

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 187

**SUBJECT: Probation After Death —  
April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## **“The Work of Time”**

“If here we give no heed to Christian Science, which is spiritual and eternal, we shall not be ready for spiritual Life hereafter.” (*Science and Health*, 1910 edition, page 410)

“When the miser loses his gold he has little left, and when the sensualist loses his five personal senses, what he has left is Soul, not understood by him, and the body is mortal until Life is understood, therefore, be wise to-day; willful ignorance culminates in outer darkness, and the future will reveal the great error of leaving the work of time for eternity.” (*Science and Health*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, pages 219-220)

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## **Righteousness**

“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.” (Psalm 17:15 – Lesson citation #1)

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:16-18 – Lesson citation #7)

**Righteousness:** Purity of heart; conformity of heart and life to the divine law; holiness; justice, honesty, virtue, holy affections; true religion; perfection; exact rectitude; faithfulness; active and passive obedience of Christ. (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

**Rectitude:** In morality, rightness of principle or practice; uprightness of mind; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct; perfect rectitude belongs only to the Supreme Being. (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

“... the word righteousness is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, *riht*, *right*, and *wis*, wise or way, so that the meaning of righteousness in the original English was right-wise-ness, or right-way-ness. To be righteous, then, is to be rightly wise, to follow the right way, or to be rightly informed – to possess accurate knowledge.” (“Righteousness,” *Christian Science Journal*, Nov. 1917, Warwick A. Tyler)

“Righteousness is necessarily rightness with God, and rightness with God means rightness with all of God’s ideas. This right attitude of thought, like charity, ‘begins at home,’ with one’s own self. Its primary step is the sifting out of consciousness those conditions which would bind and limit, which would obscure the realities and retard progress. This process in thought is necessarily individual. No one can do this for another, neither can any one prevent another’s doing it for himself. ...Getting right with God means also getting right with one’s self. A right concept of God and man is ‘right wiseness’ or righteousness.” (“Effect of righteousness,” *Christian Science Sentinel*, 5/31/1913, John L. Rendall)

“Let us now briefly consider what is required of us if we would walk honestly and unswervingly in the ‘Paths of righteousness.’ It means this: that we must cease forever to think or talk of man as though he were mortal and material, since the only real man, the only man we are entitled to be conscious of, is the image and likeness of God....” (“Paths for righteousness,” *Christian Science Sentinel*, 9/23/1916, Charles A. Henry)

The mention during Sunday’s Roundtable of Bicknell Young’s article, “Oneness,” prompted me to re-read it. The citation above from Charles Henry’s article so closely aligns with this one from

“Oneness”: “We should never think of ourselves as man, with God afar off.... Jesus never spoke of himself as man, but *as one with the Father. WE MUST LEARN TO DO THIS.*”

“What is it to think right? Even to think in accordance with Truth...to think truthfully is to think in a godlike manner. Right thinking places the aspiring Christian in the attitude of unity with God, brings to pass the **atonement**, — the **at-one-ment** — and constitutes the silent communion which fulfils the demand, ‘Pray without ceasing.’ The psalmist sang: ‘As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.’...Only through righteous thinking can men experience the spiritual joy of beholding God’s face; that is, realizing His character, entering into the enjoyment of knowing Him as He truly is, the ever active source of infinite bounty, of all harmony, beauty, happiness and heavenly bliss....Only by right thinking, by the spiritual understanding which is at once Christian and scientific, can mankind hear the voice of the good shepherd calling to his sheep....The world conditions of today will find their final solution tomorrow in the vast, all-embracing, Christian, and scientific realm of righteousness.”  
(“Righteousness: Its Realm,” *Christian Science Sentinel*, 10/2/1916, William D. McCrackan, M.A.)

**Righteousness — Right Thinking — Oneness — Atonement — At-one-ment:** The seamless garment (consciousness) of the one Mind that threads through from every Wednesday evening’s readings, to the comments shared during each Bible Study and Roundtable discussion, and to each week’s Lesson, is SO AWESOME to behold! Thank you to every member of the Plainfield Church for your inspiring contributions that bless so many every day!!

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### **“For this corruptible must put on incorruption”**

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.” (I Corinthians 15:53)

I found the following definitions from *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* helpful:

- 1) “Corruptible – (noun) that which may decay and perish; the human body; (adj.) susceptible of depravation.”
- 2) “Corrupt – to pervert; lose purity or integrity; to change from good to bad; to defile, disobey, waste or spoil; to falsify or infect with errors.”
- 3) “Incorruptible – (adj.) incapable of decay or corruption; inflexibly just and upright.”

As my “harmony and immortality” as ideas of God “are becoming more apparent” to me (*Science and Health* 324:7-8), I realize that the first two definitions are no part of my true being, and that I am *incapable of all* that they claim.

**However**, it is important to note that this Bible verse also includes the demand “must.” Webster defines “must” thus: “it expresses both physical and moral necessity. We *must* submit to the laws or be exposed to punishment.” In this week’s lesson, there are 9 instances of the word “must”:

- 1) and 2) “must put on incorruption...must put on immortality”
- 3) “must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”
- 4) “must conquer sin, sickness, and death, either here or hereafter”
- 5) “must be sinless”
- 6) “must grapple with and overcome the mortal belief in a power opposed to God”
- 7) “dream of death must be mastered by Mind”
- 8) “Science must destroy all illusions”
- 9) “old man with his deeds must be put off”

This is how we are to “put on immortality.” Thank you, Lesson writer, for this inspiring Lesson.

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### **The Kingdom of God is Within You**

“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20, 21)

“...remember Jesus’ words, ‘The kingdom of God is within you.’ This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.” (*Science and Health* 573:32-2) “This kingdom of God ‘is within you,’ — is within reach of man’s consciousness here, and the spiritual idea reveals it. In divine Science, man possesses this recognition of harmony consciously in proportion to his understanding of God.” (*Science and Health* 576:21-25)

Every morning we are told to repeat before we get out of bed, “God is Life. God is my Life. God is the only pure and perfect Life.” We are also to go over Mind and to add whatever else we need to affirm. Today in thinking about the Lesson, I thought I would use this same idea but with the “kingdom of heaven.” So, I replaced heaven with words such as joy, peace, good, strength, health, purity, understanding, abundance, satisfaction, supply, stability. This week’s Lesson gives us instruction regarding our part in this covenant: “Therefore ‘acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace.’ Be watchful, sober, and vigilant. The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the only Life.” (*Science and Health* 324:11-15)

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## **SUBJECT: Everlasting Punishment — May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

### **After God’s Own Heart**

In the late 1800s, Swiss artist Eugène Burnand created a series of illustrations based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the most striking of which may be found [here, third picture down](#). This unique focus upon the Father alone, watching intently for the return of his child is also a perfect depiction of the heart of Christ Jesus as well. And nothing was more important to Mrs. Eddy, nothing more urgent than this: “Three times a day, I retire to seek the divine blessing on the sick and sorrowing, with my face toward the Jerusalem of Love and Truth, in silent prayer to the Father which ‘seeth in secret,’ and with childlike confidence that He will reward ‘openly.’” (*Miscellaneous Writings* 133:22-26)

God grant that my heart likewise keep pace with the heavenly Father’s.

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Thank you! What a wonderful depiction of Our Father’s unfailing Love and Compassion!

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### **“Destroying the foe”**

“Your true course is to destroy the foe, and leave the field to God, Life, Truth, and Love, remembering that God and His ideas alone are real and harmonious.” (*Science and Health* 419:4-7)

I am reminded here of Hebrews 12:1 — “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Last week’s Roundtable taught the difference between the absolute and the relative. The first step in “destroying the foe” (sin, error), is the *absolute* — to “leave the field to God,” by holding in thought “that God and His ideas are real and harmonious.” But the next, and more important step, is the *relative* — putting it into practice in my daily life. If pride is the foe that besets me, then I must consistently know that I am nothing apart from God, and always give Him the glory, recognition, and thanks for all good in my experience. If stubborn willfulness is the foe that besets me, then always ask God “what do You want me to do or say,” and then obey. If self-condemnation is the foe that besets me, then know that as God’s loved child I am *never* condemned by Him. And so on. Consistently doing this, is the only way I can “destroy the foe.”

Thank you for this Lesson-Sermon that touched my heart.

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### **Reliable!**

“A man who likes to do wrong — finding pleasure in it and refraining from it only through fear of consequences — is neither a temperate man nor a reliable religionist.” (*Science and Health* 322:22-25)

This morning I had a chance to read a timely article on our website main page carousel.

“It is the doing that counts at all times and in all cases. Talking about doing, and wishing for the results of doing without zealous striving, is idle folly... To say that one would try to walk ten miles would be to start with uncertainty, doubt, and fear that the destination might not be reached; but to start out with the intention of walking ten miles would be to go expectantly forward, surmounting every obstacle, and knowing that each mile gained brought the destination nearer.

“In the writings and life of Mary Baker Eddy, we find no note of uncertainty or feeble trying. She says, ‘When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to God and His idea.’ (S&H)” (“[Doing, Not Trying to Do](#)” by Martha A. Holton)

“Try: To test, or do (something new or different) in order to see if it is suitable, effective, or pleasant.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

“Uncertain: Not constant; not certain to occur; not reliable; untrustworthy.” (*Ibid.*)

In the story this week, Simon the Pharisee saw no need to seek the Christ for true help, or perhaps had many reasons he couldn’t or didn’t. I asked myself “Am I truly ready to approach my debt to divine Love”? It is going to require work and honesty such as “the woman.”

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### **“Came to himself” – Come to ourselves**

Luke 15:17: “And when he [the prodigal son] came to himself, . . .” (Lesson citation #6)

Several commentaries provide excellent insights about when the prodigal son “came to himself,” and this one stood out as perfectly aligned with the teachings of Christian Science: “coming to his true self, his sane mind.” (*Expositor’s Greek Testament*)

Thank God for Mrs. Eddy who so clearly teaches us exactly how to “come to ourselves” daily and hourly — by “praying without ceasing” to wake up out of the dream; be conscious of our better nature; view ourselves in a different/better light, regain our right mind — so, through the grace of our all-loving Father-Mother, God, who

opens our eyes, we can “...come into conscious realization of our true spiritual selfhood, inseparable from God.” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, 11/12/1938, “When he came to himself” by Della M. Whitney)

Thank you to the Lesson writer for including two of the most tender accounts of redemption in the Bible, which are such endless sources of comfort and hope through the examples of humility, repentance, and obedience of Mary Magdalene and the prodigal son.

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### **Hymn 49**

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 edition*

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.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow thee.

Breathe through the pulses of desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from us now the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

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