that God is good and He is everywhere, and that He will never forsake his beloved. In that moment, a car pulled up next to us, a gentleman with his daughter, the same age as Ashley. They asked what was wrong with the car and if they could help. We checked the battery and it was perfect, but the engine was not responding. Then his daughter asked him if they could give us a ride to wherever we were going, since the car would not start, and he agreed, even though it was several miles out

Waiting on the Lord

of their way. We were able to make it to the wedding in time. I was very happy, but the happiest person was Ashley as she joined the other flower girls.

It is important to take control of our experiences and not to accept any negativity, but to use them as an opportunity to demonstrate and claim with absolute knowledge that God, divine Love, alone is ever-present and has power. The following week, I replaced the car with a new one. I am very grateful for the blessings I received from this experience.



Waiting on the Lord Mary Beth Singleterry

The Bible has many verses about the importance of “waiting on the Lord” and the blessings that it brings. In Psalms we read, “They that wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth.”

Sometimes when we are waiting for a healing or for some long-anticipated event, such as finding a mate or a job, it is easy to become impatient, to want to “jump the gun” and perhaps willfully push for some quicker results! This, of course, is never a wise action to take and will never lead to the good plan God always has in mind for you.

The word “wait” is not passive. Some definitions of this word are “to rest in expectation and patience; to look watchfully; to be ready to serve; to obey.”

Some time ago it became clear to my husband and me that we should move to a new neighborhood where other members of this church also lived. I mentioned this to a practitioner and asked for her help. She assured me there

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was a right place waiting for us. I did admit to her there was one house in this neighborhood I was particularly fond of. It seemed so perfect for us in every way, and I would often pass by hoping it would come up for sale. The practitioner suggested I go up to the door and ask the owners if they might consider selling. This I did, but the answer was decidedly “No,” and I left feeling rather foolish!

We looked at many other houses that were on the market, some of them very nice. I was very tempted to settle on one of them, but the practitioner kept reminding me to “wait on the Lord.” God’s plan is always perfect in every way, including the timing of each event. Expect only the very best!

More than a year went by, when, lo and behold! — I received a call from the owners of the house that I had previously fallen in love with — and they were willing to sell! Everything about this move was perfect and this long-awaited-for house has been our beloved home, even to this day! It was a blessing truly worth waiting for!

During that time in our church history, many others were moving from all over the country to Plainfield so they could take active part in the holy work going on here. It was amazing to me — to witness how everyone found a lovely home that met all their needs. This happened in a timely fashion and without fail, thus proving true the Biblical words, “Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.”

And so, when you are tempted to lose patience with God and wonder what in the world is happening — or maybe not happening! — remember this: Wait on the Lord; you are not forgotten. His plan is always much better than anything we could ever outline for ourselves, and it is He that will bring it to pass!

Testimonies of Healing

The following testimonies are offered with great love to those seeking encouragement and inspiration.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to work with such wonderful truths as we have in the weekly Lessons and the 500 Watching Points book by Gilbert Carpenter.

I worked for quite a while one recent morning and got so much good out of the study. Then later in the morning, we got a phone call from our son, speaking in a very shaky voice and telling me that he had just gotten hit by lightning. He was describing his symptoms, but kept saying, "I'm all right, I'm all right." I immediately told him that he was all right, completely surrounded and protected by God, and that nothing could touch him but good. He was quite shaken, so we talked a while, and by the time we hung up, he was assured and back to normal. There were severe thunderstorms in the area, and I told him that he would continue to be safe and protected, that nothing could harm him or anyone else.

This whole time I felt so confident in the truth that I was telling our son, fear never entered my thought, and I felt so uplifted and grateful to God. I know it was the study and prayer that I did that morning that especially made me ready to face this situation.

With love and gratitude.

*D. W.
Virginia*

For a period of time — and it still continues and is ongoing — I have needed to feel God's love. What I learned from the Plainfield practitioner that I work with, and call each and every day, is that I have to give love back. The things we are learning, yes, they bless us; but they also must bless others, so we must give back.

CornerStone

I see a difference between the local church I attend and the Plainfield Church. Plainfield is a divine idea — the church is unfolding to the members, and we are allowed to give back through meaningful church activities. My local church doesn't offer any opportunities to serve. Yes, they have many committees, but they don't prepare the Bible Lesson, don't have a Sunday roundtable, Saturday Bible class, the members are not needed to contribute articles to the Cornerstone publication, and the website is not interactive with the forum.

The Plainfield Church is the structure of love because it allows us to love others through these activities. It just dawned on me that this is a spiritual demonstration — we all receive the love from the work that is being done.

I am so grateful for this.

*T. M.
Georgia*

A couple of years ago, my son passed on suddenly. I was heartbroken, overwhelmed, and depressed. I turned to God but I couldn't heal the grief.

So I called a Plainfield practitioner for help. She assured me that God loved my son and me. She said he didn't go anywhere. He is right here with me and he lives in my heart. The love and kindness I felt from the practitioner healed the grief and depression. Mrs. Eddy says, "The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love."

I thank God for the office of practitioner, and for the love and truth given to me.

*S. W.
New Jersey*

For a year or two I experienced occasional weakness in my knees, as I walked up and down stairs and hills to and from work. I either dismissed this or favored it by taking easy routes, or I figured it was due to over-exercise, so did

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less exercise which I enjoy as expressing Life's vitality. Then I heard comments from people about the same complaint. This alerted me to what beliefs I might have taken aboard.

From our recent Lessons on Adam and Fallen Man and Mortals and Immortals, and inspired by our Bible and Roundtable discussions, I took a stand and rejected this claim as illegitimate. God didn't create this so I don't have to put up with it. In Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy describes the actor so lame he hobbled to the theater and sat waiting for his cue, whereupon he jumped up and performed his part like the younger cast members. This indicates that physical claims are states of consciousness, which I can change.

I experimented with this idea. As I walked home recently, I put my thought "in Science" and claimed my innate perfection and exemption from imperfection. I stuck with this truth for a while. When thought wandered, ungodlike beliefs that man is physical seemed to creep in. I thought, where do I look for evidence of health and wholeness? Certainly not to matter or to an erroneous claim or belief! I must look to Life, Truth and Love. I got my thought back onto the truth of being, and my walk became quick and strong with no discomfort.

I am grateful for this lesson in living and practicing Christian Science, which I can continue to apply.

*B. P.
Virginia*

I just received a commission for selling a town home. This particular check was the result of the sale of a foreclosure. Now, in the real estate community, even though we are grateful for any kind of a transaction, short sales and foreclosures have been known to take months of

CornerStone

endless paperwork, and then it sometimes does not close. This particular property was being sold by Fannie Mae, and they are sticklers for details.

Ours was to be a 30-day closing from day one of the contract, and others in my office scoffed and said, “Good luck with that, as they never close when they are supposed to.” It was imperative that this one close in 30 days in order for the buyer to receive a 3.5% closing money incentive. After submitting the contract in a timely manner, the clock started ticking. Everything came together like clock work until 5 days before the closing date, when Fannie Mae discovered a misspelled name, and said the whole thing had to be redone and resubmitted.

My heart sank, and the other agent involved said, “It’s hopeless, there is no way they will get back to us to close, as it is usually a 4-day turnaround from Fannie Mae.” I was discouraged as well, and then it dawned on me what was happening here. I have been getting help from a Plainfield practitioner, as well as participating each week in the Roundtable, and I realized I was letting error and negativity tell me what a hopeless situation it was and, by gosh, I was not going to listen! I said to the other agent, “Listen, let’s be positive about this and know that this sale is for all of our good, particularly for the buyer to have that incentive, and expect a quick response here.” She agreed. I worked until 10:00 p.m. that night with the buyers, redoing the paperwork, and then e-mailed it.

What do you think? The expected did happen. Fannie Mae signed the acceptance and had the paperwork back to us the next day, and the closing continued without a glitch and recorded exactly when it was supposed to!

By putting this in God’s hands and knowing that this was God’s business, is all it took to break the mesmerism! I am so grateful to have learned this by being a student of

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Christian Science and a member of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, and being able to turn to a practitioner for help. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

V. E.

Arizona

Recently I noticed a great deal of inflammation surrounding a cut on my leg. It was very painful for me to walk, and my family members were quite concerned about it. I called a Plainfield practitioner for help. She assured me that I was a spiritual being and could not be touched by false belief, and asked me to work with pages 390-393 in Science and Health. She also said, "A spiritual idea has not a single element of error, and this truth removes properly whatever is offensive." (S&H)

I was reminded, too, that there is always a falling away before these types of things happen. She asked if I had been actively listening to our services, etc., and I had to admit I had not been. I was given the verse from Christ Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." And also Mrs. Eddy's statement from her article, Fidelity, "Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind, and its cure, in working for God."

I decided right away to correct my priorities. I was filled with joy when I began doing church watches for the world and attending services (via my computer). While I had been fearful and depressed, I was now happy and energized! The physical healing soon followed.

I am very grateful for this healing and the lessons learned during this experience. It is such a blessing to belong to the Plainfield Church and to be able to call a practitioner when we get "off the track" and need help!

C. D.

New Hampshire



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Broadcast the Truth
“Freely ye have received, freely give”*