

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Christ Jesus

– March 1st, 2020

Mrs. Eddy & the Shekinah Glory of God

“ . . . [I]n order to enter into the kingdom, the anchor of hope must be cast beyond the veil of matter into the Shekinah into which Jesus has passed before us . . . ” (*Science and Health*, p. 40)

This account (from the June 1888 *C. S. Journal*) captures the urgency of Mrs. Eddy’s exhortation to the audience of the third convention of the National CS Association in Chicago, with lavender kid gloves off:

“From the depths of her personal experience, and out a heart yearning to bestow its priceless treasures upon those who listened, the revered Teacher, Mrs. Eddy, spoke. Those who understand her best said, with solemn conviction, that never before had she so sternly, yet tenderly, shown the demands upon her students. For them she rent the veil of personal sense; to them she showed the hidden workings of Animal Magnetism, in its latest and subtlest intrigues. She warned those who would pass through this wonderful epoch in the history of Christian Science to watch and pray without ceasing.

This duty done, she turned, with that mighty power which she possesses, to the God whom she obeys and reflects, and away, apart from a sense of sin or consciousness of individual ambition, pride, hope, or fear, she centered the gaze upon the Shekinah, and led willing ears to listen to the oracles of Good, — and, listening, to obey.”****

Thank you for this post. The article mentioned is very timely and a call to all Christian Scientists. It is our duty to watch and pray without ceasing

and teach others. This helps me understand the term Shekinah. One dictionary from Google defines Shekinah as “the glory of divine presence, conventionally represented as light.”

17th century: from late Hebrew...dwell, rest. “She centered the gaze upon the Shekinah, and led willing ears to listen to the oracles of Good. — and, listening, to obey.”

A Den of Thieves

“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:12)

Thief: One who secretly, unlawfully and feloniously takes the goods or personal property of another.

One who seduces by false doctrine. (John 10:1)

One who makes it his business to cheat and defraud; as a den of thieves. (Matthew 21:12)

Webster’s 1828

“Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)

“...What should have been a sanctuary for the righteous had become a refuge for the wicked, and the Son of God was not going to put up with it. God’s design for the temple was that it be a house of prayer, a place to meet with God and worship Him. But when Jesus stepped into its courts, He found not prayer but avarice, extortion, and oppression.” (John Gill’s Exposition)

Mrs. Eddy warns us, “If hypocrisy, stolidity, inhumanity, or vice finds its way into the chambers of disease through the would-be healer, it would, if it were possible, convert into a den of thieves the temple of the Holy Ghost, — the patient’s spiritual

power to resuscitate himself. The unchristian practitioner is not giving to mind or body the joy and strength of Truth. The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father's loving-kindness." *S&H*, p. 365:25

I ask, "What am I allowing or tolerating that would cheat and defraud my conscious awareness of God's good plan and messages for me? *****

From Gilbert Carpenter's Spiritual Precepts, Vol. 2: "With his whip of small cords, Jesus whipped those who represented the human mind out of the temple. There was a symbolism in the fact that the cords were small. Had they been large, it would have indicated that the large affairs of the temple were not being conducted through demonstration. Church members are usually betrayed by the human mind, because they strive to demonstrate the important matters, and neglect the small ones, leaving them for the human mind to do. The little foxes spoil the vines; doing the minutiae with the human mind hinders growth. Little things seem to them too trivial to bother to demonstrate them. So, the human mind should be excommunicated from the Church of Christ, Scientist, just as fast as possible, just as rapidly as students can be trained to see the error of the human mind, because it is God's enemy, being the belief of His absence."

Losing Life and Finding It

"He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 10: 39)

I remember once, a few years ago, when I was in a store and heard a young child ask her mother what this meant. Her mother was at a loss for words.

From MacClaren's Expositions:

"...The true losing of life is the slaying of self, and that has to be done day by day, and not once for all, in some supreme act of surrender at the end, or in some initial act of submission and yielding at the beginning, of the Christian life. We ourselves have to take the knife into our own hands and

strike, and that not once, but ever, right on through our whole career. For, by natural disposition, we are all inclined to make our own selves to be our own centres, our own aims, the objects of our trust, our own law; and if we do so, we are dead whilst we live, and the death that brings life is when, day by day, we 'crucify the old man with his affections and lusts.'

"What is meant? This is meant — the absolute submission of the will to commandments and providences, the making of that obstinate part of our nature meek and obedient and plastic as the clay in the potter's hands....

And we do not lose our lives in the lofty, noble sense, until we can say — and verify the speech by our actions — 'Not my will but Thine be done.' They who thus submit, they who thus welcome into their hearts, and enthrone upon the sovereign seat in their wills, Christ and His will — these are they who have lost their lives. When we can say, 'I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,' then, and only then, have we in the deepest sense of the words 'lost our lives.'

"...The phrase means the suppression, and sometimes the excision, of appetites, passions, desires, inclinations. It means the hallowing of all aims; it means the devotion and the consecration of all activities....

"If you would drive self out of your hearts...let Christ's love and sacrifice come in. And then, what no brooms and brushes, no spades nor wheelbarrows, will ever do — namely, cleanse out the filth that lodges there — the turning of the river in will do, and float it all away. The one possibility for complete, conclusive deliverance from the dominion and tyranny of Self is to be found in the words 'For My sake.'

"So if you would own yourselves, give yourselves away. And such an one 'shall find' his life, here and now, in that all earthly things will be sweeter and better. The altar sanctifies the gift. When some pebble is plunged into a sunlit stream, the water brings out the veined colourings of the stone that looked all dull and dim when it was lying upon the bank. Fling your whole being, your wealth, your activities, and everything, into that stream, and they will flash in splendour else unknown." *****

Thank you for sharing this! I love this quote by Mary Baker Eddy:

“Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be moulded and exalted before they take form in words and in deeds.” (S&H 1:11)

We have everything to gain by trusting in God. His plan is always better than ours. *****

“Who Did Hinder You, That Ye Should Not Obey the Truth?”

“Who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the Truth?” (*Science and Health*, p. 326:22)

The first time I read this Lesson this week, this question really stopped me in my tracks. When I honestly asked myself this, I had to answer — “No one.”

The only one who could hinder me, would be myself. There really is no excuse nor justification for not obeying the Truth, as I have been taught here at Plainfield Church. Only holding on to a personal sense of myself, — a belief that I can know something, or succeed in anything, apart from God. Or a reluctance to give up a cherished, but detrimental, habit or character trait that’s caused me nothing but trouble and unhappiness.

I’m grateful for the practitioner who is helping me look deeply within, and helping me cast out anything that would hinder my obedience to Truth, and spiritual progress. It’s an ongoing and needed process, — sometimes painful — but always a wonderful one.

Mrs. Eddy’s pure Christian Science as taught and lived here, is the only thing that has given me true health, sanity, happiness, and a purpose in life. And to let anything hinder my obeying would not only be stupid, but fatal.

Thank you, Lesson-writer, for including this all-important question. *****

Peace

“Today the only peace is the sword of Truth.” This quote is from an excellent article from

Herbert W. Eustace entitled, “Let Us Then Be Up And Doing.”

“Christian Scientists must never be careless about replacing the wrong sense that is cast out, with the right sense, so that evil will find no door unbarred, and no vacant room to occupy. They must not take the attitude of crying, “Peace, peace: when there is no peace.” Peace can be

... [\(Continue reading article here...\)](#)

The article expands on the subject of peace in the Bible Lesson this week. Jesus said he “came not to send peace, but a sword...a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”

I see Jesus pointing out how often people worship a spouse or brother or child, instead of giving them to God, and worshiping God alone. I have seen how trying to please family members instead of God can result in disaster; how not giving one’s child to God creates awful anxiety, etc.; how losing a parent or child can find one bereft, without any reason to live.

Realizing that God is our true Father-Mother, releases us from personal responsibility, to depend wholeheartedly on God, but this takes effort. And Jesus states, “These things I have spoken unto you, that *in me* ye might have peace.” (emphasis added)

We must abide in the Christ consciousness to find peace. But this “peace” is only won with a sword, when we are “up and doing” as Eustace explains: “We need to be the voice of God, and to be about His business every instant. We cannot rest.” *****

SUBJECT: Man — March 8th, 2020

Daniel: "Among the Captives"? Hardly

“I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.” (Dan. 2:16) To the five senses, Daniel was taken captive in a land filled with strange gods and occultists honoring them.

But through persistent, devoted striving, Daniel overcame his circumstances — praying fervently toward Jerusalem three times a day. Jerusalem as “Home, heaven.” (*Science and Health*, p. 589:12)

By such commitment and devotion, Daniel was able to throw off his identity as a “captive.” Putting off “the old man” (Eph. 3:23, Col.3:9), Daniel became one with the one Mind that is God.

And so the real captives in Babylon were its own citizens, most especially the king’s magicians and occultists, while Daniel established himself as a citizen of heaven (harmony), Jerusalem (called “New Jerusalem” in the Book of Revelation), his true home. “This material sinful personality, which we misname man, is what St. Paul terms ‘the old man and his deeds,’ to be ‘put off.’ ” (*No and Yes*, 27:20)

Mrs. Eddy stresses that this “old man” does not exist in the Mind of God, therefore does not exist at all, and that it’s a lie to identify any man, woman, or child as sinful, sickly, or mortal: “Therefore it required the divinity of our Master to perceive the real man, and to cast out the unreal or counterfeit.

It caused St. Paul to write, — ‘*Lie not one to another*, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.’ ” (*Christian Science vs. Pantheism* 10:30, emphasis added.) *****

Not a Victim

“And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” (John 5:5-8)

“In divine Science, man is the true image of God. 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. The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration.” (*Science and Health*, p. 259:6)

I am learning at Plainfield that we are not victims of anything. Slowly, I am letting go of my “poor thought-models” through practitioner support here at this church and using what I am learning in our Roundtable and Bible study classes. The Christ cut through every lie presented in the case of the man by the pool, such as length of problem, type of problem, complications from problem, cause of problem, etc., and the man had to listen, trust, and act on Jesus’s instruction to “arise.” Arise: To ascend, mount up or move to a higher place. (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary) *****

I Can Do All Things Through Christ Which Strengtheneth Me

GOLDEN TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4: 13

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

I first heard this in the Christian churches my family attended as child, and it sounded nice, but with time I felt it was just a trite saying. I see now that it felt trite or untrue because I was increasingly relying on the human mind and material means to try to navigate my daily life. In that state, I steadily found that I could do nothing through mortal mind which weakened me.

But now, after being a member of this church for a while, and learning Christian Science, this above statement has new meaning to me: My connection through Christ to all that God is — Truth, Life, Love, Soul, Spirit, Principle, and Mind

– allows God to express through me all good and real activity.

So, what does this mean, day-to-day? Can I lift a car over my head? No. Can I lift someone's thought with inspired words of Truth and Love? Yes! Can I fly? No.

Can I rise up over the mesmeric suggestions of animal magnetism so that I can do my "duty to God, to [my] Leader, and to mankind"? Yes!

Those comic book ideas of what strength meant to me as a child needed to be put aside so that I could learn what strength truly is, and the value of it. More and more I understand why my practitioner has said that we need to watch out for the things that come to steal our Christ: Losing that connection with God takes our strength, our purpose, our usefulness, and our peace. *****

He Performeth The Thing That Is Appointed For Me.

"For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him." (Job 23:14)

This statement stood out to me this week. The story of Daniel in this week's Lesson is a wonderful example of this. Daniel and his companions knew that God would supply the answer regarding the dream and its interpretation. It was very comforting and reassuring that God is doing whatever it is necessary for me to do. He does the appointing and the doing. It is therefore really important for me to get fear, pressure, pride, personal sense and self out of the way so that God can freely work through me.

It says in the Daily Watch (#138) this week, "God is sending forth more than you receive; hence your effort must be to increase your capacity to receive." *****

But There Is a God In Heaven That Revealeth Secrets

Dan 2:28 "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king

Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days."

Indecision used to be one of the most troubling mesmeric suggestions that came whenever there was a decision to be made. This brought much anxiety; but the gradual trusting that **"there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets"** and other truths like **"I can do all things through Christ"** wiped away those cruel false suggestions.

The Christ, the Divine manifestation of God, is forever near to make and reveal our right decisions, as well as to give us more light to understand whatever is needed! Instead of going back and forth with what is right to do and dealing with the anguish of possible mistakes, the quick turning to God, with the consistent trust and reliance on **All-Knowing God** has brought much peace for me to be able to stop the panic from indecision, and in the calmness hear what God is saying. *****

Thank you for this post.

I have been thinking about Daniel and how he had the confidence to turn to God without even knowing the dream that the king was talking about. Daniel expected God to reveal what was necessary for him to know.

1828 Webster says that expectation differs from hope because "...it is founded on some reasons which render the event probable."

Daniel already had a relationship with God and as was stated by another post, he had put off the "old man" of pagan thinking that surrounded him.

I am learning that expectation is an important part of prayer because we are already one with God, and as His image and likeness naturally receive His Love when we are obedient and open to His goodness.

It is done, "...so be calm, quiet and patient while waiting for the right answer or result to be revealed to us..."
(from [Dede's article](#) in the September 2017 issue of *Love is the Liberator*).