

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 186

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? — April 11th, 2021

“Cling Steadfastly to God”

“When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in your thought.” (*Science and Health* 495:14-16)

“Cling: To adhere closely and firmly, in interest or affection.

Steadfastly: Firmly; with constancy or steadiness of mind.

Good – Honest, uncorrupted, valuable, useful, moral, right, benevolent, kind, highest worth, perfect, beneficial, virtue, firm, not weak, complete, opposed to wicked, wholesome, faithful, fidelity, wise, calm, abundance, satisfied, mercy, charity, universal goodwill. Peace – contentment, calm, gratitude, trust God. Joy – is a delight of the mind, from the consideration of the present or assured approaching possession of a good; to animate with gladness” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

Our God is good, so it is good we must cling to. I wanted to think more carefully about this line since it is one often memorized so that I keep it more than words in my heart. I added the seven synonyms. I am sure there is so much more to add.

Realizing Reality vs Faking Reality

As this week’s lesson shows, Christian Science describes reality as three-fold in nature: the reality of holiness (as opposed to the unreality of sin), the reality of health (as opposed to the unreality of disease) and the reality of Life (as opposed to the unreality of death). Jesus likened this three-fold coming of the kingdom of heaven on earth to a woman hiding leaven in three measures of meal.

“All is harmony, health, holiness” (*Collectanea*, Mrs. Eddy): My responsibility is to think in this three-fold way, to think it absolutely, for thinking it so, makes it so. This means to think knowingly, meaningfully, feelingly: to make it a reality. This is what Mrs. Eddy meant by saying, “The time for thinkers has come,” and, quoting Hamlet, “There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” This is thinking God’s thoughts exactly as God thinks.

Infinite Mind cannot fathom the existence, reality, or presence of anything other than itself. Likewise, Mind’s infinite manifestation (Mind’s reflex shadow) is not conscious of any other mind than Mind. If I engage in any train of thought other than that of Mind, I am faking reality and living in a dream world outside of and completely unknown to Mind.

“There are two English words, often used as if they were synonyms, which really have a shade of difference between them. An *egotist* is one who talks much of himself. *Egotism* implies vanity and self-conceit. *Egoism* is a more philosophical word, signifying a passionate love of self, which doubts all existence except its own. An *egoist*, therefore, is one uncertain of everything except his own existence. Applying these distinctions to evil and God, we shall find that evil is *egotistic*, — boastful, but fleeing like a shadow at daybreak; while God is *egoistic*, knowing only His own all-presence, all-knowledge, all-power” (*Unity of Good* 27:3-15). *This*, and only this, is reality.

“Deliverance to the Captives [of Sense]”

“...deliverance to the captives [of sense],” (*Science and Health* xi:19)

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “captive” as “a prisoner taken by force or trickery; one who is

charmed or subdued by beauty or excellence; or ensnared by flattery or wiles; a slave.”

This defines the exact activity and intent of animal magnetism. It tries to imprison us in the belief that we are born into matter, glamour or *captivate* us with its pleasures and beauty, and then enslave us with its pains and beliefs of age. The only antidote is “the life-giving power of Truth acting on human belief, a power which opens the prison doors to such as are bound, and sets the captive free physically and morally.” (*Science and Health* 495:10-13)

The Lesson: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real?

I couldn't let the week pass without thanking the Lesson writer for this Lesson which contains many wonderful and helpful passages that teach God's Reality and lift us out of the belief in sin, disease, and death. Here are a few: “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him...; And God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good.; For sin shall not have dominion over you...; For with God nothing is impossible.; the mighty works are not supernatural, but supremely natural; Instead of God sending sickness and death, He destroys them; It is impossible that man should lose aught that is real...; Evil is not supreme; good is not helpless, and God will heal the sick through man, whenever man is governed by God!”

All these truths are powerful, and I am grateful to be able to use them.

Psalm 91

This is something I found in the Plainfield database. Being new to Plainfield, I hadn't seen it before, but thought it one of the most beautiful interpretations of Psalm 91 that I have ever read. It is attributed to Mary Baker Eddy. So, I wanted to share it for those who already know it and those like me who had never seen it.

With love to you all.

Ninety-First Psalm

(In the first person with Scientific interpretation)

Attributed to Mary Baker Eddy

Psalms 91:1 — I dwell in the secret place of the most High (consciousness of good), and abide under the shadow (protection) of the Almighty.

Psalms 91:2 — I will say of the Lord (Supreme Ruler), He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

Psalms 91:3 — Surely He shall deliver me from the snare of the fowler (temptation) and from the noisome pestilence (uncleanness, impure thoughts).

Psalms 91:4 — He shall cover me with his feathers (omnipresence), and under His wings (omnipotence) shall I trust: His Truth (omniscience) shall be my shield and buckler (defense).

Psalms 91:5 — I shall not be afraid for the terror by night (mental malpractice); nor for the arrow (aggressive mental suggestion) that flieth by day;

Psalms 91:6 — Nor for the pestilence (mental contagion) that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Psalms 91:7 — A thousand (false beliefs) shall fall at my side, and ten thousand at my right hand; but it shall not come nigh me.

Psalms 91:8 — Only with my eyes (personal sense) shall I behold and see the reward of the wicked (unrighteousness).

Psalms 91:9 — Because I have made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, my habitation;

Psalms 91:10 — There shall no evil befall me, neither shall any plague (inharmonious) come nigh my dwelling.

Psalms 91:11 — For He shall give his angels (spiritual intuitions) charge over me, to keep me in all my ways.

Psalms 91:12 — They shall bear me up in their hands (power of right thoughts), lest I dash my foot against a stone (belief in matter).

Psalms 91:13 — I shall tread upon the lion (animal courage) and adder (subtlety): the young lion (blind enthusiasm, mortal will) and the dragon (malicious animal instinct) I shall trample under my feet (understanding).

Psalms 91:14 — Because I have set my love upon Him, therefore will He deliver me: He will set me on high (spiritual exaltation), because I have known His name (manifested His nature).

Psalms 91:15 — I will call upon Him and He will answer me; He will be with me in trouble (human experience); He will deliver me and honor me (manifest Himself through me).
Psalms 91:16 — With long life (immortal being) will He satisfy me and show me His salvation (preservation).

SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement — April 18th, 2021

“Intelligence Through Conscious At-One-Ment with Mind”

[To be shared with children and grandchildren, especially during school-exam season: this excerpt from a Christian Science Sentinel article by Pauline Dondale (August, 1934) entitled “Intelligence through Conscious At-one-ment with Mind” offers a cure for fear of school examinations. But beyond that, it is a primer for anyone of any age on how to become at one with Omniscience in finding the solution to any problem.]

“[P]reparation for examinations is not merely a question of remembering many facts which have been learned, but of so uplifting thought that it becomes at one with the divine consciousness in which dwells all truth. This destroys fear and the sense of limitation.

“A certain woman had a very helpful experience which may be of benefit in this respect. She was teaching in a preparatory school when, in the middle of the semester, it became necessary for her to teach geometry, which subject was foreign to her chosen field, having been studied and ‘passed’ and promptly dismissed some twenty years before. Two days were given her in which to prepare for this class. As she fingered the pages of dimly remembered theorems, a feeling very much akin to panic and discouragement assailed her. One thing was certain. There was no time to review the textbook of geometry thoroughly. So she confidently turned to Christian Science for the solution of her problem.

“Knowing that she could not possibly learn or remember anything outside of Mind, she saw that

her task was not in anxious ‘cramming’ of facts, but in making a conscious mental effort to realize her at-one-ment with the one Mind. Instead of turning to the geometry textbook, she turned to the Concordances of the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s works. As she studied, she saw that to be one with Mind she must actively manifest and express the attributes and qualities of Mind. She also saw that the true intelligence manifested by her was in ratio to the Christlike qualities she expressed.

“When Monday morning came, she entered the classroom with a quiet assurance of Mind’s presence, and that God would reveal Himself if she waited, never doubting. She saw the whole mental process of education in that classroom as the process of Mind revealing itself — unfolding itself.

“The results of this experience were humbly and prayerfully contemplated. God’s presence was proved in abundance. The logical reasoning of theorems unfolded to her waiting thought with a perception and acuteness never before realized. Original problems which in years past had been difficult for her to solve were now grasped with speed and clarity.

“When one has faithfully done his daily mental work, he need not fear examination periods, but can look forward to them with joy as presenting an opportunity to prove his own individual unity with Mind, his divine and only source. In *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* (p. 160) our Leader says, ‘To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal, is to individualize infinite power; and this is Christian Science.’ When study has been conscientiously carried on, then right thinking and righteous living are the true preparations needed for examination periods.”

Christ’s Cup

“Remembering the sweat of agony which fell in holy benediction on the grass of Gethsemane, shall the humblest or mightiest disciple murmur when he drinks from the same cup, and think, or even wish, to escape the exalting ordeal of sin’s revenge on its destroyer? Truth and Love bestow few palms until

the consummation of a life-work.” (*Science and Health* 48:10-16)

This citation has given me much to ponder. If I am to follow Christ, I must face the same anger and revenge that error held for him in his destruction of sin, disease, and death...overcoming all. This is part of the atonement to work out my own salvation knowing that GOD indeed works with me (a life’s work). Christ ascended and draws mankind to him! May I be worthy of His grace.

Thank you for this post!

From the *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*:

“Exalt: To elevate with joy or confidence;

Ordeal: Severe trial; accurate scrutiny.

Scrutiny: Close search; minute inquiry; critical examination;”

These definitions gave me new insight into this citation. I have been learning in Plainfield that the “severe trials” faced while striving to understand and demonstrate Christian Science come from the increasingly “accurate scrutiny” we have of our consciousness, and how that ongoing “critical examination” exposes error and attunes our spiritual sense so that we can be useful to God. As our prayer becomes “cleanse thou me from secret *faults*” (Psalm 19:12) we must then be ready to handle any error that is exposed with Science.

So many examples in the lives of Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy show why longsuffering is a fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) Other examples in the Bible show how the ingratitude of murmuring hardens the heart and stops us listening for the still, small voice. Since no one is forcing me to be here, and every step in this Science has brought only blessings, there is no reason for me to do anything but rejoice in the opportunities God has given me!

To have perspective on this, my time before coming to this Church had many severe trials that did not end in joy or confidence. Those ordeals were from being overcome by error, instead of overcoming it. Since “Error comes to you for life and you give it all the life it has” (Mary Baker Eddy), it is clear that, while at one time I ignorantly

gave it life, it is now only through the understanding and application of Christian Science that I can begin to make it right.

I thank God for Christian Science, this Church, and practitioner support for helping me to gain the understanding necessary to get this far, and to keep moving forward. Thank you!

“None of Them that Trust in him Shall be Desolate.”

“The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.” (Psalm 34:22)

“Desolate: Neglected; Solitary; without a companion; afflicted. Deserted of God; deprived of comfort.

Synonyms: discouragement, dishearten, lack of hope or promise.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

The Roundtable yesterday, Don’t Give In To Discouragement addressed the promise that “none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.” I am learning more and more this is an active trust that requires gratitude, focus on good prayer, sticking with even the most basic Truth you know, immersing yourself in the Word of God, courage, standing for right, stopping negative thoughts and these are only a few tools we have been given in our classes and from our practitioners. This week’s Lesson is full of antidotes for discouragement and naturally flows from this class. Such a demonstration of God’s great care that He is communicating to us. Thank you, Lesson writers, and for our teachers!
