

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Christian Science – June 30th, 2019**

## **The Same Was in The Beginning With God**

### **1. John 1 : 1-5**

**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**2 The same was in the beginning with God.**

**3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

**4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**

**5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**

*The same was in the beginning with God.* This verse stood out to me today. Because of what I have learned here, I can see this means that all that is real and right and true *timelessly exists*, and it is all available to me and everyone, just waiting to be revealed and recognized. Not something new – though it has felt new to me – but rather an understanding that what is truly real about myself and all existed right at the beginning with God.

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*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* was a revelation from God. Hence as one reads it, he is led back into the Mind of God. From *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, by Gilbert Carpenter

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Christian Science comes to establish in human thought the divine facts which then assert themselves there, transforming the human consciousness and giving it more of a divine aspect. A human being touched by Science is already going through something that Jesus the Christ went through. That is, he is changing, or redeeming, his consciousness. As the basis of that redemption and the foundation of all

activity by which such redemption shall be accomplished, we have that one, infinite, divine Principle, Life, Truth, Love, the one God, Spirit. This is no theoretical personality, or some kind of distant Deity, but the infinite Mind revealing itself here.

Where? Wherever thought permits revelation to take place. Wherever a human being opens the door of consciousness and says, “I would know God,” there, Christian Science begins at once to instruct, inform, enlighten, and gradually redeem consciousness. As this takes place, the revelation of what God is, is seen to be man in His image and likeness.

There is a satisfaction that is more than individual in this, for it has a universal meaning. As one awakens sufficiently to discern his own selfhood and to demonstrate it, he discovers that the divine Ego is finding expression in everything he thinks or says, in all that he knows and does, in all that he desires or wishes or has ambition to achieve. It is the divine Ego which is the only I AM, providing the basis for all right action and true achievement. “I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness.”

From *The 1936 Primary Class*, by Bicknell Young, page 49

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Instruction that is Truth is a divine message to man. Truth is God or Mind in self-revelation. Truth is God Himself. Truth is the “I AM” of every individual.

From *Addresses* by Martha Wilcox, page 134

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Instead of *creation*, you could say *revelation*, because “creation” means that God reveals Himself. It is as though God says I AM. And that is man. In *Science and Health*, it says Spirit constitutes man. There is nothing else to him but Spirit. God and man are the same substance.

**There you have your oneness. When you say he is made of Spirit, his being is Spirit, his intelligence is Spirit, all that constitutes him is Spirit, then you get some idea of what reflection means. We know we exist, and the object of our study is to find out what we are. Find out what God is and really demonstrate it. We demonstrate what we *are*.**

From *The 1936 Primary Class*, by Bicknell Young, page 55 \*\*\*

## Coming Into The Light

“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” (John 3)

I found an interesting article entitled “Organization” by Bicknell Young, in which he states, “The mission of the church is to challenge and vanquish sin and hell. Without the church organization, there is nothing with which to challenge and overcome sin. When one turns aside from this organization, claiming for himself an advanced revelation, or that organization is no longer necessary, he is being blinded to his own disobedience and unwillingness to observe the discipline essential to his own spiritual growth in the organization.”

The excommunication of our church from the central organization has proven to be a great blessing. It has resulted in what we feel is a “spiritual organization” which steers sharply away from any one central control and allows everyone to progress, and to demonstrate with God. This also results in spiritualization of thought and great growth individually, as well as collectively. I have always felt the divine idea of “church” is so important. It allows for accountability. When left alone, it would be very easy to drift away from God without even knowing that this was happening. It would be easy to cherish “hidden sins” without them ever being brought into the Light, to be challenged, rebuked and so destroyed.

How important it is that we have each other, for how can you love God if you can’t love your brother, as the Bible teaches us? Being part of “church” enables us to do this. And as we have been taught here from the beginning, “one stick you can break, a bundle you cannot”! \*\*\*\*\*

## The Scientific Centurion

“For I am a man under authority . . .” (Matt. 8:9.)

A policeman’s authority to do his job is completely dependent upon his being *under* authority. When the humble traffic cop is doing his job correctly, he is functioning under full, multi-layered authority: the authority of the town government, which is under the authority of the county government, which is under the authority of the state government, which is under the authority of the federal government, which is under the authority of God. Thus, the cop’s every hand-signal is actually at one with the highest authority in the land, and one with the authority of almighty God Himself. Jesus recognized this relationship — this unison — so clearly that he said, “I and *my* Father are one.” (John 10:30.)

Similarly, in the days of Jesus, a Roman centurion’s authority was at one with the highest authority on earth: Caesar. To all intents and purposes, any directive uttered by the centurion was Caesar’s directive. So the “scientific centurion” knew — absolutely — that every command of Jesus was not Jesus’ alone, but God’s.

A correctly functioning traffic cop does not wake up every morning wondering whether or not he is qualified to do his job. He does not say, “Are all the different layers of government backing me up today, the same as they were yesterday?”

Do I need to call the county courthouse to confirm the legality of my hand signals today?” A correctly functioning traffic cop does not go off-duty every few minutes to see if his badge has an expiration date. His exercising power — under the authority of the authorities over him — has nothing to do with

him accepting his authority by faith. He simply knows. This is why Mrs. Eddy expresses it so bluntly in her first edition (p. 87): “There are no believers.”

As Mrs. Eddy says so often, Divine Authority, or Omnipotence, is not a person. I am not to pray to Authority as a person, but I am to be in the correct state of mind to exercise it. None of the seven synonyms for God is a person. So it follows that, since God is not person, neither is God’s image and likeness, born of mortal birth, with variable, changeable mortal mind. Authority to work the works of God means acting not as variable, changeable person, but as invariable, unchangeable image and likeness of the invariable and changeless God.

Elisha — ever in his right mind — always knew his place not as fickle, changeable person, but as God’s eternal, impersonal expression. Elisha’s spiritual authority was in direct proportion to his death to personal self. Even in the face of his greatest challenges, all the authority of the hosts of heaven, rank upon rank, all the way up Jacob’s ladder, was with him continually. (2 Kings 6:15-16) \*\*\*\*\*

## "No Greater Type of Divine Love"

Matthew 8 : 10

“When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”

This week, when reading the above citation, it struck me that the praise this man received from Jesus for his faith had nothing to do with him personally or his human personality, but the correct thinking. Jesus is instructing us by example.

Just as when he rebuked, it was not because he disliked some “guy,” but was addressing the ungodlike thinking. It made me realize that praise and rebukes are not personal, and if not taken that way will help us learn to walk the path Jesus instructed us to take.

## SUBJECT: God – July 7th, 2019

### God Is With Thee

“God *is* with thee in all that thou doest.” (Gen. 21)  
This is a simple statement to remember during the day. It also reminds me of another one I love from the Blue Book, “My individual Christ Jesus will go before me and lead me in my work.” The Christ is our Way-shower and when we are mindful of this fact, his presence is felt and does guide us. His presence also goes before us and prepares the way. These simple truths can do so much to bless our day as we acknowledge our oneness with the Father, knowing He is the one that doeth the works and He never leaves us alone. (Christ Jesus) \*\*\*\*\*

### The Lord's Prayer

Having lived a life of being an ‘over’-registered atheist, receiving during Class Instruction spiritual translation of the Lord’s Prayer was a novel and beautiful revelation for me. I spent some time after class trying to expand on my understanding of our Master’s masterpiece. I love Mary Baker Eddy’s interpretation as a standard for understanding and came across her wording from the 1875 *Science and Health*, p. 295 which to me says the same thing but the different words she used expands this prayer for me even more. I have taken the liberty of inserting those lines next to this symbol : ) below:  
Citation 13. *Science and Health*, 16:24-15  
Here let me give what I understand to be the spiritual sense of the Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father which art in heaven,

*Our Father-Mother God, all-harmonious,*  
: ) Harmonious and eternal Principle of man,

Hallowed be Thy name.

*Adorable One.*

: ) Nameless and adorable Intelligence,

Thy kingdom come.

*Thy kingdom is come; Thou art ever-present.*  
: ) Spiritualize man;

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

*Enable us to know, — as in heaven, so on earth, —  
God is omnipotent, supreme.*  
: ) Control the discords of matter with the harmony  
of Spirit.

Give us this day our daily bread;

*Give us grace for to-day; feed the famished  
affections;*  
: ) Give us the understanding of God,

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our  
debtors.

*And Love is reflected in love;*  
: ) And Truth will destroy sickness, sin, and death,  
as it destroys the belief of intelligent matter,

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil;

*And God leadeth us not into temptation, but  
delivereth us from sin, disease, and death.*  
: ) And lead man into Soul, and deliver him from  
personal sense,

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory, forever.

*For God is infinite, all-power, all Life, Truth, Love,  
over all, and All.*  
: ) For God is Truth, Life, and Love forever. \*\*\*\*\*

THE SCIENTIFIC RENDERING OF  
“LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION” —  
(A handwritten letter from Mary Baker Eddy to  
James Neal, January 28, 1897, regarding the duties  
of a CS practitioner):

My beloved Student,

Your letter is my best New Year's gift. I had felt for  
some time the fitness you possess for healing.  
I knew it when you were a member of my College  
class. It looked a waste of your talents to have you  
in a counting room. Now, thank God, I have at least  
one student in Boston that promises to be a Healer  
such I have long waited and hoped to see. Oh may  
the Love that looks on you and all guide your every  
thought and act up to the impersonal, spiritual  
model that is the only ideal — and constitutes the  
only scientific Healer. To this glorious end I ask  
you to still press on, and have no other ambition or  
aim. A real scientific Healer is the highest position  
attainable in this sphere of being. Its altitude is far  
above a Teacher or preacher; it includes all that is  
divinely high and holy. Darling James, leave behind  
all else and strive for this great achievement.  
Mother sighs to see how much her students need  
this attainment and longs to live to see one Christian  
Scientist attain it. Your aid to reach this goal is  
spiritualization. To achieve this you must have one  
God, one affection, one way, one Mind. Society,  
flattery, popularity are temptations in your pursuit  
of growth spiritual. Avoid them as much as in you  
lies.

*Pray daily, never miss praying, no matter how  
often: “Lead me not into temptation,” —  
scientifically rendered, — Lead me not to lose sight  
of strict purity, clean pure thoughts; let all my  
thoughts and aims be high, unselfish, charitable,  
meek, — spiritually minded. [Emphasis added.]*

With this altitude of thought, your mind is losing  
materiality and gaining spirituality, and this is the  
state of mind that heals the sick. My new book will  
do you much good. Do not purchase one, Mother  
wants to give you one. I welcome you into the  
sanctum of my fold. God bless you.  
Your loving Teacher, MB Eddy.

The text of this letter is featured in Lyman P.  
Powell's *Mary Baker Eddy: A Life Size Portrait*.