

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 184

**SUBJECT: Substance —**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Now**

*Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!*  
*Let the dead Past bury its dead!*  
*Act, — act in the living Present!*  
*Heart within, and God o'erhead!*

(from Longfellow's poem, "A Psalm of Life")

"TIME. Mortal measurements; limits, in which are summed up all human acts, thoughts, beliefs, opinions, knowledge; matter; error; that which begins before, and continues after, what is termed death, until the mortal disappears and spiritual perfection appears." (*Science and Health* 595:17) Mrs. Eddy discovered the only dimension in which God is operative: the now. "Now is the accepted time."

*Webster's 1828 Dictionary* — "Temporal: 1. Pertaining to this life or this world or the body only; secular; as temporal concerns; temporal affairs. In this sense, it is opposed to spiritual. Let not temporal affairs or employments divert the mind from spiritual concerns, which are far more important. 2. Measured or limited by time, or by this life or this state of things; having limited existence; opposed to eternal."

"...the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen are eternal."  
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

As time is finite, so "the reliable now" — see quote below — is infinite: the realm of the eternal present, the world of "Before Abraham was, I AM," the abode of "Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever," the kingdom in and from which Christ Jesus worked the works of God, and in which the Christ, long before and after the earthly life of Jesus, has always been working for all eternity.

Principle cannot possibly work the works of Christ except in the now; likewise its *workers* are required to dwell in the now as well.

"Nothing is there to come, and nothing past, But an eternal now does ever last." [from Abraham Cowley, *Davideis, a Sacred Poem of the Troubles of David* (1656), Book I, lines 361-362]

A significant number of today's influential theologians and Bible teachers are "cessationists": insisting dogmatically that the works of the creative Principle of the universe as practiced by Christ Jesus are long past, ceased when the age of the apostles ceased. But this is like saying, "Two plus two equals four was true only in the days of the apostles, but not now."

"This was an emphatic rule of St. Paul: 'Behold, now is the accepted time.' A lost opportunity is the greatest of losses. Whittier mourned it as what 'might have been.' We own no past, no future, we possess only *now*. If the reliable *now* is carelessly lost in speaking or in acting, it comes not back again. Whatever needs to be done which cannot be done now, God prepares the way for doing; while that which can be done now, but is not, increases our indebtedness to God. Faith in divine Love supplies the ever-present help and *now*, and gives the power to 'act in the living present.'"  
(*Miscellany* 12:17)

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## **Gratitude for the Good on Hand**

In this week's Lesson, in II Kings, there is the story of Elisha and the widowed woman whose sole possession was a pot of oil. And in John there is the story of Jesus and the lad who had five barley loaves and two fishes. Both Elisha and Jesus were facing what appeared humanly to be insurmountable challenges. Yet, they both met those challenges working with God and what was at hand.

Mary Baker Eddy asks, “are we really grateful for the good already received?” She adds, “If yes, we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have and thus be fitted to receive more.”

Had David been impressed by the physical presence that stood before him, he never could have brought Goliath down with a sling and a small round stone.

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## Miracle

“Miracle. That which is divinely natural, but must be learned humanly; a phenomenon of Science.” (*Science and Health* 591:21-22)

“Phenomenon: Any thing visible; whatever is presented to the eye by observation.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

“If Christian Scientists are discerning daily the powerlessness of so-called evil mind power to determine an outward phenomena, the chemicalization will be less severe and it will shorten the days of error, and this is our great necessity. The uncovering and upheaval of so-called evil thought in the world is only evidence of what divine Science is doing to bring these claims to the surface; then do we need to stand aghast and wonder what is going to happen next? The unfoldment of Truth and Love which has brought these evil suggestions to the surface will melt them away if you and I are faithful to our unfoldment, to deny these aggressive suggestions until their powerlessness is recognized in our spiritual discernment of the irresistible Christ-power - in the one infinite God-power - the power of our scientific denials and the spiritual discernment.” (“[Electricity](#)” by Bicknell Young, page 7)

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## “...Trust Also in Him; and He Shall Bring it to Pass.”

When I thought this week that I didn’t have the understanding, a passage from Proverbs 3:5 came: “...lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy

ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

In the Lesson we have Psalm 37:5: “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

### [Spurgeon says on Psalm 37:5:](#)

“Our destiny shall be joyfully accomplished if we confidently entrust all to our Lord.”

“The ploughman sows and harrows, and then leaves the harvest to God. What can he do else? He cannot cover the heavens with clouds, or command the rain, or bring forth the sun or create the dew. He does well to leave the whole matter with God; and so to all of us it is truest wisdom, having obediently trusted in God, to leave results in his hands, and expect a blessed issue.”

In the Bible stories of the Lesson this week, where there appeared to be lack, it turned out there was more than what was needed. “...my cup runneth over.” (Psalm 23:5)

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## Rules for a Satisfied Life

Thank you for this Lesson, in which I found so many helpful rules to live by, for a satisfied, peaceful and happy life:

1. “Murmur not among yourselves.” (John 6:43) – don’t grumble, complain, or utter sullen discontent over my circumstances. Instead...

2. “Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4) – be happy and joyful in all the good around me, — not once, but *again and again and again*.

3. “Let your moderation be known unto all men.” (Philippians 4:5) – keep calm in my thought and demeanor; restrain from violent passions and emotionalism; don’t overindulge in appetites; no extreme ups or downs.

4. “Be careful for nothing...” (Philippians 4:6) – don’t worry about anything, but put my trust in God.

5. “...by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving” (Philippians 4:6) – when I ask God for any needful thing, *first* give thanks that He has

heard me and has already supplied it now, and abundantly.

6. And lastly, “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true...” (*Science and Health* 261:4) – be disciplined in my thinking by knowing that God is Mind, my mind, the *only* Mind — and stick to that!

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## **SUBJECT: Matter — March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

### **Matter = NOTHING!!**

Definitions of “matter” from various sources: “That which is visible or tangible; physical object; occupies space; has mass; composed predominantly of atoms; the observable universe; the formless substratum of all things which exist only potentially and upon which form acts to produce realities. Christian Science: The illusion that the objects perceived by the physical senses have the reality of substance.”

Characteristics of “matter” (appears 732 times in the textbook, and 534 in *Prose Works*) from this week’s Lesson citations/What is “matter”?

- Has no life to lose
- Has no truth
- Has no intelligence
- Has no substance
- Is erroneous mortal belief
- Is unreal
- Is temporal
- Is material
- Did not originate in God
- Is not eternal
- Is not substantial
- Can never be sick
- Is the medium of man
- Has no consciousness or Ego
- Cannot act; its conditions are illusions/false conditions
- Cannot talk, ache, swell, have pain, or be inflamed
- Is wholly inadequate to affect a man
- Only has supposed organic action or existence

“God is All, in all. What can be more than All? Nothing: and this is just what I call matter, *nothing.*” (*Miscellaneous Writings* 26:22-23)

I am so grateful to know, thanks to our beloved Leader, that “matter” is just a BIG ZERO — NOTHING — NO THING!! Such glorious freedom from fear this gives us, as “...why should we stand aghast at nothingness?”!! (*Science and Health* 563:7)

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### **“Wonderfully Sustained by Truth” Part 1**

[This article from the December 6, 1900 *Christian Science Sentinel* is an unforgettable, practical lesson on refusing to be distracted by what appears to be an overwhelming display of “mortal mind, alias matter,” the Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900, the deadliest storm in US history.]

“Wonderfully Sustained by Truth” [Part 1 of 2] by Mary E. Christie, *Christian Science Sentinel*, 12-06-1900.

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.” — *Isaiah*.

“It was on September 8 last, at the time of the Galveston flood, that I found *more* faith in God, and I am prompted to write my experience that others may see what Christian Science can do, and has done for us in the storm and darkness.

“The tempest was raging and our home was situated only a short distance from the Gulf. At half past two o’clock in the afternoon my husband came home from town with great difficulty. At that hour the rain was falling in torrents and the sea water was gradually covering the streets in the lower parts of the city. However, we were not apprehensive of any danger, having always lived on the coast and being accustomed to ordinary coast storms. During the remainder of the afternoon we read the Bible and *Science and Health* constantly. As night came on, a neighbor sent for us to come over to her house as she was alone and becoming alarmed; but before we could get away, the water had risen to such a height and the storm increased in violence to such an extent that we were unable to leave our house. This was something altogether unexpected, as we had never, for a moment, thought the water would reach

our yard. It was right here that we began to appreciate what Science was to us, as conditions were becoming very serious from a mortal standpoint, but through the constant realization of Truth, we remained perfectly calm and felt safe in our own home.

“We had our house girl (who is a Scientist) come in with us; and with Nezzell, our little six-year-old daughter, we all sat quietly down to realize the Omnipotence of God. My husband read the ninety-first and ninety-third Psalms. I read *Science and Health*, p. 189, and we ceased to concern ourselves about our safety but left that entirely with God. The elements now seemed wrought up to their highest point, the house was rocking like a cradle, and it seemed almost beyond human belief that it could withstand such a terrific wind for even a single moment. Still there was no fear. Soon I discovered that the water was coming through the floors. My husband scuttled each room, while the water rose rapidly. In a few moments we felt an awful jar, and as the water came pouring in through the door casings, we knew that the house was off its foundations. The lights had gone out and we were groping in total darkness, in water to my waist. Here the following verse from Isaiah came to me: ‘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.’

“My husband took our little girl in his arms and we went to one door but failed to open it, quietly but swiftly we went to another and through it reached the kitchen, there a door had blown open and we discovered that we were floating. Soon the water reached my chin, and we found that every piece of furniture in the house was floating. Something must be done, and that quickly, for in a very short time the water would be too deep for me. For just one brief moment fear tried to take possession of me, but its sway was brief, for almost with the next breath the thought came to me: ‘Underneath are the Father’s everlasting arms.’ My husband told me to get up on the kitchen stove, which was two feet underwater but was the only thing in the house that was stationary. So I was lifted above the wave. All four of us stood on the stove without difficulty.”

[Concluded on Part 2 following]  
[“Wonderfully Sustained by Truth” Part 2 of 2]

“It was suggested that each of us say aloud something Scientific. My husband repeated the Scientific Statement of Being (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 464[468]). [Mr. Christie] repeated those dear consoling words of our Leader, ‘Peace, be still! our Father is at the helm.’ Then I repeated the first verse of the ninety-first Psalm: ‘He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty,’ and I was followed by our little one, who, throughout it all had been so courageous and brave, with the first verse of our Mother’s beautiful poem ‘Satisfied’: —

It matters not  
What be thy lot,  
So Love doth guide;  
For storm or shine —  
Pure *peace* is thine —  
What’er betide.

“We then silently tried to realize God’s Allness and to know that ‘He holds the wind in His fist.’

“About eleven o’clock Nezzell noticed that the water was receding, and in some unforeseen way we found a lamp and some dry matches and were thus enabled to see.

“Our experience lasted from five o’clock in the afternoon until half past two the next morning. Most of that time we were in the water. We never experienced the slightest trouble of any kind. Once, while standing on the stove, Nezzell (who was very thinly dressed) complained of being cold. [Mr. Christie], without knowing how it got there or where it came from, reached out and found a coat of his floating around on something. It proved to be a heavy one, and although soaked with water, kept her warm nicely. Again, when I seemed to be chilled, he was able to reach a pair of portières, which served to keep us warm, wet as they were.

“But not until we were able to leave our house did we realize how wonderfully we had been protected and how much we had to be thankful for. We found that our house had floated a distance of two squares, and upon going around to where it had stood a realization of the awful destruction that had

been wrought dawned upon us, for where, that afternoon, we had looked out upon hundreds of pretty homes in front of us, was now a barren waste, the houses were piled up in mountains of wreckage all around us, while our house had been carried to the highest part of the highest street in the neighborhood and there it stood perfectly intact, out of harm's way from the floating debris which would surely have demolished it had we not gone when we did. Surely did we feel grateful that we had placed our safety in our Father's hands with the feeling that 'not my will, but Thine, be done,' knowing full well that 'He doeth all things well.'

"We attribute our safety entirely to Christian Science, and we are striving to show our gratitude to our Leader by following more closely in her footsteps, learning of her greater humility, deeper love, and broader charity for all mankind."

— Mary E. Christie, Galveston, Tex.

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Thank you for sharing this awesome and timely testimony that brought me to tears! Over the course of nine and a half hours, the family remained calm "in the secret place of the most High" where fear could not touch them. And the house floated two streets away (a "square" was interchangeable with "city block" at that time) to the highest part of the highest street, *literally* the most high!

I looked up, not being familiar with, Psalm 93:

"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, *wherewith* he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

"Thy throne *is* established of old: thou *art* from everlasting.

"The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

"The LORD on high *is* mightier than the noise of many waters, *yea, than* the mighty waves of the sea.

"Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."

How very beautiful this is!

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"I read *Science and Health*, p. 189, and we ceased to concern ourselves about our safety but left that entirely with God." (line from testimony)

Words on page 189 from 1900 *Science and Health*, 183<sup>rd</sup> edition: "The vapid fury of mortal mind, expressed in earthquake, wind, wave, lightning, fire, bestial ferocity, shows this so-called mind to be self-destructive. They counterfeit divine justice, and are called, feigned force in the Scriptures, 'the anger of the Lord.' Really, they signify His justice, in the self-destruction of error, and point to its opposite, the strength and permanency of Truth, whose supremacy is ever asserting itself. Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, the entireness of God, Good, and the nothingness of evil."

Corresponding words from 1910 *Science and Health*, p. 293: "There is no vapid fury of mortal mind — expressed in earthquake, wind, wave, lightning, fire, bestial ferocity — and this so-called mind is self-destroyed. The manifestations of evil, which counterfeit divine justice, are called in the Scriptures, 'The anger of the Lord.' In reality, they show the self-destruction of error or matter and point to matter's opposite, the strength and permanency of Spirit. Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, the entireness of God, good, and the nothingness of evil."

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## Thy Sins are Forgiven Thee

"And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house." (Luke 5:20-24)

This story stood out to me this week. I was so used to the words that I did not give it much



thought before. Jesus asked those around, what difference did it make whether he said, "rise up" or "your sins are forgiven." It meant more to me realizing all he did was purposeful and that his words were different for each situation. He did not say what was popular or perhaps what others wanted to hear. This Christ love was a rebuke to the negative old theology thinking of the Pharisees and instead of a simple "rise up" he spoke of forgiveness. Their condemnation was felt by the ill man and those around and was keeping them in bondage to sin, fear, sickness, and guilt. Jesus addressed their thoughts and taught us by his words and actions how to heal the heart and body. During one Roundtable, it was explained when we are forgiving others, we are not forgiving their sin, but choosing not to be angry. This has been a very freeing statement. Mrs. Eddy instructed that when we see a sin in others, to look within and repent ourselves. I am grateful for the many teachings provided here, helping us grow in this Science of Christ.

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## There is No Condemnation

“*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

I was raised in a religion based on matter, the flesh, where I was told that from dust I was created, and unto dust I would return, that I was innately bad, and that there was nothing I could do about it. What a blessed relief and salvation it was to learn through Christian Science that this condemnation was not true for me, nor for anyone, anywhere. The only thing that is ever condemned is error, to its own self-destruction. How important to know this for all mankind, especially during this Lenten season.

I’m grateful to be learning — more and more every day — to walk in Christ’s true teachings, Mrs. Eddy’s pure Christian Science, as taught here in Plainfield Church.

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## Dominion

“DOMINION, noun [Latin See Dominant.]

“1. Sovereign or supreme authority; the power of governing and controlling. ‘The dominion of the Most High is an everlasting dominion.’ (Daniel 4:3)

“2. Power to direct, control, use and dispose of at pleasure; right of possession and use.”

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?... Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet: O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:4, 6, 1)

Gilbert Carpenter talks about dominion in chapter 62 of *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps* on page 268, “Handling the Weather.”

It is always God’s dominion for God is SUPREME. Where is this dominion under God used? We see this spiritual power utilized in the three weekly Watches from the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, and individual Watches done daily. These Watches drew me to the Plainfield Church when I was first introduced to the website. They bring hope, healing and comfort to all the world. I am so happy to be part of this mission and I thank you, Plainfield!

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## A Perfect Reminder

“Matter has no life to lose, and Spirit never dies. A partnership of mind with matter would ignore omnipresent and omnipotent Mind. This shows that matter did not originate in God, Spirit, and is not eternal. Therefore matter is neither substantial, living, nor intelligent. The starting-point of divine Science is that God, Spirit, is All-in-all, and that there is no other might nor Mind, — that God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle.” (*Science and Health* 275:1-9)

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