

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 178

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man —
December 13th, 2020**

“Lift Up Mine Eyes Unto The Hills”

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” (Psalm 121:1)

In *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, Vol. 1, Gilbert Carpenter recounts an incident regarding the resignation of Julia Field-King as editor of *The Christian Science Journal*. Mrs. King had changed an article of Mrs. Eddy’s, and Mrs. Eddy rebuked her strongly and asked for her resignation, because it showed that she could be influenced by error, and thus become dangerous to have in a responsible position.

Carpenter writes: “When it was plain that Mrs. King would have to go, Mrs. Eddy sent her the following letter....

“Before you leave us, if leave you must, I want you to give me a call and let me take you over my house and look with me on the hills and catch their rest. ‘For the strength of the hills I bless Thee, my God, Our father’s God.’ Hemans.”

“From this letter we learn that Mrs. Eddy wanted Mrs. King to take this blow in the right spirit, so that she might right herself, after being released from the malpractice that necessarily attended her position. How often Mrs. Eddy used the hills in this way: when events seemed to be more than she could endure; when friends mocked and betrayed, and error seemed to be holding sway temporarily, she would contemplate the hills and see how insignificant were the happenings in this mortal sense of things, in comparison with the eternal nature of the hills. Mrs. Eddy hoped Mrs. King would catch this realization about her own tragedy by coming to Concord and catching the *rest* of the hills.”

In Safe Keeping

In the “Watches, Prayers, and Arguments” section of *Collectanea*, Mrs. Eddy says, “The Word of God spoken into consciousness is the seed bearing fruit after its kind.”

To preserve something is to keep it fresh. God keeps me, preserves me, in direct proportion to the degree I have preserved (kept fresh) Christ’s sayings in my heart and mind.

“If a man *keep* my saying, he shall never see death,” (John 8:51) is a conditional promise of preservation. (*Emphasis added.*)

“If ye love me, *keep* my commandments.” (John 14:15). (*Emphasis added.*)

“... the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.” (John 6:63) Life never grows stale, but is always fresh; never decays, but is its own preserver.

Keeping Christ’s sayings means not only to pay attention to them, but also to observe them, to carry them out. “He that hath my commandments, and *keepeth* them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21) (*Emphasis added.*) Doing Christ’s sayings, not simply hearing them.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will *keep* my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23) Abiding with God is not an on/off relationship of stolen visits, but staying, remaining in the service of God. Devotion.

As I keep Christ’s words, seize upon them, hold them — “nearer than hands and feet” — so that they abide in me, retaining them just as good ground allows a seed sown in it to abide in it long

enough to germinate (that is, to manifest the destiny of that seed), my life will bear fruit.

“Mary *kept* all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.” (Luke 2:19) (*Emphasis added.*) Thus did the Virgin Mary bring forth the Christ-child by hiding, treasuring, keeping the word of promise always fresh — in her heart.

“...He That Keepeth Thee Will Not Slumber.”

Psalm 121 in the lesson this week is a beautiful short Psalm that says in Verse 4, “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, states one of the daily duties: “Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake.” (442:30-32)

I sometimes wondered how to be a law unto myself when asleep. How reassuring to know that God is watching over us when asleep; and that falling asleep, we can know He is there keeping us safe, for He doesn’t sleep, and His law is operating even when we sleep.

Spurgeon also writes of this Psalm 121 in a sermon called “[Wakeful and Watchful Eyes.](#)”

“He is so great that His center is everywhere and His circumference is nowhere! And you, dear Brother or Sister, may be the very center of God’s thoughts and so may I — and all His redeemed may at the same moment have His thoughts fixed upon each one of them! Can you realize the wondrous Truth of God that there is never a moment, night or day, in which the great mind of the Eternal ceases to think of you? Then, how safe you are with God always looking upon you! How happy you ought to be with God always thinking of you! Yes, how joyful you ought to be because, even if others forget you, He never does!”

Thank you for the wonderful lesson this week.

“Confides All to God”

“‘Believe ... and thou shalt be saved!’ demands self-reliant trustworthiness, which includes spiritual understanding and confides all to God.” (*Science and Health* 23:29-31)

During Sunday’s Roundtable it was brought out that all we do should be from the standpoint of demonstration — showing forth God’s presence and power daily in our lives. It is a discipline to never be off guard and to not allow yourself to drift. I am grateful for Gilbert Carpenter’s book, *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps*, where he explains in practical ways how Christian Science was demonstrated daily, — down to the smallest details in Mrs. Eddy’s home — otherwise the human mind takes over and leaves God out. Our Lesson mentions faith 22 times. David did not just inherit his position. Step by step, he demonstrated his faith and connection with God.

“Outwardly those in important positions in our Movement would appear to rank high; but in God’s sight the only important work is demonstration; and that is a work that is open to all students.” (From *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, Vol. 2 by Gilbert Carpenter.)

SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? — December 20th, 2020

“Obedient to the Mind that Makes Them”

“The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them.” (*Science and Health* 295:6-8)

Our teacher here often gave us this powerful statement of Truth as a treatment to apply not only to oneself, but also to another who might appear to be under the influence of error. To unshakably know that you or anyone in your family — spouse, child, or sibling, — or anyone in a position of government or authority — elected official, judge, or even voter, — or anyone in the realm of your thinking, has the Mind of Christ, and *is obedient to the Mind that made them*, is a law of God; and

carries with it all the power and enforcement of God.

Replenishing the Earth

Genesis 1:28 talks about replenishing the earth. This is addressed by Mrs. Eddy in *The Christian Science Journal* (June 1885, Volume 3, Issue 3):

“*Questions and Answers* BY REV. MARY BAKER G. EDDY.

“Ques. Why did God command, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth,’ if all minds (men) have existed from the beginning, and have had successive stages (or dreams) of existence to the present time?

“Your question implies that Spirit, which first created the universe and man spiritually, created these over again materially, and by the aid of man all was made which He had made. If the first record is true, what evidence have you, apart from the evidence of that which you admit cannot discern spiritual things, of any other creation? The creative ‘Us’ had made all. Mind was the Creator, hence man originated not from earth nor materially, but from Spirit and spiritually. This work had been done; the true creation was finished, and its spiritual science stated.

“Jesus said of error, ‘What thou doest, do quickly.’ By the law of opposites, after the Truth of man had been demonstrated, the postulate of error must appear. That this addenda was untrue, is seen when Truth, God, denounced it, and said: ‘I will greatly multiply thy sorrow. In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.’ A lie saith, I am true. This error said, ‘The Lord knows that thine eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as Gods, creators.’ This was false; the Lord had never said it. This is the history of a falsity; but a lie must be told in the name of Truth, or it would not be a lie.

“The science of creation is this, the universe and man created spiritually. The false sense and error of creation is, man and the universe created materially.”

Go Forward, Dry Land

In this week’s Lesson, Exodus 14:15 states: “And the LORD said unto Moses, ... speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward,” and Exodus 14:21, 22 explains how God “...caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry *ground*: and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.”

In Genesis 1:9 we read, “And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear....” And on page 507 of *Science and Health*, our Leader explains, “In metaphor, the *dry land* illustrates the absolute formations instituted by Mind, while *water* symbolizes the elements of Mind.”

An article entitled, “Let the Dry Land Appear” (*The Christian Science Journal*, July 1945, by May Rimes Hutson), points out that “As Christian Scientists, it is not only our right but our duty to call forth the dry land in any and every experience, to realize the presence of the specific or ‘absolute formations’ of thought which we need each moment.”

Also, in an article in *The Christian Science Sentinel* (June 5, 1948, by Lela May Aultman) entitled, “Go Forward,” the author shares Exodus 14:13, which states, “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD” — a seemingly contradictory command to Exodus 14:15, which instructs the children of Israel to “go forward.” But she explains with this citation from *Science and Health*: “Beholding the infinite tasks of truth, we pause, — wait on God. Then we push onward...” (323:9-10), and further explains that “We must go forward mentally.... We need ever to be active.... Thus we shall take every step revealed by God.... There is an old saying that a ship can be steered only when it is moving.”

This statement by Mrs. Eddy on page 119 in *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (the “Blue Book”) is along the same line — the necessity of activity in thought when waiting on God’s direction — has been discussed in Bible Studies and Roundtables: “God is moving on the

face of the waters of your thoughts and His creations will appear.”

Thank you to the Lesson writer for bringing forth these concepts to ponder in our efforts to understand how to demonstrate the truths of Christian Science. They reveal healing solutions when we are facing what seem to be impossible circumstances; and show Moses, — one of our most cherished heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:23-29), — as a shining example!

“Do Men Gather Grapes of Thorns?”

“... Jesus said: ‘Do men gather grapes of thorns?’ Paul asked: ‘What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?’” (*Science and Health*, 539:23-26)

I was very grateful for our Wednesday readings this week, “The Honest Heart,” and the testimony on honesty. I have been giving a lot of thought regarding honesty recently. I am grateful for all I have learned here that is helping me gain moral courage to live an honest life. As I learn more, I see that there is absolutely no place for dishonesty. Error argues good can come from dishonesty. Truth allows no room for error. How can we practice an exact Science while holding in thought a wavering sense or tolerate a gray area? I am learning that once you give dishonesty a toe hold, you will find yourself in its stronghold. I am so grateful to be where it is taught how to use Christian Science, “...into the minutiae of the life,” as spoken of below.

From our Wednesday readings: “This spiritual idea, or Christ, entered into the minutiae of the life of the personal Jesus. It made him an honest man, a good carpenter, and a good man, before it could make him the glorified.” (*Miscellaneous Writings* 166:28-32)

**SUBJECT: Christian Science —
December 27th, 2020**

This Week's Bible Lesson

This week's Bible Lesson is so beautiful I just feel impelled to at least acknowledge that fact. It

explains or portrays Christian Science — the lesson's subject this week — better than I have ever heard done before. I was raised in the Christian Science Sunday School, have been utilizing gratefully the Plainfield Website for nearly five years, and this lesson on Christian Science is more meaningful to me, more enlightening for whatever reason, than anything else I have really learned or read. The fact is, I have always felt somewhat cynical about that particular lesson title — because, I think, before discovering Plainfield, my experience of Christian Science and many Christian Scientists, has seemed shallow and/or hypocritical and/or holier-than-thou-“ish.”

Thank you, God, and the lesson writer, for this wonderful lesson on Christian Science.

“I Am Come a Light Into the World”

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.” (John 12:46)

This week a book was given to the Plainfield library titled, *Life on 400 Beacon Street* by Heather Vogel Fredrick. The following two quotes are from the book:

“The unceasing prayer that the Christ may be born in every heart is going out from this place daily, and in that way the work is blessing all mankind.” (Minnie Scott wrote from Chestnut Hill to a friend on Christmas Day, 1908.)

“On Christmas Eve, 1909, Mrs. Eddy shared another lesson with her metaphysical workers, explaining that Christmas is every day, and that it's ‘not so much what God does for us as what He is.’ She urged the gathered group to express more ‘kind generosity and affection’ in the coming year and ‘love God more.’” (William Rathvon Reminiscences)

I am deeply grateful for all unselfed work and prayers at the Plainfield church that are “going out from this place daily” so “that the Christ may be born in every heart.”

“Preach the Gospel to Every Creature”

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Thanks to this lesson for the clarification in *Science and Health*, (418:28-29) that we should “Speak the truth to every form of error.”

I don’t know how I missed that so many times before. I was always trying to understand the command to preach the gospel to every creature, while at the same time we learn that Jesus took care not to impart the precious precepts to the dull and unreceptive or unprepared thought. But this statement from *Science and Health* explains it. We are to “Speak the truth to every form of error” — to every worldly, false belief.

“The Messiah” by Handel

Today while searching our website, I came across the article below by Parthens from a previous Forum post on 10/17/2014. It has an encouraging message and a timely story about Handel and “The Messiah” which made me appreciate the music more.

“In 1898, when work had accumulated to such an extent that I [Judge Hanna] wrote Mrs. Eddy for permission to resign some of my places, she asked me to adopt a method of relief by taking certain hours each day for self work, during which I was not to be interrupted by anyone for any purpose. She said that had she not adopted such a course, she never could have accomplished her work.’

“... Therefore, whenever I am tempted to feel overwhelmed with the work that heaven has assigned me to perform, may God help me to interrupt myself: to consecrate every moment, every breath, ‘from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof,’ to the task of surrendering.”

Click on this link to read the whole article by Parthens: [“God to Earth ... God to Earth ... Come In, Please”](#)

“After Handel received the libretto to ‘The Messiah,’ made up entirely of sacred scripture, he was inspired to take no action whatsoever, but instead decided to devote his attention to God for a season. ... Later, Handel testified that during those three days he had been taken to heaven, ‘absent from the body, present with the Lord’ in a state of continual Christ-consciousness. After that experience, he wrote the massive score of ‘The Messiah’ in just 21 days. He never charged a penny for any of the performances, insisting that the work was not his: that he was only the secretary of heaven’s musical dictation.” (From the same Parthens article.)

THANK YOU SO MUCH for this post! I had the MOST DELIGHTFUL Christmas, starting with the WONDERFUL Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Then on Christmas Day, I read this post, and followed up by reading Parthens’ 2014 article that you mentioned. I was so moved in reading about Handel’s experience, — and since I already had one of my CDs of “The Messiah” in my CD player, — I immediately turned it up and listened with so much joy, while I continued my deeper study of Mrs. Eddy’s poem, *Christ and Christmas*.

During this holy time, I received a “Merry Christmas” text from a former client, who has studied Christian Science in the past, and I shared this information with her in my reply. She was thrilled to learn this fascinating fact. I also shared the Peter V. Ross article entitled, “Remedy for Lawlessness” with two other Christian Scientists, and one of them forwarded it on to ten others. When she asked for the source of the article, I shared the church website with her, and also emailed her both of Peter V. Ross’s books that I got off the church website (*Lectures on Christian Science*, pages 215-216, has the similar article entitled “Cure for Lawlessness”), and she expressed much gratitude for receiving them.

WOW! The PERFECT Christmas Eve and Day!

Thanks again for this post and Parthens’ article!!

“I Go Unto My Father”

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12)

This passage in this week’s lesson is a very profound one. I read this for many years with the thought that better healing would be done after he ascended.

Then one day I saw it in a different light, a more inspired light. Jesus was teaching us how to heal. To me, he was saying: And when the little “i” — the personal sense “i,” that which I call me, — is lifted up to the “I,” — as in “I AM that I AM,” or the spiritual sense of things, seeing as God sees, — then healing occurs. From that time on my healing work improved, as I saw that my objective was to uplift thought. Even if I needed to use an argument, it was to be seen as an aid in seeking that exalted thought, — the Christ with us. Christmas truly can be every day.

Ask ... In My Name

“If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.” (John 14:14)

Expositor’s Bible: “When we do anything in another’s name, it is for him we do it.”

Spurgeon: “... you are authorized to use the name of Christ.... oh! what power there is in prayer at that time! ... But you cannot ask everything in that name. You are obliged to draw back from some prayers, and say, ‘No; Christ would never authorize me to put his name to that.’ ... For we would not dare to ask some things in that wondrous name.”

A. B. Leever: “... to ask on his behalf, as if it were he himself asking for what we ask ... as his representative, and in accordance with his will ... this is a reasonable meaning to perceive. ... Only a divine purpose can be asked in Jesus’ name....”

• “In the name of” asserts the reputation and authority of another person.

• “Name” implies reputation, character, quality, essential nature of the individual.

• “Name” may be rendered “nature,” and implies that to have his nature, as a result of abiding in his words or teaching, is the condition requisite to bringing about an answer to prayer; having the Christ-like nature.

• Requires us to pattern the Master’s complete surrender to God’s will.

• Men must attain the knowledge of the Principle which Jesus demonstrated — knowing but one reality and abandoning that which is mortal and material.

• Asking with Christlike purity of motive.

• Asking in Christlike humility and receptivity.

• Asking in Christlike recognition of man’s divine estate.

• Recognizing the oneness of the divine name and nature.

• Desiring that which accords with the Christ character; endeavoring to live as he lived.

• Understanding, with a degree of Christly humility, the true idea of God that Jesus taught, and to make it our present basis for action.

• Seeing the unity between name and nature in our prayer, our watching, and our work.

A Boy with Five Barley Loaves

I was thinking about the unnamed boy with the loaves and fishes in this week’s lesson. His part in the story is small, but he was willing to give his lunch — a generous thought and act, which showed more faith than the disciple Andrew. His offering, despite the human suggestion that his contribution would not go far, was blessed and multiplied by the Christ to the benefit of all. This is very encouraging and shows that even if we think our contribution to a watch, or our good thought about a challenging situation, is only modest, it can be blessed by the Christ and help many.

Thank you very much to the lesson writer.

“Rejoice, Because Your Names Are Written in Heaven”

“...rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

When Reg Kerry first visited our church, he gave a testimony which I’ve never forgotten. It included this verse from Luke. At the time I was new to Christian Science, and didn’t completely understand what it meant.

However, thanks to the teaching I’ve received here in this church, I now realize that if I am so preoccupied with or focused on *effect* — physical healings (the loaves and the fishes), or even thinking that *I personally* have made a demonstration, — rather than focusing on *Cause*, knowing that God has done it — I’m missing the spiritual benefit, “The starting point of divine Science ... that God, Spirit, is All-in-all.” (*Science and Health* 275:6-7) This spiritual understanding of God’s allness is “the heaven within us,” (*Miscellany* 260:21) and writes our names in heaven. This is the cause for rejoicing.

I rejoice for this blessed Christian Science that we’ve been taught here, “because of the heaven within us,” and to know that it is available for all mankind.
