

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 137

**SUBJECT: Reality – March 31st, 2019**

## Unimpeachable Perfection

I love this Lesson on Reality.

I was struck by Mrs. Eddy's sentence, "Remember that man's perfection is real and unimpeachable..."

Two things: It's REAL, not just some kind of theory. And a curious word, "unimpeachable." In the 1828 dictionary, the definition is, "That cannot be called in question." So man's perfection, is REAL and cannot be called into question!

To me that is very comforting to know, and I must know this as the truth about EVERY man's true spiritual nature.

Then, I can strive to walk in Jesus' footsteps: "The divine nature was best expressed in Christ Jesus, who threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow, — thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying." (p. 259)

I love that he "*threw* upon mortals the truer reflection of God"! I must see through to the reality of the unimpeachable perfection of those I meet each day.

What a wonderful gift we have in these weekly Lesson Sermons\*\*\*\*\*

## We Will Not Serve Thy Gods

"Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true*, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image

which I have set up? ... be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3

(Jeremiah calls Nebuchadnezzar the "destroyer of nations" (Jeremiah 4:7) and gives an account of the second siege of Jerusalem (587 BC) and the looting and destruction of the Solomon's Temple. Nebuchadnezzar was a king of Ancient Babylon; Babylon appears in the Bible as a symbol for rejection of God and was known for the worship of many gods, such as Baal.)

Heathen: A pagan; a gentile; one who worships idols, or is unacquainted with the true God.

This week, I found myself asking, "What heathen thought am I allowing to dictate my life?" This could come in the form of fearful thoughts, people pleasing behavior, negative messages, others' opinions, compromise, dominating person, etc. I see why pressure is something to be alert to. Sometimes it comes under the guise of love. We are taught here to ask, "Where is this thought taking me?"

The three Hebrew captives did not allow Nebuchadnezzar (a bully or animal magnetism) and his pagan ideas to take them away from their relationship to the one true God and they did not compromise under pressure.

The blessing for following the First Commandment and putting God first and standing for the right:

"Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." (Daniel 3:28)\*\*\*\*\*

Dan 3:25.....Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

I have been thinking about this all week how it was that Nebuchadnezzar recognized the fourth figure in the furnace as the Son of God. An awakening that is possible for all! \*\*\*\*\*

## **We Are Not Careful To Answer Thee**

### **Daniel 3**

**1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold,**

**14 ... and said unto them, *Is it true*, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?**

**16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.**

**17 If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.**

**18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

Thinking this week about things I've learned here, such as "agree with thy adversary quickly" and using wisdom when we go about our daily life, I wondered what the difference was here, that such a strong stand was required. I then remembered Christ Jesus' words: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12:17)

Those three knew that our God is God, and thus our worship, allegiance, and salvation are His. In going about my daily life, it would never be wise to give any of those away! Thus, there was no difference – they did agree quickly by basically saying, 'You are right, we won't serve or worship your false god.'

When my kids were small, I learned the value of the phrase, "Choose your battles." Not everything presented requires strong words and actions. Like

with kids, when an aggressive claim is presenting itself, often it seems laughter or a hug is what is required to get back to joy and clear thinking. But, as I am learning here, there are times that Principle demands "we are not careful to answer" mortal mind, and know that Truth, Life, and Love "will deliver us out of thine hand, O [error]."

I am very grateful to be learning this, and to know that when these moments happen, there will come afterward a great blessing, just as came to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Thank you for this lesson!

## **"Neither Shall The Flame Kindle Upon Thee."**

Isaiah 43 : 2 "...when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

"Amazing Testimony: How God Protected Pastor's Home from California Wildfire" –  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_wbwgDBfk8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_wbwgDBfk8)

In November, 2018, pastors Mel and Desiree Ayres had to evacuate their property as the deadly Woolsey/LA County wildfire made furious by high winds, was consuming everything in its path; but before they departed, they spoke to the winds and the flames. When the couple returned, they saw that the raging fire, to human sense out of control, had inexplicably stopped right at the grass-line of their property. No firefighters had been there, no flame-retardant air-drop, yet not only was their house completely intact, but it was as though an invisible buffer shielded the grounds as well.

God is eternal, indestructible. Thus, the **reality** of God's creation is also eternal, indestructible!

Lots of inspired thoughts, scriptures in this video; more details here. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for sharing this! It gave me much food for thought, seen through the lens of Science. What a beautiful demonstration of the power of turning to God in times of greatest need! After seeing that not

one blade of grass on his property was singed, the pastor urged others to “take your authority that you have in Jesus’ name, and begin to stand strong in the Lord and in the power of his might...”  
Amen! \*\*\*\*\*

## The Universal and Perfect Remedy.

*Science and Health*, p.393 : 29-4 “Man is never sick, for Mind is not sick and matter cannot be. A false belief is both the tempter and the tempted, the sin and the sinner, the disease and its cause. It is well to be calm in sickness; to be hopeful is still better; **but to understand that sickness is not real and that Truth can destroy its seeming reality, is best of all**, for this understanding is the universal and perfect remedy.” (Emphasis added)

And Mrs. Eddy from her teaching has given us all we need to do, to be able to do what Christ Jesus said we can do. An example is what she instructs us to do From “Treatment For Everyday.” Towards the bottom of #1 of this treatment you find this: “But let me urge you, however difficult it may seem, to declare times without number, that you are perfect, joyful, triumphant, and complete.”  
<https://articles.plainfieldcs.com/mary-baker-eddy/a-treatment-for-every-day/>, she urges us to declare without number this: that you are perfect, joyful, triumphant and complete! I have learned that in saying this she is teaching us that the repetition elevates our thinking until we get the perfection of our true being into our hearts, like the persisting in any truth will do, it becomes my own. It is a tremendous gift to KNOW who you are, then NO ONE and NO THING can tell you what you are NOT. So grateful for how the sequence of the Lessons so emphasize what we all must know.

**SUBJECT: Unreality – April 7th, 2019**

## Two Opinions

“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him.” (1 Kings 18:21)

In an undated, unpublished early sermon on “Mental Healing,” Mrs. Eddy discusses these two opposing opinions of reality, establishing the fact that there is only one, and that one opinion has no opposite whatsoever:

“Great epochs begin with the appearing of a great Truth. He who studies life aright never sneers at abstractions, the unseen Principle of things, but proportionately as he sees the unseen, even the permanence of harmony, health, and happiness, he discerns the next great fact of mental Science, namely, the transitoriness, yea, the unreality of discord, sickness, and sorrow, and build a befitting shrine for his own divinity: a healthy body to suit a healthy mind,

“Then life and its surroundings become a solid fact, a stubborn something amid these transitory nothings; and the gossamer thread of Metaphysics, unraveled by Science, is no longer a fine-spun tangle, fragile or obscure, but strengthens as mind in the ratio that it disappears as matter, and become the twisted cordage of invulnerable resistance with which our blessed Lord, the Master Metaphysician, drove out the seats of money-changers: the traffickers in things without substance, without the realities of Truth and science.” \*\*\*\*\*

## Thanksgiving and Recognition For Veritable Ideas

*Science and Health*, p. 88 : 9-15 (to , )  
**How are veritable ideas to be distinguished from illusions? By learning the origin of each. Ideas are emanations from the divine Mind. Thoughts, proceeding from the brain or from matter, are offshoots of mortal mind; they are mortal material beliefs. Ideas are spiritual, harmonious, and eternal. Beliefs proceed from the so-called material senses,**

From the 1828 Webster’s: **Veritable True; agreeable to fact. [Little used.]**

In a recent Forum Post, the following was brought out from “Finance” by Bicknell Young:  
**It was thanksgiving and recognition that**

**multiplied the loaves and fishes to the five thousand.**

Ever since this was read at the Rountable, I have been thinking about how recognition of Truth brings gratitude for Truth, recognition of Love brings gratitude for Love, and recognition of Life brings gratitude for Life. It becomes this quick cycle of being awake to God's blessings, and then being immediately thankful for them.

To me, this is where all that Plainfield offers, and definitely practitioner support, is providing much needed education. Before coming here, I had no idea how to distinguish *veritable ideas* from illusions. Now, I feel I have the tools to know the difference, and because of that, my ability to recognize God's goodness has become increasingly fine-tuned. With that recognition, thanksgiving has become an integral part of my day. This seems to be the lattice upon which my joy and all *the fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) are growing.

This also helps me to understand where my former ingratitude came from: Looking at error (nothing) brought no recognition, and therefore no gratitude. It is impossible to recognize or give thanksgiving for nothing. No wonder existence seemed so bleak!

I am very grateful to God for bringing me here and turning all that around!

Thank you for this Lesson, and for how every week builds upon the previous. It is wonderful what we have in Christian Science and this church!

*"... thanksgiving has become an integral part of my day. This seems to be the lattice upon which my joy and all the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are growing."*

I love how you worded this!

I remember always being in a fog about concepts in Christian Science, thinking I'd never figure it out. After coming to Plainfield, it was the teaching about the difference between divine Mind and the human (mortal) mind that really cleared things up for me (in addition to the very important point of

obedience to God, among other things). "Now I feel I have the tools to know the difference"—Amen!

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## **Allow Nothing But His Likeness To Abide In Thy Thought**

We simply cannot allow the **unreal** to abide in our thinking! We do not search the Internet to understand "the claims that come" but we sure must search the right sources for the deeper understanding of certain words like "hate" which if not fully understood, can be passed for something benign and remain "unhandled" and grow until it shows up in various troubling forms. Example is what hatred entails according to a source that says "Dictionary:" intense dislike or will.

**Synonyms:** loathing, detestation, dislike, distaste, abhorrence, abomination, execration, resentment, aversion, hostility, ill will, ill feeling, bad feeling; enmity, animosity, antagonism, antipathy, bitterness, animus, revulsion, disgust, contempt, repugnance, odium, rancor; rare disrelish; and another form that can be easily hidden, **INDIFFERENCE!**

**In Gal. 5** we are given the things of Spirit which we **MUST** fill our thoughts with and the evil thoughts that we must purge from our thinking:

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: **against such there is no law. (Emphasis added)**

The things of the Spirit allow His likeness to abide in our thinking! And we are not breaking any laws then, that we should suffer from. The mist is too dense when thought is filled with “evil/wrong thoughts” blocking our correct view of our true selfhood, and shutting us off (in belief) from the Love that heals. \*\*\*\*\*

**“In Gal. 5 we are given the things of Spirit which we MUST fill our thoughts with and the evil thoughts that we must purge from our thinking: ‘... 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ...23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.’**

**The things of the Spirit allows His likeness to abide in our thinking!” \*\*\*\*\***

Thank you very much for this post!  
The following was given at the last Roundtable from the Blue Book by Mrs. Eddy:  
“Rules for overcoming animal magnetism:

1. See what it is trying to do.
2. Know that it cannot do it.
3. See that it is *not done*.

To accomplish this:

1. Be patient.
2. Be meek.
3. Be vigilant.
4. Be sober.
5. Be loving.”

— from Divinity Course and General Collectanea, (the “Blue Book”), by Mary Baker Eddy, page 170

This post is a helpful and practical example of how to be obedient to this instruction.

“Purge: To cleanse, remove what is offensive; get rid of, to sweep away impurities.

Fill: to put or pour in, till the thing will hold no more, store; to supply with abundance.” (Websters 1828)

Purge thought of hate and fill thought with the fruit of the Spirit, “Against such there is no law” so I can “...be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake.” (*Science and Health*, p. 442)

I am so grateful for the continual explanations and examples that are given at Plainfield. \*\*\*\*\*

## **In Quietness and in Confidence**

“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. (Isaiah 30) I have always loved the feeling of peace this verse has given me but more and more I am beginning to understand how important this concept is. In today’s world, it is so easy to be continually “plugged” in to some electronic device! How often do we actually spend in quietness which then brings about confidence in God’s ever presence and power? God is always speaking to us, but it requires a stillness of being to hear this “still small voice” of Truth.

Mrs. Eddy says in Collectanea, “Study to be quiet.” I once puzzled as to what this really means, but I now understand it does take effort to be quiet, to silence mortal mind and all it’s chatter. To quiet myself and to be still is so well worth the effort, for as Mrs. Eddy writes in her chapter on Prayer, “To enter into the heart of prayer, the door of the erring senses must be closed. Lips must be mute and materialism silent, that man [you!] may have audience with Spirit, the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error.” (*Science and Health*, p. 15) How awesome is that?!