

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**ISSUE 148**

**SUBJECT: Substance – September 15th, 2019**

## **"A Table in the Wilderness" – 2"**

A little church obeys Luke 14:12, with big results:  
<https://tinyurl.com/plainfieldcs1>

Thanks for sharing this! Awesome proof again that He dwells among us even TODAY, and nothing is impossible to HIM!! OMNIPOTENCE, OMNIPRESENCE, OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIACTION!! How much more wonderful when each meal is given with the thought that God's idea does not lack, and everyone is seen in that correct view! \*\*\*

How wonderful! And I like what the lady said: "The definition of a miracle is something that cannot be done by human hands." That brings "miracle" into an everyday, all day long occurrence, if we see that God is bringing forth all that is good, and all IS good! \*\*\*\*\*

## **"And the People Murmured"**

"And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" Exodus 17

Having spent most of my life complaining, I am grateful to be learning constructive positive healing habits and attitudes based on Mrs. Eddy's Science of the Christ, correctly taught at Plainfield Independent Church. Monday, I came across the Watch below from 500 Watching Points by Gilbert

Carpenter which seems to go with what the people leaving Egypt were struggling with. I found it a helpful instruction, especially in light of the human desire for ease, and the world telling us that ease is spiritual not to be challenged. This ease puts you to sleep, unlike the peace that comes from obedience to God.

"120 — WATCH lest, having put your hand to the plough, you look back. The action and effect of Truth is to uncover and destroy error. A plough turns over the topsoil and exposes that which has been hidden. The tendency of the human mind is to desire everything smooth on the surface, even though, underneath, there is hidden latent error.

If a student is not ready to stick to the plough after it has begun to uncover error, and continue the warfare until the error is entirely exposed and destroyed, he is not ready to put his hand to the plough at all, in order that Truth may uncover his hidden errors. He will look back with desire at the time when he enjoyed human harmony, even though there was hidden error in his thought.

Once in a while, you meet a student who complains that, after having come into Christian Science, he has a great deal to meet that he never had before. This complaint proves that he is looking back with longing to the time when, before he put his hand to the plough, his human experience was comparatively smooth because error was more or less under cover, or latent. Such a one proves by this attitude that he is not fit for the kingdom of heaven, since he does not possess the necessary determination to press forward." \*\*\*\*\*

Such a great post, thank you! Whenever I feel that temptation to think that "things were easier before" (that murmuring!) or "I just want to do nothing" I love to remember the quote from Science and Health, "God rests in action." (p. 519) ]

Whoa! Get going! Further in the paragraph, it reads, “The highest and sweetest rest, even from a human standpoint, is in holy work.” What a wonderful thing is that! And something to keep in mind as I “press forward”!\*\*\*

## Our God Will Supply Every Need

*Science and Health*, p. 494 : 10-14

“Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need. It is not well to imagine that Jesus demonstrated the divine power to heal only for a select number or for a limited period of time, since to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.”

Oh, how heartening to **know these truths in protest** to the devastating scenes in different parts of the world. It is wonderful to trust that **Our Father**, who never withholds anything good and who “to all mankind and in every hour,” supplies all good, is even now supplying the courage, wisdom, comfort, health, food and drink, strength, compassion, etc, needed to satisfy His people’s needs everywhere.

All good belongs to Him, He it is that can furnish a table in the wilderness; what appears so impossible to man, is possible to God! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, and such a timely Lesson to work with for our dear neighbors in the Bahamas. \*\*\*\*\*

## Happiness

*“Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul.”* (p. 60)

I’ve read this so many times, but never really stopped to think about it more deeply. Soul being God, my happiness is secure when I seek to know my true identity as a child of God, through spiritual sense. I am the expression of

God’s being—as are all His children. I can ask myself every day, “How can I express you better, dear God? Show me the way today... ‘I will listen for Thy voice, lest my footsteps stray’” (from MBE’s hymn starting “Shepherd, show me how to go.” Hymn 304)

There are many things that can make us happy... but those secure in our keeping, that’s really what we hold in our heart. Thank God for Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy for giving to us the secret to happiness—that “secret place of the Most High” that we can access any time!

Thank you! “My identity is not lost. I am God’s child and His child is never deprived of her birthright or any other good necessary to her happiness and well being.”

MBE, Watches- Prayers – Arguments

## SUBJECT: Matter – September 22nd, 2019

### "Mortal mind and Matter...Combine as One"

“We can never treat mortal mind and matter separately, because they combine as one.” (*Science and Health*, citation 15, p. 397)

Mortal mind lives in the dank & dark basement of matter, without windows and light, and sees only the figments of its own imagination. We can’t get out of this “basement” unless we “get out” of the belief of a mortal mind apart from God, Mind, and into the sunlight of Truth. Thank God for Mrs. Eddy’s pure Christian Science that teaches us how to get out of this “basement.” \*\*\*\*\*

### There is no Matter to be Cured or Changed.

“MATTER. ... another name for mortal mind;” by Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health*, p. 591 : 8

This lined popped out at me yesterday. It has been giving me new inspiration when I go through some

of the prayers I use to start my day and those throughout. The word “matter” is hard for me sometimes but this week seeing this line in the context Lesson enlightened the meaning for me. Especially following the Lesson and class on Substance. Thank you Lesson writers and Plainfield teaching! “There is no matter to be cured or changed. Nothing needs to be changed but a belief.” Letter on “*Poise*” by Edward A. Kimball

And “Our home is in Mind, in spiritual consciousness, the eternal harmony of Soul. The builder and maker of this home is Mind. It is built and established in the eternal. Nothing can destroy the harmony of our home. Mind fills it with the glories of the kingdom of God. No fear of sin, sickness, or death can enter this home; no sense of poverty or want.” from *Our Home is in Mind* from Divinity Course and General Collectanea by Mary Baker Eddy \*\*\*\*\*

### **"What Agreement Hath The Temple of God with Idols?"**

**GOLDEN TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 6 : 16**  
**“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**

I never have thought of it quite in this way before: I, being “the temple of the living God,” am made by God for Him to “dwell in [me], and walk in [me].” God has not agreed to let any idols, false beliefs, or error to reside in, or make use of His temple, so if they are in there it must have been the temple itself – me! – who allowed them access.  
**cit. 4. 119 : 1-5 (to ,)**

**“When we endow matter with vague spiritual power, — that is, when we do so in our theories, for of course we cannot really endow matter with what it does not and cannot possess, — we disown the Almighty,”**

The 1828 Webster’s defines disown as “To deny; not to own; to refuse to acknowledge as belonging

to ones self.” That thought of disowning God really hit me today! No wonder I felt so lost and alone before coming to Plainfield! I was doing my best to disown Truth, Love, Life, Mind, good, and reality! Talk about moral idiocy!

I am so grateful to Christian Science, this church, and practitioner support for showing me bit-by-bit how to recognize right thoughts, how to “Stand porter at the door of thought,” (*Science and Health*, p. 392) and how to accept and hold sacred the fact that I am God’s and there is no other place for me to be, and none other that should dwell in me. Thank you very much for this Lesson!

### **Ooops, Did I Make My Body An Idol ?**

How much are the thoughts about my body occupying my thinking everyday? Does my body not get enough time while I get ready for the day? Should I spend any more time dwelling on every wrinkle, every pound I gain, every pimple, every ache or pain?

Idol. Webster 1828 4. Any thing on which we set our affections; that to which we indulge an excessive and sinful attachment. Little children, keep yourselves from *idols*. 1 John 5:21

An *idol* is any thing which **usurps the place of God in the hearts of his rational creatures.** (Emphasis added.)

I have learned we have more idols than one would believe; examples are our bodies, personalities, habitual thoughts that consume us, desired ambitions that occupy our thoughts, others’ faults that dominate us, false beliefs that we allow to discourage, belittle, frustrate, anger us or conduct our lives other than the love of God. And are any of these worth it? No!! Thus we should heed 1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

We have been given a way out of being idolaters: That is to get the correct view of your immortal self-hood, to see that you are an embodiment of

right ideas, spiritual, made perfect in the image and likeness of God! Preoccupying thought with this would help us be present with the Lord and absent from the material sense of body. \*\*\*\*\*

Wonderful, Thank you!

And also, “Matter...in which paganism and LUST are so sanctioned by society that mankind has caught their moral contagion.” (emphasis added)

Webster defines “lust” as carnal (fleshly) appetite or desire; depraved affections and desires.

Am I “lusting” for food, fashion, physique, or a glamorous enhancement of my body or home? These are all “sanctioned by society” and so easy to get caught up in, unless I constantly strive to “see that you are an embodiment of right ideas, spiritual, made perfect in the image and likeness of God!” Such a helpful Lesson-Sermon to remind me what’s really important.

### **“For Such A Time As This”**

“... Soul is Substance, and body its idea . . . [D]isease is not in the idea of Soul or immortality, nor can it exist in shadow, the body of Soul, therefore it has no existence.”  
(*Science and Health*, first edition, p. 430.)

Consider the magnificence, the sovereignty, majesty and dominion of the sun in its relationship to earth: earth’s influence upon the sun is minuscule in contrast to the sun’s influence upon earth. Think of the vast differences between these two heavenly bodies, in size, substance, positions in space relative to one another, etc.

Soul does not — cannot — inhabit body any more than the sun can fit inside the earth, which is an utter impossibility. Sun ruling day upon earth is symbol of Soul governing body.

Nevertheless, for how many centuries did humans reverse the roles of sun and earth, Soul and body, supposing the greater to be subject to the lesser, the Creator to the creature?

“Give up the belief that mind is, even temporarily, compressed within the skull, and ... [y]ou will understand yourself and your Maker better than before.” (*Science and Health*, page 397.)

As the cold earth automatically allows the sun to bathe it in warmth and radiance, so I must dedicate myself to being continually present with Soul, single-mindedly turning to the light of Life, Truth, Love, which also means being absent from the body, that is, to close my mind to “that of which immortal Mind takes no cognizance.” (*Science and Health*, page 591.)

Likewise, “for such a time as this,” all who are striving to establish identification with the regiments of “the woman clothed with the sun . . . and the remnant of her seed” are required to follow her impersonal example, because all must be clothed in the light of the “Sun of Righteousness” — clad in “the Robe of Science” — so that multitudes may touch the hems of such garments . . . and live. (Esther 4:13-14; Rev. 12; *Science and Health*, page 569.)

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that God is with you*.” (Zech. 8:23.)

### ***Science and Health, p 371:2-4***

“The body is the substratum of mortal mind, and this so-called mind must finally yield to the mandate of immortal Mind.”