

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Everlasting Punishment —
October 31st, 2021**

Truth v. Ignorance and Sin

This lesson ‘Everlasting Punishment’ certainly has me standing to attention as the subject matter deals with the fundamentals of the science of being. My study as an unfolding enquiry presents as this post. To live in ignorance of God as the Principle of Life is to lose sight of my real nature. The way or footsteps to follow to overcome this ignorance require I overcome the beliefs of mortal mind until the sense of mortality is swallowed up by the Truth of Eternal Life. This overcoming relies upon my ability to usurp mortal mind using flood-tides of Christly-love (*S&H:202*).

To understand Christ-consciousness as Christly-love demands, I study the precepts of Christ Science, dismiss mortal belief by way of practice, and live as a Christ-woman according to scriptural Truth. I discover few there be in the world today who comprehend and adhere to the Christ precepts* for living and healing. Why? Because these precepts require of men and women that they set aside even their most cherished desires, beliefs, opinions and practices, and leave all for Christ-awareness (*S&H:130,141; Matt. 4:20*).

That said, acceptance of a ‘me’ separate and apart from God is the primal sin which draws to itself suffering, disease, and death. Acceptance, in belief, of a limited, sinning, sick, aging, slowly-dying self IS everlasting punishment. The only thing the Christ precepts declare is necessary, is the overcoming of the belief of a mortal mind.

Positively, Jesus of Nazareth asks us to bring forth only God’s qualities until there is no suffering and punishment necessary. Could I ignore God as All-in-all, either willfully or out of sheer ignorance?

To do so is to sin (*S&H:196*). Jesus condemned sin as ignorance or blindness in those who could not, or would not, see. To those who could see, He attuned their hypnotised-prone mind to Christ-understanding via divine Love and Compassion.

Overall, I learn that there can be no satisfaction in the belief of sin, disease, and death, once it is understood that there is no scientific reason to BELIEVE in mortal existence, especially since it has been revealed by scripture, and reinforced by Mary Baker Eddy, that ‘ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’ of any sense of material birth, age and decay. Eternal life, Christly-love, harmony, joy, peace, and abundance – all these are included in the understanding of Truth.

Thank you, Divine Mind, for your guidance to this lesson and, of course, thank you to the Plainfield CS team for giving me access to it without price.
*(The two Commandments, Sermon on the Mount)

Thank you for sharing your thoughts here! I remember long ago a Christian Science friend said that when the subject was “Everlasting Punishment” there were fewer people in church. Well, they could have read your post, and then have run to church on Sunday! Your comment, “*Acceptance, in belief, of a limited, sinning, sick, aging, slowly-dying self IS everlasting punishment*” illustrates the wonderful purpose of this lesson subject! Nobody wants ‘everlasting punishment’. Christ Jesus, the Wayshower, and Mrs. Eddy and her divine revelation, show us the way out of that mess. After all, God is in the blessing business! All we have to do is listen to and stay within, stay connected to, the Divine Mind.

Put God first. Focus on Him. “Leave all for Christ awareness” as you beautifully state here.

Heaven and Hell

“The teacher of music who demonstrates for the benefit of others, has by no means relieved them from giving the proof requisite to show where they stand in science; he rather does this, for their example that they may understand that which they should demonstrate. Implicit faith in the teacher, whose self-abnegation and toil have bestowed blessings on man, will never make Musicians of the learners; they must go and do likewise, or they are not improving their talents, which, unimproved, condemn them. We must understand the Principle Jesus taught, at whatever expense, and practice it, or we are not Christians.” (*Science and Health*, by Mrs. Glover, 1875 edition, page 299).

To *practice* being increasingly conscious of something that the five corporeal senses deny requires time, patience, attention, as it is the spiritual ultimate for which all humanity must quest, “at whatever expense”. Those to whom physical “reality” is less real than the spiritual world thus prepare themselves for eternal spiritual existence (heaven), while those who have been physically focused throughout their lives are not so prepared, faced only with the anguish and regret of an infinite sense of spiritual starvation (hell).

See also: ‘Effective triumph’
Science & Health, p. 25: 13-30

Denounce the Claims of Evil and Disease in all Their Forms

“Expose and denounce the claims of evil and disease in all their forms, but realize no reality in them. A sinner is not reformed merely by assuring him that he cannot be a sinner because there is no sin. To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion, and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its unreality.” (*Science and Health*, page 447).

“Denounce: To announce or declare, as a threat. To inform against; to accuse.”

This got me thinking about the antonym of “denounce”. Here are a few – endorse, honor,

commend, sanction, bless, approve, praise, tribute, credit.

I asked myself “Do I (endorse, honor, commend, sanction, bless, approve, praise, tribute, credit) any form of evil or disease in any form?” It is certainly what the world is doing - giving it place, person, and thing. Rather, I must (oppose, dishonor, condemn, silence, disapprove, reproach, reproof, oppose, condemn, discredit) evil and disease in their forms, and not attach them to person, place, or thing.

What a powerful Bible Lesson addressing how to handle all that is unlike God! I am also grateful for all the Watches that expose and denounce evil and disease in all forms without giving them power.

Thank you. You sound like a “David” on his best day - a wonderful friend and a formidable foe. See Psalm 23.

Whom The Lord Loveth He Chasteneth

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Heb 12:6, 7) – Responsive Reading

The book, *Painting a Poem*, sheds such light on our beloved Leader through her many visits, conversations, and letters that were the recorded experiences of James F. Gilman, who illustrated Mrs. Eddy’s poem, *Christ and Christmas*, with her constant guidance (they are both listed as the artists at the end of the poem). Can one imagine tackling the task of putting into illustrations the essence of Mrs. Eddy’s spiritual thoughts?! It was only Mr. Gilman’s humility that allowed him to see the job through to the end, as he endured several instances of rebukes/chastening. Here is one example of his reaction to Mrs. Eddy’s loving chastening:

“(I [Mr. Gilman] neglected the getting of my mail in the morning that day, hence was not ‘prepared’ with my brushes as the letter had directed me to be.). . . [Mrs. Eddy] received me very coldly and began at once to express displeasure, asking why I

persisted in disobeying her express commands. . . . [She] commanded me to go back to my rooms until Monday, (it was now Saturday, 2 P.M.), and not to do a single thing in the intervening time, and then come up again prepared to correct my bad work. Then she left me with a cold good day.” [The following Monday] – “This morning I felt renewed and refreshed, and with a chastened sense I went up again, this time prepared, and with my brushes, as she had before requested. . . . She retained the hold upon my hand as she stood close to me in her precious way, and looking very earnestly and with solicitation up into my eyes, she said yearningly like a mother, ‘It seems hard to bear, I know. You won’t feel hard toward me, will you? I felt I must be severe because you needed it; but it was hard for me to be so.’ I was striving to restrain the floods that threatened to inundate me. I finally found voice to say that there was nothing but gratitude in my mind for her faithfulness toward me, to which she joyfully responded, ‘I am so glad!’” (pp. 111-114).

“Avoiding Everlasting Punishment”

Citation 10 from *Science and Health* is the way to avoid everlasting punishment; partly stated, from pg. 327, “Reform comes by understanding that there is no abiding pleasure in evil, and also by gaining an affection for good according to Science, which reveals the immortal fact that neither pleasure nor pain, appetite nor passion, can exist in or of matter, while divine Mind can and does destroy the false beliefs of pleasure, pain, or fear and all the sinful appetites of the human mind. What a pitiful sight is malice, finding pleasure in revenge! Evil is sometimes a man’s highest conception of right, until his grasp on good grows stronger. Then he loses pleasure in wickedness, and it becomes his torment. The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning. There is no other way.”

Thank God for the clarity. The pressure of Truth, Life, and Love on human consciousness demands as Elijah demanded of Ahab; then men sing from Hymn 253 “Christ My Refuge” by Mary Baker Eddy, the following:

- From tired joy and grief afar,
- And nearer Thee,-
- Father, where Thine own children are,
- I love to be.

This is not controlling another mind, but awakening another by your own life, light, and consciousness.

SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man — November 7th, 2021

“Consciousness, Where Art Thou?”

“Above error’s awful din, blackness, and chaos, the voice of Truth still calls: ‘Adam, where art thou? Consciousness, where art thou? Art thou dwelling in the belief that mind is in matter, and that evil is mind, or art thou in the living faith that there is and can be but one God, and keeping His commandment?’” (*Science and Health*, p. 307). This line kept coming to my thought this week, and each time it did, I would check the state of my thoughts. From here, I would remember the line that follows, and ask myself – Am I “keeping His commandment?”

Jesus was asked, “Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22: 36-38). It was a reminder always to get out of my personal sense of self. “And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 22:39-40). The answer was always, you can never love too much, divinely, and there are always many prayers needed for our world.

‘But, For Grace Go I’

Until Adam rises out of the belief of mortal existence, he will not find eternity and immortal good (Love, Life, and Truth) via healing. ‘Denial of the possibility of Christian healing robs Christianity of the very element, which gave it divine force and its astonishing and unequalled success in the first century’ (*S&H*, p.134).

Realistically, the motives, desires, and BELIEFS which govern humans are not apparent to Christ-man and Christ-woman.

Jesus was without personal sense or ego – the remarkable sign of a Christ Master. He spoke not of himself as a mortal, nor of himself as possessing divine force or healing power, but spoke only of the Christ-consciousness that expressed through him. Jesus' Christ-consciousness touched the Christ of others. By degrees, all eventually will experience this Christ-ian vision and extend their invisible Christly touch (*S&H*, p. 26,134) in meekness and with compassion.

In relation to humankind as Adam, the fallen, Jesus teaches us to see our neighbour – our good neighbour and our so-called evil neighbour – as fellow-travellers on the Path of Light. Let me be grateful for this commandment: 'Thou shalt love your neighbour as yourself' (see Matt 22:35-40). Why? It is through loving God, wholly, fully, in actual At-one-ment in meditation and contemplation, and expressing that Love in word, thought, and action to my neighbour as though he/she were My self that I can rise above the Adam dream of life in matter, and understand immortality and soul, as My self and everywhere present. Adam-man lives in delusion, lives in ignorance of the possibilities of Christ-ian Science. Adam is at a loss when it comes to loving God and his neighbour as himself, as he does not even know what spirit, soul, and Christly-love are. A true "desire for holiness" Adam does not have (*S&H*, p.11).

Adam, God's sheep, suffers in intolerable ways, since he has no shepherd to lead him through the wilderness of false beliefs to the Christ-understanding (John 10:14,15).

I appreciate that I naturally love my neighbour as My self once I can see that neighbour, who appears to be a mortal, actually represents my concept of Soul, Love, and Life. Truth is truth! There is no sin, disease, death, or limitation – these are illusions to Christ-woman. The personal-sense world is illusion. There is no sick, sinning, decaying, dying neighbour!

Through contemplation of Jesus' teachings (as scientific facts), and of Mrs Eddy's truth textbook, *Science and Health*, I am awakening to My true being as Christ-woman. Yet, the love, joy, and harmony of awakening to Myself as THAT is counterbalanced by a genuine compassion for Adam, my neighbour. Such compassion makes it easy to love Adam as My self.

Oh! Grant me the wisdom to turn away always from sickly, sinning, mortal neighbour, in the realization that where the illusion seems to be, there is God in expression. Let me become a willing avenue of Soul, and work, not to criticize, judge or condemn my neighbour Adam, but to acknowledge him, talk with him and touch him as though I were a disciple of Jesus happily and knowingly sharing 'My talents' (Matt 25:14-30), which are mostly invisible, since Love, Eternal Life, and Truth are invisible to mortal sense. Thank you, Soul, for the vision of Adam, the fallen, for it underpins this week's lesson.

Thank you, Plainfield CS, once again, for publishing the lesson so that I can more fully discern the essence of Christ Science.

Last Comes First

"And the LORD said unto her [Rebekah], Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger." (Genesis 25:23) This prophecy of the conflict of twins, Jacob and Esau, is also an allegory far-reaching in relevance and practical applicability: "the first Adam" (Genesis 2) versus "the last Adam" (Genesis 1). Scripture teaches that the last Adam must come first in my consciousness, above all other thought-models, while the first Adam must come last. The first Adam is the sod-man. The last Adam is the God-man.

Practically speaking, all spiritual tests have to do with overcoming the first Adam by summoning forth all the might and power and abilities of the last Adam, and in this, Jesus passed every one of

his tests, including the most difficult of all: Gethsemane and the crucifixion.

“... [A]bove the appeal to a man-God [the deity of the first Adam], lift thyself to the Wisdom and Love that maketh the God-man [the last Adam], and you will at length reach Christianity where the belief of supreme being changes from person [first Adam] to Principle [last Adam].” *
“Jesus regarded himself Principle instead of person...”

**Science & Health*, by Mrs. Glover, 1875, p. 227

Thank you for this helpful post!

“...lift thyself to the Wisdom and Love that maketh the God-man [the last Adam], and you will at length reach Christianity.”

We must lift ourselves up!!!! I like to think of keeping myself “plugged in” to the one Source, God, wherefrom cometh my energy, the divine energy of Spirit, and all the other spiritual qualities that He has endowed upon us as His children.

Walk in the Spirit

What does it really mean to “Walk in the Spirit”? I found this to be helpful from The Interpreter’s Bible: *“Man in revolt against God is fulfilling the lust of the flesh; man in Christ-governed obedience to God is walking in the Spirit.”* At the end of the day, it always comes back to obedience.

John 14: 15,23

1 John 5:3; 15:14; 2:3-6

2 John 1:6

James 1:22; 4:7

Luke 6:46; 11:28

Romans 6:16

Your reference to ‘obedience’ led me to the verses above. Thanks! Obedience and divine Understanding fit neatly together AS the two commandments. Thought provoking!

Life in God

Citation 3. 580:21-27 reads: “The name Adam represents the false supposition that Life is not

eternal, but has beginning and end; that the infinite enters the finite, that intelligence passes into non-intelligence, and that Soul dwells in material sense; that immortal Mind results in matter, and matter in mortal mind; that the one God and creator entered what He created, and then disappeared in the atheism of matter.” The first time I read this, which is the last paragraph in Mrs. Eddy’s definition of “ADAM,” I was blown away by the words “atheism of matter”! What does that mean? It simply and clearly tells us that believing in life in matter or bowing down to material laws, we are saying THERE IS NO GOD! (definition of atheism: “The disbelief of the existence of a God, or Supreme Being. Atheism is a ferocious system that leaves nothing above us to excite awe, nor around us, to awaken tenderness. Rob. Hall.” Webster’s 1828)

These strong words of Mrs. Eddy, given by God — as she said she was a *scribe under orders — draw a clear line for me in what I choose to believe. *scribe: see Miscellaneous Writings 311:26 and Miscellany 115:7

Thank you, Lesson writer, for this Lesson on “Adam and Fallen Man”!

Beauty of His Creation

