

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Reality — March 29th, 2020

No Two Worlds – Material and Spiritual

In the Blue Book, Martha Wilcox is quoted saying that one of the first lessons she learned in Mrs. Eddy's house was that "the 'objects of sense' when correctly understood, are really 'ideas of Soul.'" There are not two groups of creation — but just one." So, in reality, there is no material world apart from the spiritual. Whenever we go out we can declare that we only meet Spirit today, whatever and whoever we come across, whatever we touch, whatever we hear, whatever we see, whatever we receive IS Spirit, good, is already approved and blessed by God and can only bless us. Be prepared! *****

Very beautiful — and true! Thank you, Melinda.

Thank you. I can't seem to be reminded too often of the Wilcox quote, "the 'objects of sense' when correctly understood, are really 'ideas of Soul'." *****

Two Kinds of Evidence

The word "evidence" is derived from the Latin *evidentia*, from *video*, "to see."

The word "idolatry" is derived from the Greek word meaning "thing seen."

Mrs. Eddy's allegory, "The Trial" (*Science and Health*, pp. 430-442), deals with attorneys battling over 2 kinds of evidence, both sides vehemently contradicting each other: mind versus Mind, the former presenting evidence of things seen and the latter presenting evidence of things not seen, also identified in Hebrews 11:1 as "the substance of things hoped for" or "faith."

At the beginning of the trial, in the lower court of the senses, the accused (a critically sick patient) allows the prosecuting attorneys and a flood of witnesses to dominate the court — without a single "I object!"

During Hitler's reign of terror, the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda successfully employed the technique of "the Big Lie" — the mesmeric repeating of a self-evident falsehood via party, press, and pulpit: radio broadcasts, newspapers, motion pictures, billboards, public notices, speeches, sermons, tracts and handouts, educational materials for children and young adults, with great urgency and emotional force — along with government censorship of any opposing viewpoints — all for the purposes of mass-"enlightenment," which was nothing more than mind-control.

In the court of lower consciousness, the show-trial ends with a conviction — the death penalty! — without a peep of protest from the attorney-deprived convict, paralyzed, speechless with mind-monopolizing fear.

But on appeal, as he finally comes to his spiritual senses, the convict allows his attorney, Christian Science, to hold court and present evidence in the Supreme Court of Spirit, ultimately proving that all the lower court's "evidence" gathered by the physical senses amounted to nothing but a Big Lie.

At this point, the evil accusers of the lower court of mind cry out, "[declaring] that Christian Science was overthrowing the judicial proceedings of a regularly constituted court" (*Science and Health*, p. 437:25), but the higher court of Mind quickly dismisses this contempt-of-court claim.

At last, the lower court of sense and all its occupants are silenced, vanquished, dispersed like a wisp of smoke in a windstorm. And one Mind prevails.

More than ever before, Christian Scientists must refuse to allow thoughts from the lower court to kick Science out of their thought-life! “Thought passes from God to man” and *only* from God to man, not vice versa, “that man may have audience with Spirit” alone, not with fear, but with that which casts out fear, “the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error.” (*Science and Health*, pp. 284:30, 15:12-13)

Therefore, with the flaming sword of the Word of God protecting the Tree of Life in every direction, it’s time, as never before, to strike at the head of the phantom paper dragon of the Apocalypse that “deceiveth the whole world” (Rev. 12:9); time to turn whatever consciousness remains of its “reality” into dust and ashes! *****

Thanks for the posts. How timely and reinforcing what we should all be doing at this time. The conscious, active knowing of Truth is our defense and armor, as well, at this time. The army of error is raging, but it feels good to be firm in the truth and stand on the Rock of salvation, unmoved by the lies. Thank God, Christ Jesus, and Mrs. Eddy — praying the Truth about God and man is being revealed everywhere and real freedom is being gained. ****

"Subordinate the False Testimony"

“The substance, Life, intelligence, Truth, and Love, which constitute Deity, are reflected by His creation; and when we subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses to the facts of Science, we shall see this true likeness and reflection everywhere.” (*Science and Health*, p. 516:4)

Subordinate – To make subject to; to put under the control of. (Webster 1828)

This is a wonderful treatment! Mrs. Eddy tells us here to begin with the Allness of God, and then to put *all* false sense testimony — what we see and hear from the fake news, negative reports, and any other “material sources” — to put it **all** under the control of the facts of Science (the Truth that we have been taught here). This enthroned Science, Truth, is putting its foot on the neck of error; and no matter how loud error seems to scream, it is

forever powerless in the All-presence of Truth. Our Church, through the prayers and watches of all its members, is holding the facts of Science to error’s neck, and we won’t let go until we see God’s “true likeness and reflection everywhere.” *****

God’s Allness and Power

This lesson on Reality is a power house! The word power or powerful is used many times along with salvation, savior, and dominion thrown in for good measure!

I love I Chronicles 29:11 in the Responsive Reading which says “Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.”

To me, this theme of God’s allness and power runs throughout the Bible from beginning to end: The Lord’s Prayer and the first commandment; He is our rock and salvation; and in *Science and Health* it says, “Insist vehemently on the great fact which covers the whole ground, that God, Spirit, is all, and that there is none beside Him. There is *no disease*.” (*S&H*, p. 421:15)

Vehemently – Urgently; forcibly; with great zeal or pathos. (Webster’s 1828)

No “lavender kid gloves” there! Talk about blasting a hole in error’s lies and mesmeric suggestions. Thank you for this lesson and the lesson writers. So grateful I found this church. ***

Only One Saviour!

“I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.” Isaiah 43:11

“Savior: From sozo; a deliverer, i.e. God or Christ — saviour.” (Strong’s *Exhaustive Concordance*)

“SALVATION. Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and death destroyed.” (*Science and Health*, p. 593:20)

The citation from Isaiah in our Lesson stood out to me today after reading the Tuesday Unity

Watch. It included this citation, and the last line read, "Let us gather together tomorrow as His faithful servants and witnesses to glorify His name and give gratitude for the abundance, protection, and purpose that are found only in Christian Science, so that all will know the healing and comfort of Christ, Truth!"

We are warned, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." (Matthew 24:4-5)

We are instructed, "We must forsake the foundation of material systems, however time-honored, if we would gain the Christ as our only Saviour." (*Science and Health*, p. 326:12)

With all the talk about how to "save" this Nation and other Nations from especially "plagues," it seems that we better heed these warnings from Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, especially since material "systems" are Godless. To me, the deceptive part would mean that it will appear "good, safe and perhaps attractive." I find Mrs. Eddy's statement a "plumb-line" for this salvation. It does not involve "material systems." We have been instructed at Plainfield that material systems will fail and that, "Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science." (*S&H*, p.232:7) *****

Thank you. What I got from this post is that everyone must learn to turn to God to have their needs met. *****

Reality

Science and Health, p. 203:32 "...for God alone is man's life."

And this morning it clearly came: God is man's being! This gives me a lot to ponder. *****

SUBJECT: Unreality — April 5th, 2020

Never Fear What God Didn't Make

Thank you for the uplifting Roundtable discussion on 3/29! In the afternoon, while listening to your lively, joyous meeting, I had a

healing that I didn't realize until later. I'd been feeling a heaviness, and your powerful prescriptions of faith and laughter mixed with compassion broke the mesmerism.

The talk about the CV image projected by the media brought to mind something that happened on March 1. I had prayed for more understanding regarding the fear surrounding the corona virus. An angel thought reminded me that the word corona is a definition for a halo around the sun. Light! So, focus on that, and not the virus. Thoughts rolled in. In Truth, Light is, and nothing can put out the eternal Light of God. Yes, it can appear to be covered up by clouds of fear and doubt, but the Light shines always. Just like our life-giving sun always shines. Only the Earth's rotation divides day into night.

Grateful thoughts turned to God's Infinite Love, and how we are made in the image and likeness of God, spirit-formed. I was praying for all to turn toward the Light within that eternal spark that can never be put out.

What happened next caught me by surprise. A peacefulness enfolded me and a cosmic sunflower appeared in my mind's eye. The flower's sturdy stalk had reached up for the Light, growing far beyond the fearful din of the material world. It looked somewhat bedraggled, bowed head, with frayed yellow petals that had yet to fully open wide as it was almost daybreak. But the sunflower had made it. The light had prevailed. I could relate! And was suddenly filled with hope and joy.

I loved the symbolism of the cosmic sunflower. A little research added more clarity. This plant has dynamic energy and represents community, all working together in unity. The sunflower is not one large blossom as it appears, but its face is comprised of clusters of tiny five-pointed stars. The sunflower brings happiness. They always face the sun. At sunrise the flower swings around to the east to greet a new day. When a sunflower appears, it is a reminder to keep our eyes on the higher light in all that we do. Opportunities will appear for us to find happiness with our inner sun.

A random search for a galactic sunflower turned up a NASA photo of the Sunflower Galaxy. Wow!

— what a comparison to a tiny nothingness microbe.

Thank you all for your insights and web resources. *****

Wow — what you wrote are truly “joyful blessings”! Thank you very much. Beautiful description of God’s universe intact! *****

If...Then

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32.)

As a stand-alone remark, is “the truth shall make you free” a truthful statement?

No. It’s true only *if*:

1) “If ye *continue* in my word...” Joshua 1:8 plainly explains it: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” This means continuous thinking, speaking, acting upon the Word. *Day and night*.

2) “Then are ye my disciples,” that is, you will become students. Learners absorbed in continuous study and devoted *practice* to achieve mastery of the subject of your study.

Then, and only then, “ye shall know the truth, and the truth [that which you have faithfully applied yourself to know] “shall make you free.”

Mrs. Eddy puts it in practical terms here, regarding her writings:

“True, it requires more study to understand and demonstrate what they teach than to learn the doctrine of theology, philosophy, or physics, because they contain and offer Science, with fixed Principle, given rule, and unmistakable proof.” (*Misc.*, p. 366:4, *No & Yes*, p. 11:18.)

Knowledge of the truth is a gradual process of achievement, line upon line, precept upon precept. Patience, gentleness combined with unshakable commitment are essential to this achievement:

“It requires *sacrifice, struggle, prayer, and watchfulness* to understand and demonstrate what these volumes teach, because they involve divine Science, with fixed Principle, a given rule, and unmistakable proof.” (*No & Yes*, p. 33:8, *emphasis added*.) *****

“When We Come to Have More Faith...”

“When we come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error.” (*Science and Health*, p. 368:14)

I read somewhere several years ago that this was Mrs. Eddy’s favorite passage in *Science and Health*. I’ve always loved it, but this morning I took it deeply into my heart.

Mrs. Eddy does not write “if,” but “**when**.” Webster (1828) defines “when” as, “at the time when; what time; and WHEN as sacred light began to dawn.” This ties in so beautifully with the Lesson this week, — the light of Truth casting out darkness.

I’m asking myself now, do *I* have more faith, — more trust — in Truth, in Spirit, in Life? And most importantly, more faith in God than in man — that is, in any personal sense of man, of me, of a life and mind separate from God? That is the faith I need to demonstrate now. Now is the time; now is the “WHEN.” Thank you for this timely Lesson.

God’s Light Shining in Our Hearts

“God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (II Corinthians 4:6) This verse, the Golden Text this week, shows God shining a light in our hearts, dispelling the darkness of erroneous negative thoughts and suggestions of doubt, fear, anger, hate, etc., so we can see the Truth of the glory God in Christ Jesus and in Christian Science.

I can see that the “old dragon” is just this old, decrepit, feeble lying “dragon” trying to stand in front of the light when it first shines, to try and cast big scary-looking shadows. But when the light (knowledge of God in His glory) rises in my understanding to its zenith, the “old dragon” is seen for what it is – a big nothing, a lie, with no power, which disappears because it never was. Thank you for this lesson. *****

Angels

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” (Psalm 91:11)

“ANGELS. God’s thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.” *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 581:4.

“Counteract: To make ineffective or restrain or neutralize the usually ill effects of, by means of, an opposite force, action, or influence.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

This week I was given the above definition of “Angels” by a Plainfield practitioner to work with. I really appreciated Mrs. Eddy’s first part of the definition, “God’s thoughts passing to man.” Here is a promise and directive. I see now it is God’s thoughts, not mine, providing “spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality,” and God that is “counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.”

My job is to stand porter at the door of thought to keep out “the offending errors.” (*Science and Health*, p. 392:31). I am so grateful for practitioner support and the carefully chosen materials on the Plainfield website that help us.

Stand

Ephesians 6:13 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

STAND – *Author Unknown*

We must stand without wavering. There need not be much mental work done, “Be still and know that I am God” is all that is really necessary. The

harder you “work” mentally — sometimes — the more real the claim appears — so do as Jesus did — expect the — “WORD” — TO HEAL INSTANTLY.

Now the next step is to hold fast to this — let this Christ rise in you. How? First, practice Peace. Jesus said, “My peace I give unto you.” We do not recognize the importance of these words, nor of what Paul said — “None of these things move me.” Speak peace to the turmoil within — hundreds of times a day. Learn what the word means. Speak it to all things and persons, either verbally or mentally and especially to yourself.

When you acquire quietness of heart, when knowing that you are one with — ALL THE POWER THERE IS, when you consciously feel peace because there is nothing else but that peace for God’s likeness, then you take the next step — possession. A sense of possession is as much a law of your being as the distinct eternal sense of health or the distinct sense of activity. Practice having this sense of all things and men having dominion over all things. Doesn’t Mrs. Eddy say, “God giving all and man having all that God gives?” (*My.*, p.5:9) Doesn’t that mean anything to you? I believe that this possession of what God gives us — and He gives all — is the step leading to the understanding of dominion — or that which gives us what seems to be lacking. *****

His Wonders!

