

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 164

**SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals —  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## **Fables of Mortal Mind**

“The destruction of the claims of mortal mind through Science, by which man can escape from sin and mortality, blesses the whole human family.”  
“The truths of immortal Mind sustain man, and they annihilate the fables of mortal mind, whose flimsy and gaudy pretensions, like silly moths, singe their own wings and fall into dust. In reality there is no mortal mind, and consequently no transference of mortal thought and will-power. Life and being are of God.” *Science and Health*, p. 103:6-9, 25-32

“We must destroy in our daily consciousness the motives and desires which feed mortal mind.”  
*Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (the “Blue Book”) by Mary Baker Eddy, page 92.

“Motive: Something (such as a need or desire) that causes a person to act

Desire: To want or wish for (something)

Synonym: covet” (Webster’s online dictionary)

I am very grateful to be learning at Plainfield how to master sin by unveiling it, impersonalizing it, and destroying it through the correct understanding of Christian Science. Sin is mentioned 23 times in this lesson. My previous experience vacillated between old theology and new age, or as Mrs. Eddy says, either too much or too little thought. I came across the line in the “Blue Book” this week. Looking up the words gave me a fresh way to check my thinking. As we were told in a class recently, when tempted think forward to where the choice is taking you. I will now add to that, “What is it that I want?” as a way to check my thinking. From here I would then counter the “want” with “it is written.” For example, if I am tempted to be afraid of lack of supply, I can stop and affirm the promises from the Bible and *Science and Health*. It is written, “But my

God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:19*  
And “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” *Science and Health*, p. 494. Thank you lesson writers for these instructive healing Lessons.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Fables of Mortal Mind Annihilated**

I have been thinking a lot about the quote from *Science and Health* in this week’s Lesson, “The truths of immortal Mind sustain man, and they annihilate the fables of mortal mind, whose flimsy and gaudy pretensions, like silly moths, singe their own wings and fall into dust.” (p. 103:25-28)

Definitions from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

Sustain – to bear; to uphold; support; keep from falling; maintain; keep alive; to endure without failing or yielding

Annihilate – reduce to nothing

Fable – falsehood, lie

Flimsy– weak, feeble, vain, without strength or solid substance.

Gaudy – showy

Pretension – holding out the appearance of right or possession of a thing, with a view to make others believe what is not real.

This was saying to me that the truths of Immortal Mind that I am claiming to be true about man are supporting me and help me to see the nothingness of mortal mind’s vain feeble attempts to take possession of my thinking and try to make me believe that which is not true or real. I know that fear, doubt, or any suggestions that God is not all, are without substance or reality, and like the “silly moths” that unknowingly fly into the burning light which singe their wings, these lies of mortal mind must ultimately fall into dust, nothingness, where they came from.

## The Divine Economy

“...evil has in reality neither place nor power in the human or the divine economy.” (*Science and Health*, p. 327:20)

Webster’s 1828 defines “economy” as “the regular, judicious operations and management of nature” — including mankind. Judicious means according to wisdom and love, which is included in Mrs. Eddy’s definition of God (all-wise, all-loving).

Therefore, the divine economy, the *one* economy, the economy of our nation, is forever established, maintained and balanced by the immutable law of God. It is forever stable, secure, productive, robust, active, and continuously enriched in Mind. It is not subject to beliefs of greed, fear, recession, depression, lust, speculation, insolvency, or pandemic. Animal magnetism by any other name or nature cannot undermine, overthrow, nor bankrupt this economy. This knowing *is* Truth, Science, and “Both Science and consciousness are now at work in the economy of being according to the law of Mind, which ultimately asserts its absolute supremacy.” (*Science and Health*, p. 423:24)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fear Shall Have No More Dominion

*Romans 6:14* “**For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**” (*Emphasis added.*)

This citation moves me because it is one of the most empowering Scriptural statements to me! It tells me why we have dominion; because of God’s unchanging Love (His Grace). Today, there are so many programs out there to empower women, the youth, etc. — all subject to changes of the times. But what can really empower more than knowing how and who God has made you to be? What is more empowering than to know He who has all power to heal, to forgive sins, to help at any hour, is with me, and that He loves me and governs my all, if I let Him?

It reminds me of my tears, when through Christian Science, I learned that man has been given dominion over all ills, including fear!! Trusting this Hymn 181 will help someone:

Loving Father, we Thy children  
Look to Thee in fear’s dark night  
While the angels of Thy presence  
Guide us upward to the light.

Then we feel the power that lifts us  
To Thy holy secret place,  
Where our gloom is lost in glory  
As we see Thee face to face.

We would learn, O gracious Father,  
To reflect Thy healing love.  
May we all awake to praise Thee  
For Thy good gifts from above.

Make us strong to bear the message  
To Thy children far and near:

**Fear shall have no more dominion.**

(*Emphasis added.*)

God is All, and heaven is here.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Grace

*Romans 6:14* “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

“Grace” as defined in Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

– Appropriately, the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him. “And if by grace, then is it no more of works.” *Romans 11:6*

– Favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the spirit, in renewing the heart and restraining from sin. “My grace is sufficient for thee.” *2 Corinthians 12:9*

– The application of Christ’s righteousness to the sinner. “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” *Romans 5:20*

– A state of reconciliation to God. *Romans 5:2*

– Virtuous or religious affection or disposition, as a liberal disposition, faith, meekness, humility, patience, etc., proceeding from divine influence.

– Spiritual instruction, improvement and edification. *Ephesians 4:29*

I am learning that as I face my “sins” head on, God’s Grace is available and lifts me up to overcome any unrighteous thought or unkind deed. Before coming to Plainfield the ignorance of right

thinking and fear kept me from understanding this Grace that heals and resuscitates.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post. Anyone who has been awakened and freed from a sin has felt that grace, “the free unmerited love and favor of God.” And like the Golden Text this week where Paul says, “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.”

*I Corinthians 15:10*

So whether a friend, a practitioner, a watcher like Ezekiel, or Jesus rebuking the Pharisees, has warned us of the error of our ways, or our own suffering has done so, it is important to not let that awakening be in vain, but to stop sinning and be what God made us, his perfect, obedient child, “and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” *Romans 6:22*

Thank you for this Lesson!

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: Soul and Body —  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

### **"Your Body is The Temple"**

“...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” *I Corinthians 6:19-20*

This passage has always stood out to me, but I’ve never really thought about it much more deeply until now. In *Science and Health*, the definition for “Temple” starts out with “Body; the idea of Life, substance, and intelligence; the superstructure of Truth; the shrine of Love...” (p. 595:7) So how do I glorify God in my body, which is a temple? I like this quote from [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org):

“You are always in a temple. Always worship.” It reminds me of “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.” *I Thess. 5:16-18*

“Glorify” means to praise or honor. So I must rejoice and thank God for this vehicle for glorifying Him — to love and help others! I also must not bring anything into this temple that might pollute or defile,

and not focus on my body or worship my body by bowing down to it. But if it is the “temple of the Holy Ghost,” and “the idea of Life,” then in reality it is whole, pure and free from anything unlike God. This is a perfect opportunity to translate what I see — the physical body — into its higher, spiritual definition and purpose, and give it back to God!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Deny Himself**

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” *Matthew 16:24*

“Deny: To withhold; to disown; to refuse or neglect to acknowledge; to reject; not to embrace; not to yield.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

I thought about “deny himself,” and for me it meant if I am focused on personal self (plans, fears, human will, demands, etc.) then I am denying the Christ. I am a full vessel with no room left for Christ. Below is a citation that spoke to me of some of the things we are actively doing when we “deny” personal self — all things we are taught here in our classes to do daily.

“It is wise to be willing to wait on God, and to be wiser than serpents; to hate no man, to love one’s enemies, and to square accounts with each passing hour...Happiness consists in being and in doing good; only what God gives, and what we give ourselves and others through His tenure, confers happiness: conscious worth satisfies the hungry heart, and nothing else can. Consult thy everyday life; take its answer as to thy aims, motives, fondest purposes, and this oracle of years will put to flight all care for the world’s soft flattery or its frown.” “Be faithful at the temple gate of conscience, wakefully guard it; then thou wilt know when the thief cometh.” Mary Baker Eddy, *Message for 1902*, p. 17:17-19, 22-28, p.18:1-3.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post. While working with the denial of worrisome thoughts, and embracing true humility and concentrating on following God instead of my plans, citation 2 from *Science and Health* 114: 23-29 is helping me. “Christian Science explains all cause and effect as mental, not physical. It lifts the veil of mystery from Soul and body. It shows the

scientific relation of man to God, disentangles the interlaced ambiguities of being, and sets free the imprisoned thought. In divine Science, the universe, including man, is spiritual, harmonious, and eternal.”

This led me to the Bible Study on May 9<sup>th</sup> with the introduction from *Visions of Mary Baker Eddy* (Vision of September 10, 1891) where it says, “...as long as there is one student on earth who is working on the demonstration that connects man with God so that the divine Mind may be brought into the world, the Cause is safe.”

Thank you for the classes and Lessons that bring us into all Truth.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"Interlaced ambiguities of being..."**

“Christian Science...shows the scientific relation of man to God, disentangles the interlaced ambiguities of being, and sets free the imprisoned thought.” (*Science and Health*, p. 114:23)

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary helped bring this inspired thought more to light.

“Disentangle” — unravel; free; extricate from perplexity

“Interlaced” — intermixed, i.e., mixed up

“Ambiguities” — doubts; uncertainties

Before Christian Science, I was filled with doubts and questions, such as “why am I here, what is the purpose, is there a reason for all this?” I was badly mixed up, confused, constantly bound up in intellectual, godless thinking. What a relief, comfort, and joyous freedom to finally learn that God is Mind, *my* mind, the *only* mind; that God loves me and all, that God has only good for all, never condemns, and there is nothing ever to fear, and that Soul is God, not some undefinable thing inside me that is forever stained with sin. This was so very different from the religion I was raised and educated in — really “imprisoned” in. I am reminded of Hymn 201:

“Truth will from error free

Your long enslavèd mind,

And bring the light of liberty

Where it shall be enshrined.”

Thank you, Lesson-writers for these helpful lessons.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post that I can relate to!

When we are freed from our “long enslavèd mind”— then we are finally free to “radiate good” (instead of “absorb evil”) and then to truly help others! I was a slave to self-absorption for years and didn’t even know it, until the light of true Christian Science teaching found here in Plainfield finally shone upon me “the light of liberty.” Hallelujah!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"**

Almost a century ago, Clara C. Hanson experienced a remarkable healing, aided by the “Soul & Body” Bible Lesson (*C. S. Sentinel*, April, 1925) —

“On the morning of November 16, 1914, [as I was seated at the breakfast table] a bullet of twenty-two caliber was accidentally shot from a rifle a few feet behind me, and entered my skull about two inches back of the left ear. I was lingering at the breakfast table with a friend who made her home with us at the time. Not knowing that a rifle was being handled, I first thought it was an electric shock.

“When my friend said that I had been shot, immediately there came to me the realization that God’s presence is all there is. I did not lose consciousness even for a moment, and this clear sense of God’s presence took away all fear. I was doing the work at that time of First Reader in our church. The Lesson for the Wednesday evening testimony meeting the night previous had been on God’s deliverance of Daniel from the lions. I was indeed soon forced to prove the truth given out there....

“I was the only Scientist in the home, and the others requested that a physician be called; but I said, ‘No, call a practitioner,’ giving them the telephone number, and they did as I requested. Then I said, ‘Do not tell any one else.’

“A boy in the family [who had been shaken by the experience] was then asked to read from the Bible Lesson, ‘Soul and Body,’ and it seemed to be written especially for me. One verse from the Bible was, ‘Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord.’ Then came the definition of ‘flesh’ from the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health*, p. 586: ‘An error of physical belief; a supposition that life, substance,



and intelligence are in matter; an illusion; a belief that matter has sensation.' This section was read over several times, until the child's thought was quieted and we knew that the flesh was no part of my true being, and that the spiritual, perfect man was unharmed.

"After the child had gone to school, I read the whole Lesson through, then walked to the telephone and talked with the practitioner. There was no faintness, no pain, — only a dull feeling in the head and a slight ringing in the ears. I went upstairs to my room, where I could be quiet and free from observation. All through the day, one passage after another from the Bible and from Science and Health—messages from God—came to my thought to reassure and sustain me.

"That evening...a member of the family... insisted upon calling a physician...and to satisfy the fears of the family, I consented. Upon examination, the physician said that the bullet had entered the skull and that he could not tell where it was lodged, but that if certain symptoms appeared, which he named, an operation would be necessary to remove the bullet. Though not called, he came the next evening to see how I was; but that was his last visit.

"I am grateful indeed to say that the symptoms which the physician feared...did not appear.

"The practitioner called my attention to page 100 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, where Mrs. Eddy says, 'Who remembers that patience, forgiveness, abiding faith, and affection, are the symptoms by which our Father indicates the different stages of man's recovery from sin and his entrance into Science?' Instead of watching for the physical symptoms, this helped me to remember to be patient and forgiving, to have faith and affection for all. The next Wednesday evening I was in my place at the Reader's desk, and again on duty at the Thanksgiving service the following morning, with a heart filled to overflowing with gratitude to the Giver of 'every good gift and every perfect gift,' who had wrought in me such marvelous healing...

"For two or three weeks there was a slight ringing in the ears, but aside from that there has never been the slightest trouble. Many lessons were learned; confidence in the power of Truth was established; and the whole experience is remembered as one

where love was expressed by all the family and by those connected with the experience.

"One of the wonderful things about it was that it was kept so quiet that no one — not even the neighbors and intimate friends — knew anything about it; nor did any of the church people, until I gave my testimony one year later."

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for your post. Beautiful and moving. Indeed this is what Love does.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hymn 51

Eternal Mind the Potter is,  
And thought th' eternal clay:  
The hand that fashions is divine,  
His works pass not away.  
Man is the noblest work of God,  
His beauty, power and grace,  
Immortal; perfect as his Mind  
Reflected face to face.

God could not make imperfect man  
His model infinite;  
Unhallowed thought He could not plan,  
Love's work and Love must fit.  
Life, Truth and Love the pattern make,  
Christ is the perfect heir;  
The clouds of sense roll back, and show  
The form divinely fair.

God's will is done; His kingdom come;  
The Potter's work is plain.  
The longing to be good and true  
Has brought the light again.  
And man does stand as God's own child,  
The image of His love.  
Let gladness ring from every tongue,  
And heaven and earth approve.