

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 132

SUBJECT: Life – January 20th, 2019

Romans 8: 28

3. Romans 8: 28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Some of my work involves using computer code to get certain things to happen. When an expected result doesn't occur, I usually have to backtrack to see where the problem is. The verse reads as instructions, which makes sense as Christian Science is practical, and instructive is exactly how they were intended.

Breaking it into the individual parts:

all things work together for good – The expected result. If this isn't occurring, then I need to check the next parts to see why.

to them that love God – If I start feeling that all things are not working together for good, then I need to realize that I am not loving God correctly. That love must be shown in obedience, gratitude, joy, and adherence to what I am learning here. I must feel it for God, myself, my neighbor, everyone, everywhere. In Christian Science, love is much more active than I previously thought it was.

to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. – If I feel I am loving God, then I have to see if it is His purpose that directs me. If I have conditions that must be met before I devote my time and energy to God, then that certainly can't be called "unselfed love." Mrs. Eddy wrote on page 206 of *Science and Health*, "whatever blesses one blesses all." I take that to also mean the

opposite, which is 'if it doesn't bless all, then it isn't blessing me.' Only God's purpose blesses all.

After these self-checks – and any calibration that is needed, such as prayer and calling the practitioner – that verse will once again ring true.

Then comes my favorite part, the first four words which I only noticed today: **And we know that...** Paul saw that everyone naturally understands God's goodness. We know it! Thank God for how Christian Science shows us how to uncover the error and mesmerism that would tell us we don't know it.

I am very grateful how much more meaning is revealed in these verses the longer I am a member of this church. Thank you for this Lesson!*****

Intention

"Man walks in the direction towards which he looks, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be also." *Science and Health*, p. 451

"The purpose and motive to live aright can be gained now. This point won, you have started as you should. You have begun at the numeration-table of Christian Science, and nothing but wrong intention can hinder your advancement. Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way." *Science and Health*, p. 326

INTENT:

Literally, having the mind strained or bent on an object; hence, fixed closely; sedulously applied; eager in pursuit of an object; anxiously diligent; purpose; intention; drift; aim stretching of the mind towards an object; hence, a design. (1828 Websters)

At Sunday's Roundtable, the question was posed, "Are you a follower of Christ Jesus and casting out fear, and all evil out of self and out of others and healing the sick?" The teaching went on, "does the argument come that you can't heal? This is the devil talking. The antidote is "perfect love," to love enough to follow God's command. God is the one doing the healing, not you. Tell the lie, 'Yes, I can't but I know who can.'"

So my intention is a key to what I end up following. I will be fixed and in pursuit of what I love. I can see more why it is so necessary to be still, work hard, be disciplined, and be consistent in my walk with God. I appreciate the wise teaching here of keeping a covenant with God. For me, it is a measure of the direction in which the heart is moving. *****

"When walking, we are guided by the eye. We look before our feet, and if we are wise, we look beyond a single step in the line of spiritual advancement." *Science and Health*, p. 429:7

Something I learned teaching skiing which I found later applied to all sports was that keeping one's chin and eyes 'up' greatly enhances balance and secondly enables one to see what is going on around oneself to separate the 'safe' places from the treacherous ones. Skiing with a mentor once, I fell. He asked me if I knew why and I stated I'd crossed my skis. His answer was "you looked at that piece of wood when you went past it instead of keeping your eyes up!" Keeping one's gaze up, one can see where one's footsteps are being placed without losing the big picture. So I trained myself if I looked down at an obstacle, if needed, to as quickly as possible raise my eyes.

I'm trying to apply that now to my spiritual path; keep my eyes on God to keep my balance, rather than dwelling in Ps. 91:8 "Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." It is most helpful once I 'see' the error, to get my eyes (spiritual and thus mind) back to God quickly. Most grateful for Plainfield's teaching that has brought this to my attention and the consistent reminders during our classes.

It's still a work in progress: "We must begin, however, with the more simple demonstrations of control, and the sooner we begin the better. The final demonstration takes time for its accomplishment." *Science and Health*, p. 429:4
Thank you, Mary Baker Eddy!! *****

Why am I here?

The question, "why am I here?", is generally faced by everyone at some time or another. The answer is clearly stated in our Lesson this week. We all, individually, have a purpose and a place. The Bible is clear that all the different gifts, talents, were given by the same Spirit or God, and for His purpose. This rules out misuse of talents for selfish purposes, and it also rules out competition and envy. A good God gives to each individually just what is right for him or her. This also rules out inadequacy. What God gives is never insufficient, though it may be so misjudged by the worldly minded. Our subject this week is Life, a synonym for God; it is natural to love life. *****

This is such an important idea. Thank you, Bruce. It brings to mind the following from *Miscellany* by Mrs. Eddy, "Thus may each member of this church rise above the oft-repeated inquiry, "What am I? to the scientific response: I am able to impart truth, health, and happiness, and this is my rock of salvation and my reason for existing." p. 165:18

It Breathes New Life Into Our Work

Col 3:23. And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

A long time ago, after my work since 17 yrs. became so routine, making it difficult to face going to work, an understanding through Christian Science on how to view my work or any task gave a

new meaning to work and restored enthusiasm, which brought me joy in serving God. The concept was to simply think of every work or task as my service to God and that selfless aspect, plus the sense of doing to honor God and to bless, changed everything.

It has not failed as long as I have thought this way. I begin my tasks and my work this way and nothing could give me more joy and strength than that right thinking....doing to honor God and to bless!

SUBJECT: Truth – January 27th, 2019

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments was the title of our Bible Study this week. The readings were from Deuteronomy 11, which is in this week's Lesson (Bible, cit. 2). The first question read: "What are the Ten Commandments and where do they come from?" Of course, they came from God as stated in Exodus 20. But "what are they" is more profound than a list of "Thou shalt nots." While looking at some things on the internet on this subject, the thought came to look up Charles Spurgeon, an old time preacher, and see what he had to say on the Ten Commandments. And the following stood out:

"It is a perfect law, in which the interests of God and man are both studied; it is not a partial law, but impartial, complete, and covering all the circumstances of life. You could not take away one command out of the ten without spoiling both tables of the law, and you could not add another command without being guilty of making a superfluity. The law is holy, and just, and good; it is like the God who made it, it is a perfect law."

Thank you for this Lesson and for this Bible Study on the Ten Commandments. It was very comforting and reassuring to discuss them this morning and an answer to a prayer.*****

Truth's Bounty

Romans 11:34-35

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?"

I pondered this last verse the past few days and finally looked in Dummelow to see what was given there. He explains it as: "His bounty is unmerited." Webster defines unmerited as "given without service." To me this meant that we are given Truth freely, bountifully, before we have even given service to God. What a comforting thought! It is always there for us to use, in every situation. Thank you for these Lesson Sermons — they are wonderfully inspiring. *****

Thank you for your post. This, however, makes me ask myself that if so much is given me, am I showing my genuine gratitude by obeying these?

1st: Mark 12:29-31

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God *is* one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

31 And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

2nd: Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

It feels to me that the more I obey the above, the more I feel the spirit of the great bounty that awaits us all. *****

Science and Health, p. 288:20-30 The chief stones in the temple of Christian Science are to be found in the following postulates: that Life is God, good, and not evil; that Soul is sinless, not to be found in the body; that Spirit is not, and cannot be, materialized; that Life is not subject to death; that the spiritual

real man has no birth, no material life, and no death. Science reveals the glorious possibilities of immortal man, **forever unlimited by the mortal senses**. The Christ-element in the Messiah made him the Way-shower, Truth and Life. (Emphasis added)

From what Jesus knew as the real man, created in God's image and likeness, and from what Mrs. Eddy describes as the perfect man, who is the reflection of God, I must accept with the deepest gratitude who I am and live that Truth. That man is the perfect man, immortal, sinless, "forever unlimited by the mortal senses," with no material substance, hence not subject to the material claims of sickness, dis-ease, inharmony etc. Is this real, perfect man what I am re-educating myself to know as what is true about me?

When Jesus healed, he spoke to the perfect, immortal man, whose perfection is changeless; as when he commanded the lame to get up and walk and the withered hand to stretch forth. This is the "man" that was revealed in Mrs. Eddy's healings from Mark 3 and Matt. 9, the Truth, which has given the world this everlasting salvation. So am I daily knowing myself as this perfect man?

Peter V. Ross's article "The Simplicity of Metaphysical Practice" ends with this paragraph: "One moves directly toward freedom, breaking the hypnotism of disease, age, oppression, and dissolution, when he acknowledges that spiritual man, faultless and imperishable, is his very and only self. It is this everlasting man that Christian Science appraises as perfect." This right thinking of the Truth about who we are helps make simpler our metaphysical practice. *****

"Felt ye the power of the Word?"

"MEET the incipient stages of disease with as POWERFUL mental opposition as a legislator would employ to defeat the passage of an inhuman law. RISE in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth to OVERTHROW the plea of mortal mind,

alias matter, arrayed against the supremacy of Spirit. BLOT OUT the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin. Then, when thou art delivered to the judgment of Truth, Christ, the judge will say, 'Thou art whole!'" (*Science and Health* – emphasis added)

We have been taught to really "work" the pages 390-393 in *Science and Health* and by that, I mean live and apply these words, not merely read them. These pages are known as the command statements. Think about the following words and their definitions.

MEET (to engage in opposition)

POWERFUL (strong; mighty; having great moral power; able to produce great effects)

RISE (ascend; to get up; to leave the place of sleep or rest)

OVERTHROW (to demolish; to defeat; to conquer)

BLOT (to efface; to erase; to cause to be unseen)

These are strong, commanding words and when applied with the authority of Christ, they can vanquish error's seeming hold on any situation.

"Saw ye my Saviour? Heard ye the glad sound? Felt ye the power of the Word?"! (Hymn #298) *****

Thank you so much for this post. I love the image of a legislator arguing "to defeat the passage of an inhuman law," and how passionate he would need to be to make his case. He would rise in front of the legislative body, and – using every fiber of his being – awaken the other legislators to join him in rejecting a wrong position by revealing the truth about the situation. He can't be bland or passive, but he must show moral backbone! And there truly is power in truth: "Honesty is spiritual power" (*Science and Health*, p. 453)...and, as the above definition of "powerful" states, it is "able to produce great effects"! *****

Thank you. Two nights ago I woke in pain and nausea and was unable to fall back to sleep. I turned to these 3 pages (as we have been taught) and after studying them for about 45 minutes, I felt better and was able to fall back to sleep. Such priceless instruction! It DOES work. Thank for you posting it.