

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 169

**SUBJECT: Truth —  
July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## **The Living Truth**

Our daily watch for the week says “Watch, lest you try to do Truth’s work. Mrs. Eddy stated ‘You stand still and voice the truth. Truth does the work.’” On page 180 in *Science and Health* it says this week, “When man is governed by God, the ever-present Mind who understands all things, man knows that with God all things are possible. The only way to this **living** Truth, which heals the sick, is found in the Science of divine Mind as taught and demonstrated by Christ Jesus.” (*Emphasis added.*)

“Living — dwelling, residing, having life or vital functions in operation, running, flowing; as a living spring or fountain producing action, animation, and vigor, quickening

“Try — strive to obtain, exert strength, to strain, effort.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

How reassuring that the operation of Truth is not dependent on any exertion or strain on my part. Like my practitioner sometimes needs to remind me, “Who do you think you are?” We have only to accept the Truth, claim it because we are the expression, reflection, and know that it is a living Truth, vital, flowing with life as a living spring, activating, quickening, and giving strength and vigor, and doesn’t need our help. That’s why we can stand still in our knowing of the Truth, assured that the Truth is operating even when to the senses we may not see it right away. Our textbook and the Bible assure us that we will “...behold wondrous things out of thy law.” (Psalm 119:18)

I am so grateful for all those who put these Lesson Sermons together. They are so powerful and instructional.

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The word “truth” is related to the same word from which “trust” and “troth” (as in “betroth”) are derived; in modern English that word is “tree.” Thus, the ancient wordsmiths likened truth to the sturdiness, endurance, and faithfulness of a trusty oak.

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***Thus, the ancient wordsmiths likened truth to the sturdiness, endurance, and faithfulness of a trusty oak.***

Must be why “Truth is always the victor”! (*Science & Health*, p. 380:4). While all other methods falter, Truth marches on. A good reminder why we should cling to the Truth we’ve been given to take us to where the false claims are clearly **nothing and powerless!!**

Thank God Christian Science teaches correctly what Truth IS!

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## **“Wholesome Chastisements of Love”**

“Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks of Science. Beholding the infinite tasks of truth, we pause, — wait on God. Then we push onward, until boundless thought walks enraptured, and conception unconfined is winged to reach the divine glory.” (*Science and Health*, p. 323:6-12)

*Wholesome* – tending to promote health; sound; favorable to morals, religion, or prosperity; useful, conducive to happiness, virtue, peace.

*Chastisement* – correction by punishment or purification; a reduction to order or obedience. (Both definitions from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.)

One of the hardest things for me to ever learn was to accept correction. The human mind is unruly and never likes to be corrected. But I’ve finally learned in Christian Science here in

Plainfield Church, that when the correction comes from practitioner — or anyone motivated by Love — *and is accepted*, it brings about a boundless spiritualization of thought, a conception (birth) unconfined. As I see this God-directed correction more as purification, rather than punishment, it becomes the “new birth” to me, helping to purify my thought, teaching me obedience to God, Truth, and bringing order, health, happiness, and peace into my life. In Mrs. Eddy’s article posted on our website homepage, [“The New Birth,”](#) she writes that the new birth “begins with moments, and goes on with years; moments of surrender to God, of childlike trust and joyful adoption of good; moments of self-abnegation, self-consecration, heaven-born hope, and spiritual love.” I thank God for all wholesome chastisements of Love that help bring me closer to God. What a great blessing to learn this!

Thank you, lesson-writer, for this beautiful Lesson on Truth.

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## God’s Nearness

Golden Text: Psalm 119:151 — “Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.”

This realization of God’s nearness connected to His commandments, bringing truth to us, has been a great awakening for me. I never really studied the Ten Commandments until attending the Bible studies at the Plainfield Church. These life laws to guide me and all mankind are the basis for daily living. For instance, we don’t need to covet because God supplies all our needs every day in every way. The nearness of God is felt as I think about these commands and check my thinking. Am I seeking God in obedience and following the First Commandment?

I have work to do, and find comfort knowing that God is calling to me in order that I might rise like that eagle, calling to her chick while soaring from above, as the eaglet was walking around on the ground with chickens who had raised him. (From a story told in Nigeria by Reinhard Bonnke.)

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## Walk at Liberty

“And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.” Psalm 119:45

“He who dares not offend cannot be honest.” — Thomas Paine

Since coming to Plainfield, I have been learning the word “nice” is a four-letter word. To me, that has meant I need to check my thoughts and motives when I feel I need to be “nice.” Trying to be “nice” made me exhausted and distressed when it didn’t work. Now I see I was losing my integrity and my walk with God. Rather my walk was full of denial, dependence, enslavement, and people-pleasing. The citation above from our Bible Lesson alerted me to the fact that if I want to walk at liberty, I need to live God’s precepts. One of those precepts is honesty. If I am afraid to offend, I cannot be honest, no matter how “nice” I would like to be. I did not truly understand God and my freedom to be who He created me to be. These have been difficult lessons, but the price of liberty.

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If God made us **free**, and we continue to live **enslaved**, — by whatever, — does that not deny God’s Parenthood?

This is one of the reasons why I feel I should live now fully aware of the rights God has given me and all His own. And I have also learned that if I live with the desire to please God first in all areas of my life, then I will live **the freedom He alone bestows**. “Please God and you will please all who count!” I learned that too from this Church some years back. The freedom God gives includes the courage to voice the Truth and the ability to do the right things that are yours to do!

“Am I doing your will Father?” It makes me feel very good asking this question as often as possible. It helps me to obey Mrs. Eddy’s instruction to pray often, “Lead me not into temptation.”

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**SUBJECT: Love —**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

### **Love God, Love Your “Enemies”**

Mrs. Eddy instructed her students, “Do not tell the truth regarding a lie *too often* (emphasis added). Insist on obeying the Ten Commandments, especially the first and eighth, which the Christian Scientists are most prone to disobey.” (*Collectanea*, p. 85).

In other words:

1<sup>st</sup> Commandment — I shall not dwell overly long upon any problem demanding my attention, but shall focus upon Good, Infinite Intelligence, where the solution is. This is truly loving God, putting God first when I am most tempted to become unduly distracted.

8<sup>th</sup> Commandment — Regardless of how upside-down anyone appears to be in mind or health, I shall not dwell too long on any perceived flaw or frailty, for that is bearing false witness against the flawless image and likeness of God that he or she truly is. Instead, I shall spend most of my time insisting upon seeing everyone right-side up. This same Commandment especially applies to anyone appearing before me as a so-called “enemy.” This is truly loving my enemy.

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### **“...the law of divine Love”**

“...the law of divine Love.” (*Science and Health*, p. 19:11)

This statement in the Lesson prompted me to look up the definition of “law” in Webster’s 1828 Dictionary — “that which is set or fixed; an established or permanent rule; imperative and mandatory, commanding what shall be done.”

Later in the Lesson, it states “Love is enthroned,” where the same source defines “enthroned” as invested in sovereign authority. What a wonderful and magnificent protection this is! — to know that Love is governing *all*. It never ceases in its rule; it cannot be escaped from, nor avoided, nor abrogated in any way. It “never loses sight of loveliness,” — that is, never loses sight of,

never stops caring for, and protecting, those who are expressing love. And likewise, it is a law of correction and reformation to those who are receptive to it; and a law of annihilation to that which would claim to oppose it. This is the one imperative and mandatory Law, ever-active, over all.

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### **“Provoke unto love and good works”**

I could not help thinking about Plainfield Church Independent when I read this passage from Hebrews 10:23, 24 — “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.”

“Provoke — To call into action; to arouse; to excite; to stimulate; to increase; to move; to stir up.” (Webster’s 1928 Dictionary)

I was not aware of Plainfield at the time of the lawsuit by the Board of Directors of the Mother Church, or BOD. Upon hearing of that experience, I realize that the members certainly had to hold steadfastly to God and trust Him, knowing that being obedient to the Manual of the Mother Church and Mrs. Eddy’s instructions was their protection. They never wavered, and one can feel the strength as a result.

And now, for those of us that have found Plainfield Church Independent and others that will follow, we are attracted because this church arouses, stimulates, excites, and calls into action the desire to know God, trust Him, and know oneself as His child. This, in turn, has aroused and called me into action, to love mankind, which certainly needed stirring within me. Our watches, Roundtable discussions, Bible studies, practitioners, and our amazing website sharing freely to the world the treasures we have to offer, — articles, books, music, weekly Lesson, weekly forum, etc., — is certainly “provoking unto love and to good works.”

I am so grateful to the lesson writers for the powerful Lesson on Love.

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## Angels Deliver

“ ‘May 14, 1895

‘Read this in open meeting

‘To the First Members

‘My beloved only in the Lord:

*‘How doth my heart wrestle with the angel of the Lord for you all! You are weighed in the balance and who of you are found with doors guarded when the thief cometh?*

*‘A man is said to be no stronger than his very weakest point. What then shall be said if there is in one of you a vulnerable spot to malicious mesmerism so exposed as to admit its influence and rob you of free moral agency? Or one of you in the bonds of iniquity. Yet having on the mask that hides your face and the Father’s face from you?*

*‘I know there are some among you that are not by reason of their sins and lack of truth and love cast out of this vineyard of our God. Oh, let not the senses drown your hearts in the depths of apathy; or sear your consciences with the heat of pride, envy and revenge. God grant that a word to the wise be sufficient.*

*‘With love as ever,*

*‘Your afflicted Mother’*

“When Mrs. Eddy called on the angel of the Lord to wrestle with her heart, in order to cast out of it the fear that she was tempted to feel, when she saw the students off guard, it proves that one does not cast error out of himself by means of the human mind. When he finds unscientific thoughts assailing him, he calls upon the angel of the Lord to wrestle with him, until the seeming strength of the error yields.” (*Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, Vol.3, by Gilbert Carpenter)

This excerpt from *Precepts* was a reminder that I do not “cast unscientific thoughts out” by using the human mind. I am to call upon the angels. Angels are often talked about during our classes, and we have been encouraged to memorize the definition of “Angels” from the Glossary of *Science and Health*. The angels shut the mouth of the lions in the den with Daniel. I must get myself out of the way so I can open my “heart (to) wrestle with the angel of the Lord”; to silence evil

suggestions, strengthen moral purpose, purify, uplift, guide, guard, whatever is needed to align my thought back with God.

“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*, p. 581:4)

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## Lovingkindness

I love the word, “lovingkindness,” and decided to look it up. In many of the early *Journal* articles “lovingkindness” is written as loving-kindness. I have a tendency to hyphenate the word in my thinking, when I read it.

*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia:*  
“The word “lovingkindness” does not occur in the New Testament, but as its equivalents, we have such terms as “mercy,” “goodness,” “kindness,” “brotherly love.” (See special articles.)

(*Got Questions – link from Bible Hub*)

“**Question:** “What is lovingkindness in the Bible?”

“**Answer:** Lovingkindness is a word found in older, more traditional versions of the English Bible, such as the King James (KJV) and the New American Standard (NASB). The Hebrew word most often translated “lovingkindness” is *chechedh*, which literally means “covenant loyalty.” Most newer English translations of the Bible substitute more common English words such as faithfulness, unfailing love, mercy, or good favor. All of these are viable substitutions, but, as with many Hebrew words, *chechedh* has no exact match in English.

“While lovingkindness can describe one person’s actions toward another (Genesis 20:13; 21:23; Joshua 2:12), it is *most often used to describe the character of the Lord*. Many places in Scripture speak of the lovingkindness of the Lord (Exodus 20:6, 34:6–7; Deuteronomy 7:12; 2 Chronicles 1:8; Psalm 1:16). *Lovingkindness is part of who God is; He delights in showing lovingkindness* (Micah 7:18), *and we praise Him for it* (Psalm 138:2), but this specific word seems to imply a slightly different character trait than His



basic goodness and compassion for all His creation (Psalm 145:9).

*“Checedh or lovingkindness, as it relates to the character of God, is most often used to describe God’s heart toward those who are His own. Lovingkindness is God’s kindness and steadfast love for His children, especially evident in His condescending to meet our needs. In Scripture, God shows His lovingkindness in saving His children from their enemies and delivering them from their troubles (Exodus 15:13; Jeremiah 31:3; Ezra 7:28; Psalm 6:4; 33:18; 119:149). His lovingkindness comforts us (Psalm 119:76), redeems us from sin (Numbers 14:19; Psalm 25:7; 51:1), and assures us of His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9; Nehemiah 1:5; 2 Samuel 7:15; Psalm 18:50).*

*“God’s lovingkindness is abundant (Numbers 14:18), great in extent (Psalm 33:5; 45:8), everlasting (Jeremiah 33:11; Psalm 100:5), and full of goodness (Psalm 69:17). God’s lovingkindness, His steadfast, loving actions on our behalf, knows no bounds: ‘Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens / And Your truth to the clouds.’ (Psalm 57:10, NASB)”*

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## The 23rd Psalm

This week’s Lesson on Love is particularly inspiring and so relevant. Thank you to those who put together the weekly Lessons. They are truly inspiring.

I recently spent some time looking at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in detail. The following are some observations, followed by my adapted version.

**[DIVINE LOVE] is my shepherd;** I like the definition of the verb “to shepherd,” which is to guide or direct in a particular direction.

**I shall not want.** Want can be seen as a human desire. I shall have no human desires; Divine Love will lead me.

**[LOVE] maketh me to lie down in green pastures:** This is forceful. I am compelled by Love to lie down or submit to God’s care and accept God’s abundance.

**[LOVE] leadeth me beside the still waters.** Still waters signify a place of trust where I can focus on Love with no distractions and come to know I am at one with God.

**[LOVE] restoreth my soul [spiritual sense]:** “To restore” is to return something to its original condition; to see the reality of myself as spiritual.

**[LOVE] leadeth me in the paths of righteousness...** Definition of “righteousness” – decency, integrity, innocence. Love is leading me. I am following in Love’s footsteps.

**...for His name’s sake.** For the glory of God.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley...** Mrs. Eddy defines VALLEY as “Depression;... darkness.”

**...of the shadow of death...** A shadow cannot produce substance; so death is not real.

**I will fear no evil:** — corporeal sense, mortal mind.

**...for [LOVE] is with me; [LOVE’S] rod...** The rod is a weapon to protect sheep and signifies protection against mortal mind.

**...and [LOVE’S] staff...** The staff is used to help and guide the sheep, so signifies God’s Love and care for me.

**...they comfort me.** the Greek root of “comfort” is “to call”; also to encourage.

**[LOVE] prepareth a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:** Love sustains me regardless of what mortal mind suggests.

**[LOVE] anointeth my head with oil;** This was an ancient sign of protection. The anointed one is also the Chosen One.

**...My cup runneth over.** Love is unlimited. All my needs are met.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:** Because I follow in the footsteps of Love, goodness and mercy will automatically follow me. I am therefore, surrounded front and back, by Love.

**...and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever.**

Based on the above, I have adapted the Psalm to read as follows:

[DIVINE LOVE] is guiding me; I shall have no human desires; Divine Love will lead me.

[LOVE] compels me to submit to God's care. I follow in Love's footsteps and know I am at one with God.

[LOVE] is, and always has been, Spiritual Sense: I follow in Love's footsteps of decency, integrity and innocence. Not for my glory but for the glory of God.

Yea, though I walk through depression and darkness, these have no substance. There is no death. I will fear no corporeal sense or mortal mind: for [LOVE] is with me; [LOVE'S] rod challenges and protects me from mortal mind, and [LOVE'S] staff guides me forward. Love calls me and encourages me.

[LOVE] sustains me regardless of what mortal mind suggests. All my needs are met. [LOVE] protects me. Love has chosen me. Love is unlimited.

Because I follow in the footsteps of Love, goodness and mercy will follow me. I am surrounded by Love; and I will dwell in [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever.

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### **Love this Lesson**

All my growing up years,  
To every question about God to my mum and  
Sunday school teacher,  
The answer was God is love.  
The angel Michael was with me constantly through  
the years of being mother to a troubled teen.  
Mostly, I love the Psalm 23 with Divine Love as  
my Shepherd.  
My great grandma read Psalm 23 to me and my  
brother every night.  
The gentleness of this Lesson inspires me.  
I feel the flame of inspiration along with the peace  
and calmness of quiet waters when I sit with it.

Thank you!

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