

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 150

## SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – October 13th, 2019

### The Kingdom of Heaven

I am very grateful for the Bible lesson this week. I have been reading Dorothy Rieke's "Immortality Brought to Light" and this week's Lesson connected several dots for me.

The Kingdom of Heaven is where Christ reigns. Erroneous ideas of sin, disease, and death are not natural there and should not need to be seen as inevitable. Jesus corrected these false ideas because they have no place in his Father's kingdom. The Kingdom of Heaven is here, is right now, not later after some "transition." John saw a new heaven and new earth with no more sea, i.e. separation. The Lord's Prayer states "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Omnipresent God never left heaven for earth. In John's vision, The Kingdom of Heaven is here, not some distant location. Sin, sickness, and disease, and the trappings of the material world, simply cannot exist there. Excellent food for thought! What a great way to start the week! \*\*\*\*\*

### Dropping the Final Curtain on Sin, Disease, Death

Ye shall be as gods! This was the tantalizing reward that the serpent promised Adam were he to eat of the tree of knowledge, in dazzling display to all the world and to himself the mind of a god. In the centuries following, error had made an incredible number of intricate inroads into Adam's fascinating — yet so deadly — world of good-and-evil exploration. Matthew 4: 23-24 makes clear the

cornucopia of diseases that error had concocted and amassed since the days of Adam, all for mortal mind to be preoccupied with:

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness [in Greek, *noson*] and all kinds of disease [*malakion*] among the people.

Then his fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to him all sick [*kakos*] people who were afflicted [*sunechomenous*] with various diseases [*noson*] and torments [*basanos*], and those who were demon possessed [*daimonizomenous*], epileptic [*seleniazonemous*] and paralytics [*paralutikos*] and he healed them."

*Noson*: translated as sickness or disease

*Malakion*: a disease of weakness such as chronic fatigue, loss of muscle, etc.

*Sunechomenous*: seized with, taken by, held fast by.

*Kakos*: bad, evil, inwardly foul, rotten, poisoned.

*Basanos*: refers to a touchstone used to test metals; examined by torture, torture, torment (same word used in the Book of Revelation to describe the torments of the damned). Jesus came to banish — swiftly and unceremoniously — all of the above.

Jesus came to reverse all of mortal mind's morbid fantasizing about sin, disease, and death. Mrs.

Eddy, through her monumental discovery, has made it possible for you, me, and everyone to continue in those very same footsteps: to carry on this reversal process to final victory!

### A Warfare of Extermination

*Science and Health*, p. 543 : 8-16

"In divine Science, the material man is shut out from the presence of God. The five corporeal senses

cannot take cognizance of Spirit. They cannot come into His presence, and must dwell in dreamland, until mortals arrive at the understanding that material life, with all its sin, sickness, and death, is an illusion, **against which divine Science is engaged in a warfare of extermination.** The great verities of existence are never excluded by falsity.” (Emphasis added)

It’s a warfare no soldier fights on both sides of the same war.... it is not permissible. I better decide which side I am fighting on. It may be very wise to do so since I **CANNOT** be on both sides! \*\*\*\*\*

## **We Must Form Perfect Models in Thought...**

*Science and Health*, p. 248: 26-32

**We must form perfect models in thought and look at them continually, or we shall never carve them out in grand and noble lives. Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.**

I am so grateful for Christian Science for letting me know there is such a thing as perfect models to strive for, and for practitioner support for being there along the way, helping me to understand more each day, and giving what I need to keep moving onward and upward.

Thinking back to the imperfect models I held in thought before I had let selfishness, cruelty, grudge-holding, enabling, unhealthy, unholy, hateful things — a very real hell on Earth — holding sway over me, and as a result sin, disease, and death seemed more real and more looming all the time. I am grateful for all that now, as I have a strong warning if anything ever starts to point me toward how it used to be, before Plainfield. Thank you! Thank you for this post!

*Science and Health*, p. 248: 26-32 “We must form perfect models in thought and look at them

continually, or we shall never carve them out in grand and noble lives. Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.” I was given this citation first as a prayer for all children from my practitioner and use it constantly ... often in Watches.

This is a wonderful and powerful prayer for all of us. (I have looked up all the words and think about what they mean.) I am so grateful for the words Mrs. Eddy chose for us to use as models to reign or rule within us.\*\*\*\*\*

## **With Lovingkindness**

Psalms 51: 1 “**Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:** according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.” (Emphasis added)

Jer. 31: 34 “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: **for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**” (Emphasis added)

Why ask God for forgiveness if we are never going to accept His lovingkindness and let go of the past? This false sense of perpetual guilt, self depreciation which leads to feelings of unworthiness are some of how mortal mind operates to keep us in bondage!

Thank God through Christian Science we can renew our awareness of our birthright and true heritage and be free. God is the only lawgiver, the **ONLY** power; whose laws alone should govern us. When we allow the false sense of unworthiness, we do indeed separate ourselves (at least in belief) from His harmonious kingdom, open the door of thought widely for all the mortal false laws to enter and walk all over us.

Say, “**NO MORE**” to the lies, and joyfully, humbly, obey and follow our Father-Mother Love.

## **SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement – October 20th, 2019**

### **"One in Quality, Not in Quantity"!!**

Thank you for another inspiring Bible lesson, and for all the wonderful teaching posts. In the book, **We Knew Mary Baker Eddy**, Second Series, (Chapter: The Call to Concord testimony by George Wendell Adams), I enjoyed reading about Mrs. Eddy teaching a class in which she devoted much time to impress upon her students that “there is but one God; and consequently, but one full reflection,—the compound idea, man. She indicated that only as her students grasp the fundamental fact that one God could have but one full reflection, did they have the basic sense of Christian Science and the scientific starting point.”

Mr. Adams goes on to say: “This instruction in no way conflicted with Mrs. Eddy’s teaching as given in her textbook relative to individual man and ideas. Here she states in effect that Jesus’ declaration, ‘I and my Father are one,’ means ‘one in quality, not in quantity’ (*Science and Health*, p. 361)

She further amplifies this in these words: ‘There is but one creator and one creation. This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected. These ideas range from the infinitesimal to infinity, and the highest ideas are the sons and daughters of God’ (*Science and Health*, pp. 502, 503)

“As her wonderful teaching on this subject unfolded to us with crystal clarity, we realized more fully than ever before that: ‘God is indivisible. A portion of God could not enter man; neither could God’s fulness be reflected by a single

man, else God would be manifestly finite, lose the deific character, and become less than God. Allness is the measure of the infinite, and nothing less can express God.’ (*Science and Health*, p. 336)

Nothing that Mrs. Eddy said would limit individual man from fully expressing God’s qualities and the individual God-given ability to comprehend all that is real.”

So thankful for the testimonies of those who knew Mrs. Eddy. The idea of “*one in quality, not in quantity*,” made a deep impression on me. I had not taken time to reflect on oneness as a state of quality. Hard to explain the shift in consciousness that came from reading that simple truth; a sweet peacefulness swept over me, and it returned to my mind whenever I woke up during the night. “One in quality.” Indivisible, regardless of what my five senses try to report about the derisiveness of this world of perception. God is Love. Amen. \*\*\*\*\*

### **“Can Two Walk Together, Except They be Agreed?”**

It was brought to my attention by my practitioner to work with obedience from our Lesson this week. I am very grateful for the instructions here that show us the practical daily use of our weekly Lesson Sermons. This is something that I never did before coming to Plainfield. Obey/obedience is mentioned 6 times in our Lesson.

In thinking about obedience to God’s precepts, the idea came to me that in mathematics, in order to end up with a correct answer, I must be obedient to the math rules. I don’t decide on a whim that I feel  $2+2=5$  is the formula I would prefer and expect it to work. This was a sobering thought. Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” from our recent Bible study came to thought as an example of obedience.

Obey: Websters 1828: “To comply with the commands; To submit to the direction or control of; To yield.”

Obedience: International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1915. "The performance of what is required; a proper submission to authority; That which duty requires implies dignity of conduct, rather than servility. Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God and reverence for Him. The Old Testament conception of obedience was vital. It was the one important relationship which must not be broken. 'In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.' (Genesis 22:18)."

The following article was mentioned as one to work with and one that I found very helpful. "Overcoming by Obedience" from Addresses by Martha Wilcox  
<https://books.plainfieldcs.com/martha-wilcox/addresses/overcoming-by-obedience/>

## As We Strive To Have Our Part In The At-One-Ment

*Science and Health*, p. 21: 1-5, 9-14.

"If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation, you can finally say, 'I have fought a good fight ... I have kept the faith,' because you are a better man. **This is having our part in the at-one-ment with Truth and Love.**" (Emphasis added)

"If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. He constantly turns away from material sense, and looks towards the imperishable things of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the start, and gain a little each day in the right direction, till at last he finishes his course with joy."

Our text book also tells us that, "The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part." *Science and Health*, p. 23:4-5

Our striving to be better is not done on our own. The following are other citations that confirm our sustenance by Father-Mother's Love as we strive. *Science and Health*, p. 23:7-11 "The atonement is a hard problem in theology, but its scientific

explanation is, that suffering is an error of sinful sense which Truth destroys, and that eventually both sin and suffering will fall at the feet of everlasting Love."

*Science and Health*, p. 28:6-8 "The determination to hold Spirit in the grasp of matter is the persecutor of Truth and Love." - yet each time we are able to resist such persecution, the angels of God are ever at hand, to lift us up as Christ Jesus was. **And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. Luke 22:43**

We should be comforted by the many instances where Jesus' own resistance to give in to the flesh, demonstrating His consecration to the Christ, was blessed by appearing angels to prove their sustaining power. We are also sent angels to comfort us as we strive to be better men/women.

## "Truth in The Inward Parts"

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom." Ps. 51:6

God demands that I courageously and honestly look deep within myself – search my innermost motives – and be willing to face any error that lurks there. Be willing to see the error for what it really is, not justify it, nor overlook it, nor even gloss it over as something less offensive, but be honest enough to admit it. It's never easy, but if I do it, God will give me the wisdom to cast it out as not being "mine."

This is the "cup" that I need to drink **all** of, *continually*. I thank God for Christian Science and practitioner support that is helping me with this. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you very much for this post. I have been thinking about Truth a lot lately and God is Truth and is within me – us. I thought the Wednesday Readings called NEVER ALONE, OUR GOD IS OUR HELP really guide us to this inward place where healing happens.

In the story of Asa, this trust in Truth is available to all, "whether with many or with them that have no power: help us O Lord our God; for we rest on thee."