

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 162

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? — April 12th, 2020

Easter Morning Light – Eternal Noon

Christian Science teaches that man is derived from God as a ray of light emanates from the sun. (*Science and Health*, p. 250.)

“The sun is not affected by the revolution of the earth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 310:12) If the earth quakes or is shrouded in black storm clouds or the mountains fall into the sea, the sun and each of its rays remain unchangeable. The most powerful demonstration of this truth was the Resurrection. Error had thrown everything possible at Jesus to knock him off course, but it was all in vain.

“The Master’s sublime triumph over all mortal mentality was immortality’s goal. He was too wise not to be willing to test the full compass of human woe, being ‘in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.’

“Thus the absolute unreality of sin, sickness, and death was revealed, — a revelation that beams on mortal sense as the midnight sun shines over the Polar Sea.” (*Unity of Good*, p. 58:13-20)

At Easter, Christ Jesus proved the image and likeness of God to be as eternal and indestructible as God is.

“The sun, giving light and heat to the earth, is a figure of divine Life and Love, enlightening and sustaining the universe.” (*Science and Health*, p. 538:11) This is my purpose, as ray sent forth from the Sun of Righteousness in all its unspeakable power.

“SUN. The symbol of Soul governing man, — of Truth, Life, and Love.” (*Science and Health*, p. 595:1) To the degree I understand this, I will be a

blessing to everything around me, and to everyone upon whom my thought rests.

“The sunlight glints from the church-dome, glances into the prison-cell, glides into the sick-chamber, brightens the flower, beautifies the landscape, blesses the earth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 516:16) This is a mighty picture of the universal blessing that you, I, and all of us are called to be.

“The radiant sun of virtue and truth coexists with being. Manhood is its eternal noon, undimmed by a declining sun.” (*Science and Health*, p. 246:11)

"Who Told Thee That Thou Wast Naked?"

Genesis 3:6, 7, 9-11

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

“And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

“And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

“And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked?”

I have heard people say, and probably have said myself, “Darn Adam and Eve for messing things up!” But with what I am learning in Christian Science, it is becoming clearer that I must accept my part in this. I am responsible for standing “porter at the door”¹ of my thought. Each time I entertain error, or seek human knowledge to make me wise, or look to anything mortal to find

pleasure, or feel that inspiration from God is not enough for me to be prepared for daily life, I need to ask, “Who is saying this?”

By allowing my eyes to be “opened” to error, I am reducing the effectiveness of my spiritual perception,² and thus my ability to reflect Him. By allowing myself to become afraid, and to hide myself in human concerns, I am actually holding myself back from that which keeps me “clothed, and in [my] right mind”³ — Truth, Life, Love, Soul, Spirit, Principle, and Mind!

I am so grateful to be learning to apply this Science practically through all that is offered here in Plainfield. Thank you!

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 392

² from Mrs. Eddy’s description of the spiritual senses from page 126 of *Collectanea*.

³ Mark 5:15

Faithfulness, Our Loyalty to God

In the Lesson this week, Jesus says to the centurion who beseeched him to heal his servant, “...I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” In the Lesson, in *Science and Health*, p. 34:26, it says, “As a reward for his faithfulness, he (Christ Jesus) would disappear to material sense in that change which has since been called the ascension.”

Faithfulness—fidelity; loyalty; firm adherence to duty; strict performance of promises, or covenants; constancy of affection.

Loyalty—Faithful.

Faithful—Firm in adherence to the truth. (All definitions from *Webster’s* 1828 dictionary.)

I had to ask myself how faithful am I? What does it really mean to be faithful and what does that look like? It means being faithful to my understanding of God, Truth. If I am anywhere else in my thinking other than firm adherence to my unity with God, I am being distracted, drawn apart, confused, all in the attempt to separate me from God, which I could see was being disloyal to the God I profess to love with all my heart and soul and mind.

Distraction—a drawing apart; separation; confusion from a multiplicity of objects crowding on the mind and calling the attention in different ways.

I saw so much clearer that I could really, spiritually, not care what was going on around me, no matter how it seemed to feel. I wanted most to be loyal to God, to be faithful to him and that meant to know that there was nothing here or anywhere that needs healing, just the revealing that “All reality is in God and His creation, harmonious and eternal.” (*Science and Health*, p. 472:24).

Thank you! In reading this post, it brought to thought the sepulchre story in our Lesson this week.

I never thought much before how different the reactions to the angel were between the women disciples and the keepers of the grave. I am sure it was the faithfulness and pure affection (heart, soul, and mind) of the women for the Christ, that they left with great joy and shared the message that Christ Jesus had risen! So different than the keepers who shook and become “as dead men.” This quality of thought in the women enabled them to speak to the angel and get the message “fear not.” I am sure this gave them great courage during this time.

Matthew 28: 2-8

“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

“His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

“And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

“And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen....

“And they (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.”

The Former Things Are Passed Away

Revelation 21:4, 5

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: **for the former things are passed away.** (*Emphasis added.*)

“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

Oh! what a certain promise to keep us grateful and expectant of the joyful blessings of “Renewal” and the triumphant universal resurrection and commitment to a life with God which Easter should mean to us. What a time to ponder these precious words and be comforted that our daily striving to remain obedient to God’s laws, our covenant with Life in God, helps our “rising again” without the former things!!

“His resurrection was also their resurrection. It helped them to raise themselves and others from spiritual dullness and blind belief in God into the perception of infinite possibilities.” *Science and Health*, p. 34:20-23

This time could be the “rising again” with a new view of Life as spiritual, with God as our Parent and we as His children. Jesus’ grave clothes, napkin, etc., were left in the tomb. This tells me that this “rising again” cannot be with the former things. I can, with reliance on God, leave the former things for a continued renewal! “Behold I make all things new.”

Easter

Thank you, Lesson Writer, and all these posts. How beautiful is God’s promise kept, to give us the Christ “...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor... The Prince of Peace,” and Mrs. Eddy to discover the Truth that seemed to many to have been lost. All glory to God!

From Hymn 226

Shine forth, O Light, that we may see,
With hearts all unafraid,
The meaning and the majesty
Of things that Thou hast made:
Shine forth, and let the darkling past
Beneath Thy beam grow bright;
Shine forth, and touch the future vast
With Thine untroubled light.

Light up Thy word; the fettered page
From darkened bondage free:
Light up our way; lead forth this age
In love’s large liberty.
O Light of light, within us dwell,
Through us Thy radiance pour,
That word and deed Thy truths may tell,
And praise Thee evermore.

SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement — April 19th, 2020

Blending with God

“Christ presents the indestructible man, whom Spirit creates, constitutes and governs. Christ illustrates that blending with God, his divine Principle, which gives man dominion over all the earth.” *Science and Health*, p. 316:20

The word “blending” stood out to me and gave such an image of being so inextricably *united* with God! How then could we be separate from God? And the words “gives man dominion” points to Christ Jesus as our Wayshower, for this wording includes all of God’s children. This dominion is something we have to claim, and Jesus showed us the way. The question is, am I walking in his footsteps?

“You have taken on a tremendous job when you became a Christian Scientist. You have virtually aligned yourself with God. You say to God, ‘I am with You for evermore; I stand with You as Your child; I promise You my allegiance.’ ” Excerpt from “*Standing with God*” by Bicknell Young.

Thank you for this post! In thinking about “dominion” that was mentioned, and when looking the word up in *Webster’s* 1828, I found the following (in part): 5) Predominance; ascendant; 6) An order of angels. “Whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers.” Colossians 1:16; and 7) Persons governed.

“Judah was his sanctuary; Israel his dominion.” Psalms 114:2. Also, Genesis 1:26, and *Science and Health*, p. 316:21 mentions dominion. This dominion can only be given and directed by God. For me, this dominion starts with myself and comes under self-government; for instance, dominion over my feelings and how I am radiating out to the world is very important and this is done by totally submitting/giving myself to God. Here again is the first commandment.

Amazing Lessons from a Sheepdog

Philip Keller’s *Lessons from a Sheepdog* is the story of Lass, forever changed from an abused, chained, fear-crazed heap of snarling hostility into a free, appreciative, loving, exuberant friend eager to obey and to please her master every moment, every day.

It’s a new and exciting experience to hear the author himself speak about Lass [to a live audience in this video](#).

Mrs. Eddy often speaks of the atonement as the oneness of God and His image, or “reflex shadow.” The obedience of Lass models this shadow quality: not grudging or robotic, but an experience of *joy*, pure joy that cannot be contained, joy that welcomes every new command as a fresh, new adventure.

Lass and her master are an incredible illustration of at-one-ment, or, as Christ Jesus put it, “[being] made perfect in one”!

The story of Lass reminds me of the murderous Saul of Tarsus, who experienced “the touch of the Master’s hand” and was changed forever into God’s loving, joyful, obedient shadow — Paul.

Thank you Parthens for sharing this! What we find through our obedience and gratitude is priceless. Grateful for the reminder to spend time with John 14, 15, and 16.

Keeping God in All Our Thoughts

“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.” Psalm 10:4

I am grateful for the prayers and instructions from my practitioner here, that are helping me to bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

I once read “How you talk to yourself can either move you forward or keep you stuck.” (I might add, or move you in the opposite direction to where you need to go.) “God is not in all his thoughts” surely will keep me stuck. I would ask myself what benefit do I believe I get in staying in the negative? – God not in my thoughts.

Following the principles taught here provide many practical tools to help us keep “moving on” the straight and narrow path. I reminded myself today of some: work for God; Watch; focus on the present moment; surround yourself with people who put God first; take time with God; practice what you learn; be patient; don’t give up; refocus when you go off; be open to correction and let pride be burned out; take time with the word of God as found in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy and the Bible; be honest; make a covenant with God; be grateful.

Thank you for this post. Loved the list of “practical tools to help us keep ‘moving on’ the straight and narrow path.” A good list to keep handy. Only one or two things I can think of to add is to be joyful and laugh at error’s ridiculous lies (as a Plainfield practitioner has had to remind me to do more than once).

There Is Lifting Up

Job 22:29. “When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, **There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.**” (*Emphasis added.*)

This verse stood out so strongly today. To see many reports from so many, including celebrities, tell how the uncertainties of these times have humbled them, gives hope. In Spurgeon’s extensive Sermon on this verse, he repeatedly refers to the need for humility. Here are excerpts that bring this imperative point home:

“When the flood came, then the ungodly world was bowed down by fear, but Noah could say, ‘**There is lifting up;**’ and as the ark began to float upon the waters, his mind was perfectly convinced that God would save the humble....

“You cannot talk with some men until you do find them cast down. They are too shy and reserved, too proud and unapproachable; or perhaps too profane and blustering, to allow you to say a word to them about eternal things. But you can catch them sometimes. When sorrow has ploughed the soil, the good seed may get, perhaps, into the heart that erst was so hard....

“When men are cast down, then do you go to them, and say, ‘There is lifting up.’ Tell them that there is another lamp, that was never kindled in this world, and never blown out in this world either, which will gild the darkness of their poverty, of their sickness, and of their sorrow....”

We cannot escape from the demand to be humble. This could very well be the time when ‘men are cast down’ and are humble and ready to listen to the Truth. May each of our own trials and overcoming equip us with faith enough in the Truth to be able to, with honest hearts, tell whomever may be brought our way ‘**There is lifting up,**’ for our God is merciful and His promises never fail!

Beautiful, and so true. Thank you.

The Atonement

Excerpts from article by Alfred Farlow

Jesus was the person who understood the truth in its perfection and who demonstrated it perfectly in overcoming sickness, sin, and death.

The “second coming” is the advent in the individual consciousness of the Christ mentality, — the spiritual understanding which Jesus had, and by which he did the “mighty works.” The first coming proves what the understanding of Truth will enable men to do; the second coming shows how they are to do it.

It is the mission of Christian Science to render Christianity more practical by revealing its spiritual *modus operandi*, above and beyond any material ordinance. So long as religionists have faith in materiality and labor from a material standpoint, the material sense of the ordinance is essential; that is, one must observe the commands of God in a material way if he does not understand the spiritual. Knowing no way beyond the material he can do no more nor less than worship materially, but Jesus taught that God is Spirit, and that the true worshippers shall worship spiritually.

Christian Science leads its adherents into a spiritual understanding of God and therefore a spiritual worship. It leads above and beyond all material forms. It was the purpose of the priesthood to provide a mediator between God and man. Jesus was the “high priest,” because he led his followers into the highest possible conception of the Father, into the very presence of God. Jesus said, “When he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.”

Evidently, he meant that the spiritual understanding concerning truth, in contradistinction to a materialistic sense of it, would lead into a full and perfect knowledge. We can understand something of the divine power from a human or material standpoint, but to be guided into the full realization of truth we must draw our conclusions from a spiritual standpoint.
