

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Reality – September 30th, 2018**

## Love Is The Light, There Is No Night There

*“This city of our God has no need of sun or satellite, for Love is the light of it, and divine Mind is its own interpreter. All who are saved must walk in this light.” Science and Health, p. 577*

Thanks to the Lesson writer! This citation is heartwarming, inspiring, instructive, and encouraging. When we live Love, we cannot be in the darkness/night of false beliefs and fear! Thinking of what Love includes: kindness, patience, generosity, humility, sincerity, courtesy, good temper, unselfishness, guilelessness, compassion, tenderness, etc., it is a surety that I cannot be in darkness when such qualities fill my consciousness and are expressed in my experience. It is “Love [that] inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way.” *Science and Health*, p. 454. We are saved when we learn even the smallest truth about God’s Allness, His nature, and what it teaches us about man’s true being. I never want to lose my way again, back into the treacherous path of fear, anguish, and suffering! Thank God for the inspired direction “to walk in this light” of Love!

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## God With Us

“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.” Rev. 21

“This city of our God has no need of sun or satellite, for Love is the light of it, and divine Mind is its own interpreter. All who are saved must walk in this light.” *Science and Health*, p. 577.

“Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way.” *Science and Health*, p. 573

The recent discussion at our Bible study on 1 Peter focused on two main concepts. All are called to be God’s elect and the importance of not giving up when suffering but to endure, stay on the course, be it slow or fast. In a recent teaching testimony, it was brought out that to endure we must have an “exalted purpose” beyond a focus on self. I find it can be so easy to get caught up in the suffering and focus on the negative. We were reminded in our Roundtable of many ways not to leave our thinking in the negative and the good balance of 10 affirmations to 1 denial. Also, last week’s watch ended with, “Mrs. Eddy once said, ‘Never leave a treatment until consciousness is baptized in Love.’” (500 Watching Points by Carpenter) In this week’s Lesson, I found the promise, “God is with men,” a comforting reminder of God’s loving presence. We “must walk in this light” and are to “take heart.”

We are blessed to have all these teachings that build and blend together to help us along this path. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! *Science and Health*, p.573 : 29-2

“Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way. There will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away. When you read this, remember Jesus’ words, ‘The kingdom of God is within you.’ ” This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility. I, too, have been thinking about this passage from *Science and Health* and the last sentence, “This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.” is so uplifting as we work

daily to do all the things mentioned in the above post. Glory be to God and thanks to Mrs. Eddy for her clear understanding! \*\*\*\*\*

What a great lesson! I, too, was struck with “the kingdom of God is within you” and “God, the divine Principle of harmony, is ever with men” *Science and Health*, p. 573, also touched my heart. God is with us everywhere, every moment. Every time I saw the title of the lesson, I would sing to myself from hymn 206, the end of the second verse, “Behold reality.” \*\*\*\*\*

## North, East, South, and West

**Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; 3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.**

This lesson is a wonderful reminder that no matter where anyone might find themselves oriented in relation to God, He has provided a means for us to reach Him. I needn’t outline methods for anyone to find their way to God or Christian Science. He has that well in-hand already, as He did for me.

I, myself, came from the north to Plainfield after giving up. (It felt pertinent to mention that here, because of those verses.)

During the preceding decade, however, I had gravitated toward atheism after being disillusioned with the “Christianity” of my youth, and yet had begun to realize atheism was not helping me either. So, I began to formulate what I thought God might be, but decided to call Him something different, to keep a distance from that old theological viewpoint. I decided to refer to Him as “The North Star” or “my North Star.”

I sincerely feel that these steps helped me to be receptive to what I found in Plainfield, as my ideal of God – while not anywhere near as comprehensive as what Mrs. Eddy’s revelation

shows us – was at least in line with what I have found in Christian Science. Basically, a good God, who is logical and loving.

It took me a while to realize this, but obviously the divine Mind was working in me to get rid of all that junk I was taught and get me ready to be here. I am so grateful for how God works, and that He found a use for me in Plainfield. Thank you!

## Revelation Now

From Revelation 1: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ... “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

From *Science and Health*: “NEW JERUSALEM. Divine Science; the spiritual facts and harmony of the universe; the kingdom of heaven, or reign of harmony.” (*Science and Health*, p.592:18-20) “This spiritual, holy habitation [NEW JERUSALEM] has no boundary nor limit, but its four cardinal points are: first, the Word of Life, Truth, and Love; second, the Christ, the spiritual idea of God; third, Christianity, which is the outcome of the divine Principle of the Christ-idea in Christian history; fourth, Christian Science, which to-day and forever interprets this great example and the great Exemplar.” (*Science and Health*, p. 577). Mrs. Eddy says in the Blue Book, page 234, “This is the second coming of the Christ and it will be the last.” What a promise! What great work we have to do and acknowledge! Thank to the Lesson writer!

## The Salvation of Our God

“The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” (Isaiah 52:10) and “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)

I'm so grateful, in the political environment of today, that all will be saved. The Unity Watch for Sep. 27, which I've just read, is very helpful. What I seem to need and am feeling is love and compassion for everyone.\*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Unreality – October 7th, 2018**

### **Quality Over Quantity**

An article by Louise Knight Wheatley entitled "Gideon's Three Hundred" in "Love is the Liberator," March 2016 (page 34) helped me better understand this week's Bible story. ([https://downloads.plainfieldcs.com/Magazine/Love\\_is\\_the\\_Liberator\\_11.pdf](https://downloads.plainfieldcs.com/Magazine/Love_is_the_Liberator_11.pdf)). Highly recommended!

Here are a few nuggets:

"Those who were chosen were those who, in their eagerness to hasten the attack, quickly dashed up the water with their hands and hurried on. No wonder the host of Midian fled! Gideon's "three hundred" stands for that high quality of mental alertness which always wins.

...

There is a subtle mesmerism in numbers to which the Christian Scientist has constant need to keep himself awake.

...

Someone has defined the need of the moment as "not more Christian Scientists, but better ones."

...

Gideon's "three hundred" is here today, for it simply means a condition of thought expressed in fidelity, in love, in earnestness, in consecration, in steadfast devotion. It is quality, rather than quantity. It is that for which Mrs. Eddy once sent out an imperative call, as found in Misc. p. 176: "Are we duly aware of our own great opportunities and responsibilities? . . . What will you do about it? . . . Will you doff your lavender-kid zeal, and become real and consecrated warriors? Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the

Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death? Answer at once and practically, and answer aright!" And Gideon's "three hundred" answered.

We are constantly reminded of this important message through the teachings of our church and in our watches. It is the way to follow in Jesus' steps, the "straight and narrow way" that infinitely blesses the faithful as they work to bless others. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for posting this! This also struck me from the article: "One right thought has more activity, power, and impulsion than any number of wrong thoughts, no matter how often or how vehemently expressed." \*\*\*\*\*

### **Followers of Good**

I Peter 3 : 13 "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?"

It never ceases to amaze me how our Website, classes, Lessons, and daily Watches blend together. God knows what we need and is providing it. Below is an excerpt from an article on our Carousel that fits together with the above Bible quote from our Lesson this week and the author quotes from an article by Mrs. Eddy that we were told at a recent class to know and use often. I find this very comforting, but also something to pay attention to. Put on the armor.

"Jesus wasn't at all disturbed by the negative thought of the Jews concerning his sayings. He was so firmly entrenched in the knowledge of his spiritual oneness with God, that no adverse criticism could affect him. . . . Mrs. Eddy writes: 'Beloved Christian Scientists, keep your minds so filled with Truth and Love, that sin, disease, and death cannot enter them. It is plain that nothing can be added to the mind already full. There is no door through which evil can enter, and no space for evil to fill in a mind filled with goodness. Good thoughts are an impervious armor; clad therewith you are completely shielded from the attacks of error of

every sort. And not only yourselves are safe, but all whom your thoughts rest upon are thereby benefited.' (My. p. 210) The necessity, therefore, is to concern ourselves, not with what others are thinking, but with filling our own consciousness, and keeping it filled, with the truth about God and man. This is our sure defense against evil. When this is done, and our innermost thoughts are stayed on God, our outward experience will be protected and enriched by the consciousness of good." The Power of Right Thinking by E. Whitmore

I am grateful to be reminded that my job is to watch my thought, making sure I am filling with good and true thoughts, not to fret about the who, what, where, why of what others may be thinking. To be a "follower of that which is good." \*\*\*\*\*

## **Mighty Man of Valour**

I love that when Gideon is addressed by the angel as a "mighty man of valour," he is not thinking of himself in that way at all. For example, "And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." (Judges 6:15) Once he tests the angel, is convinced of its authenticity, and has more conversations with and assurances from God, he does not hesitate, including, at God's direction, by night with ten servants, pulling down the altar of Baal and cutting down the grove that was by it. He certainly proves himself worthy and so much by his trust in and obedience to God. I see why Jesus said not to look back. \*\*\*\*\*

VAL'OR, noun [Latin valor valeo, to be strong, to be worth.] Strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery; courage; intrepidity; prowess.

This quality is seen in only those humble or meek enough to reflect God! Since all power belongs to God, only such can be the reflection of God's qualities. When puffed up and reliant on self, we

forfeit this power. Christ Jesus, the greatest man that ever trod this earth, was a great example. Mary Baker Eddy demonstrated such valour. Moses, David, and others demonstrated this, as well; none of these were full of themselves, boasting any power of their own; rather they thought themselves unable to do what God used them to do for His glory. Paul, in humility, took that new name and was able to go forth with power to spread the gospel the way he did! God sees and knows who He can use, and it is certain they are those who can reflect Him, even though they may not be aware of the ability that their humility/meekness allows.

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## **"The Lord Shall Rule Over You"**

I love this lesson selection of Judges and how Gideon responded to the adulation and requests from the Israelites that wanted to make him king. Their attempts to make a dynasty out of himself and his descendants was promptly refuted by him, and his response "The Lord shall rule over you" is a warning? advice? for the people not to seek worldly rulers but to seek the Lord's rule. The world can never give us a just, loving ruler as the Lord our God can be. Time and time again, throughout history, this has been proved true, except perhaps for a few God-fearing rulers, the rest have only brought wars, dissent, poverty, and oppression. The same can be said about church leaders and sects. They become engorged with greed and abuses (rather than love and compassion). Mary Baker Eddy was the only church leader that had the courage to stand up and start a religion that would follow in the footsteps of the first Christians and the command of Christ Jesus to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." \*\*\*\*\*

## **And The LORD said.....**

Judges 7: 3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people. Let us listen, obey, and "Go To"!!