

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Christian Science — December 26th, 2021

“Christian” and “Science”

“The two largest words in the vocabulary of thought are ‘Christian’ and ‘Science.’ The former is the highest style of man; the latter reveals and interprets God and man; it aggregates, amplifies, unfolds, and expresses the ALL-God. The life of Christ is the predicate and postulate of all that I teach, and there is but one standard statement, one rule, and one Principle for all scientific truth.” (No and Yes, p. 10:6-13).

From an article entitled, “Christian Science Not Just a Name,” by Andrew Kidd (on the Plainfield website – “CornerStone” published May 2013), the author states, “The Supreme Court of New Jersey rejected the argument on the basis that Christian Science is far more than a brand name! It is worth considering why the term needs to be appreciated, and never relegated to just being a name! . . .

‘Like our nation, Christian Science has its Declaration of Independence. God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love.’ (S & H) Can it be any clearer? When using the term Christian Science, the student needs to take off his sandals/shoes/slippers, for he is walking on holy ground.”

Is it any wonder that the Board of Directors fought so hard to try to retain control over these “two largest words in the vocabulary of thought”?! What a TREMENDOUS debt of gratitude is due for the steadfast, immovable perseverance of the Plainfield Church to carry the fight through to a victorious end, back in the 1970s-80s! Their victory, in which they “...won the right to use ...the name ‘Christian

Science,’ ...” was “truly historic”! (“History of Our Independence” on the Plainfield website).

I’m grateful for the reminder, also on the website, in the article entitled “Things to Handle Daily,” from *Watches, Prayers, and Arguments* Given by Mary Baker Eddy, of the following: “Know every day, that the world is ready for Christian Science.” (*Blue Book*,” p. 98)

Thank you for the quotation from ‘No and Yes’. It is a precise definition, and it stirred me to seek out my notes and post the following.

SCIENCE OF CHRISTIANITY

Prophet Mary Baker Eddy adopts the term ‘Christian Science’ to explain the Science of Christianity and the means of bringing its principles and rules into practical expression, via activity of the healing Christ.

SCIENCE

In ‘Miscellaneous Writings’, Mrs. Eddy points out: “Self-renunciation of all that constitutes a so-called material man, and the acknowledgement and achievement of his spiritual identity as the child of God, is Science that opens up the very flood-gates of heaven;” (p. 185:7-11).

CHRIST-IAN

Mrs. Eddy reveals in *Science and Health*: “I” the Christ am the expression of God’s being, His image and likeness; I AM That I Am, is the Christ[-ian] – the divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh [the human belief of man] to destroy incarnate error” (see p. 583:10-11; p. 591:5-7; p. 588:24-25) (emphasis added).

CHRIST-IAN SCIENCE

In *S&H*, Mrs. Eddy declares: Understanding and demonstrating Christ[-ian] Science proves all error is powerless, and All Reality and Cause and Manifestation is in and of God, which is the Substance of our being (see p. 390:7-9; p. 203:7-8).

Christ or Christian Science, then, studied and practised, reveals Immortal Life – Life beyond mortal words and thoughts.

Scientific Thought Reaches Over Continent and Ocean

“The ‘still, small voice’ of scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe’s remotest bound. The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind, ‘as when a lion roareth.’ It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear. It arouses the ‘seven thunders’ of evil, and stirs their latent forces to utter the full diapason of secret tones. Then is the power of Truth demonstrated, — made manifest in the destruction of error.” Citation 7, in part, *S&H*, p. 559: 8-16.

“A girl suffering from tuberculosis had gone from her home in England to Australia for her health. She was carried each day to the beach where she lay in the sun seeking some relief. She was not helped by the climate, but rather, grew worse. One day while on the beach she was suddenly healed completely, wholly. Shortly, she returned to England. Soon after, she discovered that some of her friends were interested in a new religion, Christian Science. She took up the study of Christian Science. Some time later a friend was preparing for a trip to Boston to attend a meeting, and had been granted an appointment with Mrs. Eddy. The young woman wrote the time and place of her healing on a piece of paper, and asked her friend to tell Mrs. Eddy of her experience. She had a strong feeling that Mrs. Eddy should be told of her healing. The friend demurred, but took the paper. At the close of her interview with Mrs. Eddy, she gave her the paper, and mentioned the facts of the healing. Mrs. Eddy’s face shone. She explained that at that particular time, she had put her finger on the globe as far as possible from herself, and sent forth a healing prayer. She had touched the coast of Australia where the girl had been healed. Now she could put into the textbook, the statement, ‘The ‘still small voice’ of scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe’s remotest bound.’ Mrs. Eddy had known the statement was true, but did not wish to include it

until she had first proved it” (Reminiscence of the healing of a young woman – exact source unknown).

(John Ch. 4) The Nobleman with a Sick Son

I love the Bible story of the nobleman with the sick son who comes to Jesus (Bible ref. 4 in this week’s lesson). Although he had enough faith to come to Jesus for help, he’s rather tentative, because he asks Jesus to ‘come down’ into the problem with him at his level of thought to help him. Jesus encourages the nobleman to greater faith, effectively saying he doesn’t need to actually see a healing take place. But the nobleman, still feeling the urgency of his child’s problem, asks a second time for Jesus to come down to his level of thought. However, at this point the Christly inspiration must have reached him, as he accepts Jesus’ assurances that the child is already well, and goes home calmly. When his servants tell him the time his son became well, the ‘7th hour’ (7 representing completeness) indicates the time at which he perceived the Christly view of perfection. What an encouraging story for Christmas – that we can all perceive the Christ thought of perfection and Love already present in our life, and that of our family, friends, community, and world, replacing the mortal view of whatever seems to be a problem. So grateful for this week’s lesson.

Thank you, yes, I also loved this story and the nobleman’s ‘u-turn’ enabling him to go home. What a beautiful thought also at the end of your post.

Bless The Lord!

I have really appreciated the Responsive Reading this week. I added notes from looking up the words in this psalm to make it more personal. The prayer of turning to the Lord with sincerity and deep desire to please Him. Gratitude in action.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 103:1-6: “Bless [praise and grateful to] the Lord, O my soul: and all [not half hearted but from the depth of my being] that is within me, *bless* his holy name.

Bless the Lord [sing and be joyful], O my soul, and forget [nor neglect thy duty to Him] not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all [completely] thine iniquities;
who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth [rescue] thy life from destruction [corruption, decay, pit]; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness [steadfast] and tender mercies;
Who satisfieth [nourishes] thy mouth with good *things*; so that thy youth is renewed [energy and strength] like the eagle’s.

The Lord executeth [carry into effect)] righteousness [purity, holiness, perfection] and judgment [wisdom and spiritual government] for all that are oppressed [overpowered, burdened, imposed upon].”

SUBJECT: God — January 2nd, 2022

The Lord Is Come!

Thank you, dear wonderful Plainfield Independent! I love this week’s lesson and the watches on 30th December and 1st January have been absolutely sublime to work with! We, God’s children are given power to cast out all that is unlike Him, we are walking over the wave of human mind, we are witnessing God’s glory to bless the earth! Right here, right now! O Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Mrs. Eddy’s quote: “When the omnipotence of God is preached and His absoluteness is set forth, Christian sermons will heal the sick.” Amen and amen!

God’s Omnipotence

As I was reading the lesson today, I underlined the words “power” and “omnipotence” 24 times. I then was led to the Golden text where it says “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.” (Psalm 62:11) What came to me was to insert “24 times” into

that quote “...God hath spoken once; 24 times have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.” God’s power is ever with us and operating through us. As I accept that fact and am grateful for it, I will see it operate in my life and in the lives of all mankind.

Thank you for this wonderful lesson on God’s power.

Filling The Vacuum

“Vacuity” (*Science and Health*, p. 480) signifies vacancy, emptiness, space unoccupied.

Mrs. Eddy writes, “Desire is prayer.”

Jesus taught, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.” (Mark 11:24)

“Believe that ye receive them” means absolute trust that occupies or inhabits the feelings of the desire fulfilled, present tense, regardless of the absence of outward manifestation of the prayer answered.

The “darkness of vacuity” is dispelled by obeying the command: “Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13) Rather than vacate the “house of the Lord”

(consciousness of God), I am to be occupied, to be filled with the serene sense of having already found that which I have sought.

“Occupy” signifies settledness, no flightiness, no stolen visits.

“Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be moulded and exalted before they take form in words and in deeds.” (*S&H*, p. 1)

If There is no Spiritual Reflection

(Deuteronomy 4:9) “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;”

While going over the lesson, I was struck with this verse and what it means in regard to the following from Mrs. Eddy:

(*Science and Health*, p. 480) “If there is no spiritual reflection, then there remains only the

darkness of vacuity and not a trace of heavenly tints.”

I am here to express God’s qualities, and to be His image and likeness. As I “keep [my] soul diligently”, I keep myself in the right position to catch the light He is sending my way. The reason I “forget the things which [my] eyes have seen” is that I am not a separate entity with my own brain which can store both good and evil things and then recall them at my leisure and use them for my own purposes. If I reflect His light, then I am full of that light and usefulness, and if I reflect “the darkness of vacuity”, then I should find it to be no surprise that I am empty “of heavenly tints” and useless.

Before coming to Plainfield, I was at my “furthest” from God and felt very empty. Then, in a seeming instant, I was here and life felt so much brighter. That “great gulf” (Luke 16:26) was an impossible journey on my own, but with my face re-aligned to feel God’s light (gratitude to my practitioner for that!), the emptiness was burned away.

Give Strength Unto All

“Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all.” (I Chronicles 29: 11-13).

“Strength: Firmness; vigor; power of resisting attacks; support; security; confidence. Power of mind; intellectual force; the power of any faculty; as *strength* of memory; *strength* of reason; *strength* of judgment. Spirit; animation. Soundness; vehemence; fortification; fortress; maintenance of power.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

There have been many discussions during the classes regarding God as the source of our strength (just recently our December 11, 2021 Bible study). This lesson gave me a greater awareness of the fullness of this promise of strength that is for all. What a wonderful grace that God gives us strength

for facing difficult tasks under temptations, to stand down evil and fear, to do the right thing, for patience, to keep going when persistence is needed, to speak the truth, anything we need strength for! “I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]” Philippians 4:13 Amplified Bible – shared in teaching testimony and during Roundtable.

The Nothingness of Nothing

(*Science and Health*, p.345: 7-9) “When the omnipotence of God is preached and His absoluteness is set forth, Christian sermons will heal the sick.” ... and (*S&H* 346: 9-13) “The nothingness of nothing is plain; but we need to understand that error *is* nothing, and that its nothingness is not saved, but must be demonstrated in order to prove the somethingness — yea, the allness —of Truth.”

This is the true healing of sin and sickness. I feel from what I am seeing, reading, and hearing that the Christian sermons are awakening to God’s omnipotence and declaring the Allness of Truth...God. Reaching out to mankind in a new, earnest, and clear manner that raises thought from a material basis to a more spiritual basis.

I add a quotation to your much appreciated post. “This is Christian Science: that mortal mind makes sick, and immortal Mind makes well; that mortal mind makes sinners, while immortal Mind makes saints; that a state of health is but a state of consciousness made manifest on the body, and *vice versa*,” (Misc. Writings, p. 219: 22).

I learn from Mary Baker Eddy that God and error are not bedfellows! The term ‘state of consciousness’ is significant in the above quotation because Mrs. Eddy is telling her readers that if they wish to ensure a spiritual sense of existence, they have to come into the actual awareness of Immortal Mind as their Mind.
