

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 176

**SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man —
November 8th, 2020**

“Thus Saith the Lord That Created Thee”

“...thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.” (Isa. 43:1)

I love this Bible verse. Many years ago our teacher, Mrs. Evans, told me to substitute my name for “Jacob” and “Israel.” Doing so, brings this beautiful and powerful blessing of God home to one’s self. Try it. It is a comfort and a continual reassurance of God’s ever-present love even during the darkest times.

Man of Sod vs. Man of God

This week’s lesson reminds me of Numbers, Chapter 14, the two different kinds of men who spied out the promised land, and the two contradictory reports they gave concerning it.

The ten who gave an evil report represent the man of sense, or “man of sin.” They were so overwhelmed by sense-testimony that they forgot who they really were. To them, it was as though the Exodus from the land of bondage never happened; they simply cancelled the story from their minds.

Of the twelve spies, only two remembered who they were. Ten men saw themselves as grasshoppers and their enemies as “giants in the land.” Only two saw themselves as giants and their enemies as grasshoppers.

The two reports are as far apart from one another as the two creation stories of Genesis chapters 1 and 2.

The testimony of the ten much parallels the evil report in the second chapter of Genesis concerning the creation of man. Genesis 2 completely cancels what came before it, and reads as though the first chapter never happened.

In any trial, error’s main aim is to make me forget who I truly am. When a problem arises in my life, am I judging it as a giant or a grasshopper? God grant that I follow Joshua and Caleb, who rode so boldly, eagerly, and valiantly the mighty, unstoppable wave of Omnipotence that swept away all things unlike itself as it swept them into the promised land.

“Like the Beasts That Perish”

“Man *that is* in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.” (Psalm 49:20)

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “beast” as “opposed to man, it signifies any irrational animal.” A synonym for “opposed” is “antagonistic.” Later, the lesson states the “carnal mind is forever antagonistic to the divine Mind,” and also that the two Bible records of creation “are antagonistic.” “Antagonism” and “antagonistic” Webster defines as follows:

Antagonism – Opposition of action; counteraction of things or principles.

Antagonistic – Opposing in combat; contending against.

Proverbs tells us to “apply thine heart to understanding,” and “get understanding: forget *it* not.” (Prov. 2:2, 4:5) Without the *understanding* that I am “spiritual and perfect...idea, the image, of Love...not physique” (*Science and Health*, 475: 11-14), I am in the carnal mind, irrational, and no better than an animal, warring against God, divine Mind. This carnal mind is forever enraged against God, and will ultimately perish. Thank God for Christian Science that teaches us there is no middle

ground, no sugar-coating the result of using the carnal, human mind. It gives us the clear choice of eternal salvation through the *understanding* that we are “governed by Soul instead of sense, by the law of Spirit, not by the so-called laws of matter.” (S&H 302:22-24) This *eternal understanding* from God is: “Ye shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.” (Lev. 19:2)

Indestructible Relationship

“The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.” (*Science and Health* 470:32-5). Indestructible: that cannot be destroyed; destroyed: demolished, pulled down, annihilated; lapse: to fall from a state of innocence, or from truth, faith, or perfection.

This statement in this week’s lesson is one of my favorites in our textbook. To me, it really sums up the basic teaching of Christian Science. It reminds me that there are no conditions under which man could ever be separated from God, his divine Principle. That I can never be in a position of having to return to God, my source of harmony, health, and perfection. Man’s perfection is unchanging and permanent and this is the law of his being. It also reminds me that I am never making any effort to recover something that I never lost in the first place. It is about waking up to the reality at hand, perfect God and perfect man. All suggestions to the contrary are lies about this statement and have no more reality than $2+2=5$.

Thank you lesson writer for this powerful lesson.

“Ye Shall be Holy, for I the LORD Your God *am* Holy.”

“Ye shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.” Leviticus 19:2

“Let the treatment give the treatment. The treatment is God, ‘I AM.’” From [Collected Writings by Bicknell Young](#)

“GOD. The great I AM; the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence.” (*Science and Health* 587:5-8)

I was inspired by a list I came across this week titled, “*I AM*” Verses – *God Is Who He Says He Is*, and created a list below for myself from the King James Bible:

I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Revelation 22:13

I AM the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I *am* with thee, and will bless thee. Genesis 26:24

For I AM the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour. Isaiah 43:3

I AM the LORD that healeth thee. Exodus 15:26

For I AM the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy. Leviticus 11:45

I AM the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:2

I AM thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward. Genesis 15:1

I AM with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest. Genesis 28:15

I AM the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. Genesis 17:1

And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, *are* men, *and* I *am* your God, saith the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 34:31

I AM judge, lawgiver, king. Isaiah 33:22

I AM the LORD, I change not. Malachi 3:6

I AM the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Isaiah 42:8

From eternity to eternity I AM God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done. Isaiah 43:13

Be still, and know that I AM God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

Fear thou not; for I AM with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10

SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals — November 15th, 2020

“The Immortality of Good”

The following video demonstrates how a simple, inspired act of goodness is truly a substance more substantial than mortal mind can grasp, outlasting time itself: [Click here to watch](#).

“In Science, man’s immortality depends upon that of God, good, and follows as a necessary consequence of the immortality of good.” (*Science and Health* 81:28-30)

“Befogged in error (the error of believing that matter can be intelligent for good or evil), we can catch clear glimpses of God only as the mists disperse, or as they melt into such thinness that we perceive the divine image in some word or deed which indicates the true idea, — the supremacy and reality of good, the nothingness and unreality of evil.” (*Ibid*, 205:15-21)

The law of the immortality of good is also exemplified in the story of Ruth, the young widow who, after having lost all material support and security, lived a life of inspired giving, serving her widowed mother-in-law as though she were serving God. It was then, after a season of unstinting selfless service, that all things were added to her according to the law of the kinsman-redeemer.

“Giving precedes receiving, and my gifts to others precede God’s gifts to me.” (Florence Schinn)

“If we Array Thought in Mortal Vestures”

“If we array thought in mortal vestures, it must lose its immortal nature.” (*Science and Health* 260:28-30)

What struck me this week, was that it says *thought* that is arrayed — not a physical body.

Another word for “vestures” is “habits,” and “array” means to splendidly adorn or bedeck. So, what mortal habits am I splendidly adorning my thought in? Impatience, willfulness, discouragement, self-pity, undisciplined disorder or irregularity? If I indulge in these thoughts, I am hugging my tatters round about me, and will never realize my true being, my immortality as God’s idea. Mrs. Eddy says, “Let us disrobe error. Then, when the winds of God blow, we shall not hug our tatters close about us.” (*Science and Health* 201:14-16)

Later on, the Lesson tells us to “divest thought of false trusts,” where “divest” means to strip of clothes. So, again, I am told to throw off all these shabby old “mental clothes,” — a false trust in a mind apart from God, — and be reclothed in my *rightful* mind — immortal, divine Mind.

“Dear Lord and Father of us all,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.” (CS Hymn #49)

Beautiful, thank you! The whole idea of having on the “right garment” is imperative! The garment of Divine Love alone is in accord with our true being...as sons and daughters of royalty! The King of Love our Father.

Reign and Rein

“When speaking of God’s children, not the children of men, Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is within you;’ that is, Truth and Love reign in the real man, showing that man in God’s image is unfallen and eternal.” (*Science and Health* 476:28-32)

When reading this week’s lesson, this sentence stood out, particularly the word “reign.” I have read this text many times, interpreting this word as “rein” without giving it a second thought. Today, I gave it that second thought and realized both words pertain to the truth of what Jesus said. Truth and Love have sovereign power in the real man, and Truth and Love control and direct the real man’s path. Thank you.

Thank you. “Truth and Love have sovereign power in the real man, and Truth and Love control and direct the real man’s path.”

Reign also includes “authority; to exercise government, or to hold the supreme power.”

“...man is immortal and lives by divine authority.” (*Science and Health* 76:20-21)

“Authority: power, or a right to command or to act. Power; rule; sway. Government; to prevail.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

I am grateful for this Lesson. I have been using the above line from *Science and Health* to hold in thought. My life is “by divine authority.” Truth and Love is all that has the right to act or direct, the only sovereign power and control over me. Truth and Love prevail. So, I have divine authority over all that would claim any scenario or government unlike God in my life or anyone’s life. No “what ifs”!

“Destroy the Errors of Mortal Sense”

“The understanding that the Ego is Mind, and that there is but one Mind or intelligence, begins at once to destroy the errors of mortal sense and to supply the truth of immortal sense.” (*Science and Health* 216:11-14)

I grew up in a Christian church but never learned God is Mind, or that I was His image and likeness. I thought it was like God had a score board and every good thing I did I got a star and every naughty thing I did got an “x.” Working with a practitioner in this church, she taught me to “work out from perfect God, perfect man, perfect universe, and I was that man.” Knowing perfection, I was able to destroy false beliefs, let go of them, and declare the truth.

Thank God for Christian Science teaching and living in this church, and for the office of practitioner.

“He Hath Put a New Song in my Mouth...”

“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock,

and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth...” Psalm 40:2-3

This describes the experience for me before and after finding Plainfield and how grateful I am for this church.

Subject: Soul and Body — November 22nd, 2020

“Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost”

“...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?” (I Corinthians 6:19)

This question was asked twice in the Lesson, so it really made me stop short. It is a truth that the practitioner here has often driven home to me when I have asked for help in losing weight and controlling my eating habits. I’ve tried every diet imaginable, and always without permanent success, because I’ve started from the wrong basis — matter and human will. Thanks to practitioner support, I realize now that I need to see my body as a divine idea, “the temple of the Holy Ghost,” — not a physicality, overweight, underweight, or “conformed to this world” in any way. I realize now that my body doesn’t belong to me, but to God, so I should not mistreat it by putting anything into it, or doing anything to it, that is not blessed and approved of God.

Further in the lesson, it says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed (*and that includes eating*), do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17) What a great thing to remember at our Thanksgiving meal next week.

This was such a wonderful awakening for me, and I thank the practitioner and this week’s lesson-writer for driving it home to me.

Two Views of Body – Sense’s or Soul’s

Excerpt, *Science and Health*, 1875 edition, p. 41:

“The most scientific man of whom we have any record, Jesus of Nazareth, called the mortal body

that we suppose substance, ‘ghost’; and his body that others called spirit, ‘flesh and bones’; showing that substance to his understanding was the deathless Principle that embraces man and is forever inseparable from Soul. But the Jews, strongly material, called the real idea of God, even the body that was not matter, a spirit or ghost; and the body they laid in a sepulchre, substance. By this error, they lost logic and Truth, therefore lost sight of Jesus at the very moment when he presented more than ever the real idea of God, and because of this belief, the idea was taken from them. The higher he wrought the problem of being through spiritual science, the more odious he became to the materialistic world that understood him not. Life, Intelligence, and substance to them were matter, but to him they were God, the Truth of man; therefore he reckoned himself not matter but Spirit; not sense, but Soul. Said he, ‘Spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have,’ but this he said three days after his burial, before relinquishing the belief of substance-matter; after that, his disciples even could not see him.”

A Proper “Cleanse”

These days, there are a million “cleanses” out there to clean out and refresh the body. A fresh-pressed juice may be beneficial at times, but can quickly become a god to which people look to for bodily salvation. Look how they have proliferated! Now the world of “cleanses” has become saturated and confusing and an altar where people worship and a multi-billion-dollar industry.

Now our Bible Lesson on “Soul and Body” this week reveals the perfect “cleanse”! In citation 9, I Thessalonians 5:16-23, we read the comforting reminder to “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly**; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Sanctify” in the 1828 Webster Dictionary includes:

1. In a general sense, to cleanse, purify or make holy.
3. To purify; to prepare for divine service, and for partaking of holy things. Exodus 19:10

So, when we focus on God, — and how can we not if we rejoice, pray without ceasing, and in every thing give thanks? — we are then *cleansed, purified and prepared for divine service*! And to that I say, Hallelujah!

Thank you for this post!

“Sanctify... make holy...to prepare for divine service.”

“The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself.” Deuteronomy 28:9

“Establish: To fix firmly or unalterably; to settle permanently.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

During the November 15, 2020 Roundtable, [Be ye holy, for I am holy](#), the concept of “wedding garment” was shared. The idea that when we indulge in attitudes such as making excuses, we take the wedding garment off. It was read that Mrs. Eddy once said, “One of the best cures I ever performed was, apparently, under the most adverse circumstances. I had spent one year of incessant toil upon the [manuscript] of my book, Science and Health, and put it into the hands of a printer for publication, who, I found, had allowed it to be taken from his possession, and I was thus obliged to return, in the sackcloth of disappointment, without it. A student soon called desiring me to assist in a case that was dying. I put on the wedding garments at once and healed the case in twenty minutes.” (*Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer*, Amplified Edition by Yvonne Cache von Fettweis)

I am grateful for the many instructions we are given to help us put on the wedding garment to be prepared for “divine service,” and also that God has established us “an holy people.” My job is to live it.

This story also reminded me of the many sacrifices Mrs. Eddy made for the world to have this Science of the Christ, and gives me courage to keep on in adverse situations.

“Blessed Shall Be...the Flocks of Thy Sheep”

“Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.” Deuteronomy 28:4.

This reminded me of an entry in the book, *A Century of Christian Science Healing*, from 1925:

“My slight understanding of Christian Science enabled me to pasture two thousand sheep on a range infested with poisonous weeds, with no bad results whatsoever.” Charles N. Hayden, Concord, California.

Also from the same book in 1928: “...The crop is being protected with the truth that evil is not of God’s creation. Back of all is the great truth that life is spiritual, that supply is spiritual, not dependent on so-called matter, but on God, whose infinite supply mortal thought cannot hinder flowing towards us when we look for it with spiritual understanding, knowing that God is All and God is good.” Mrs. Eva Langley Jacobs, Alberta, Canada.

I am very grateful to the lesson writer, and for learning more about the life of spiritual man being unlimited.

Soul Filled Solos

So many beautiful words in the solos on the Plainfield YouTube Playlist called “Songs to Lift your Spirits.” Today listening to this, did just that — they lifted my spirit.

The solo “My God is real” says “My God is real, for I can feel Him in my Soul.”

I know that everyone can feel this wonderful presence of God, for as the lesson says, “Know ye not, that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” I Corinthians 3:16

Thank you for the wonderful lesson this week.

“He Touched Me”

This solo can be found on our website through the link following:

<https://media.plainfieldcs.com/Songs/He%20Touched%20Me,%20performed%20by%20Samie,%20Jared,%20Bryce,%20Craig,%20and%20Bruce%20-%202004-15-2019.mp3>

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole.

Songwriters: Milton Schafer / Ira Levin

Hymn 93

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,
1932 Edition*

Happy the man whose heart can rest,
Assured God’s goodness ne’er will cease;
Each day, complete, with joy is blessed,
God keepeth him in perfect peace.

God keepeth him, and God is one,
One Life, forevermore the same,
One Truth unchanged while ages run;
Eternal Love His holiest name.

Dwelling in Love that cannot change,
From anxious fear man finds release;
No more his homeless longings range,
God keepeth him in perfect peace.

In perfect peace, with tumult stilled,
Enhavened where no storms arise,
There man can work what God hath willed;
The joy of perfect work his prize.
