Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent

Full-Text Lesson Sermon

February 2024

Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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Saturday Adult Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. Sunday Roundtable – 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School – 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Meeting – 8:15 p.m.

This church is not affiliated with
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024

SUBJECT—LOVE

GOLDEN TEXT: I JOHN 3:1

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

RESPONSIVE READING: I John 3:7
I John 4:6-11

- 7. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.
- **6.** We are of God.
- **7.** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
- **8.** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
- 9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
- **10.** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. I John 4: 16, 17, 19-21

- And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
- Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- We love him, because he first loved us.
- If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
- And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

2. Matthew 22: 37 (to said), 37 (Thou)-40

- Jesus said ... 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.
- And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

3. Matthew 5: 1, 2, 43-48

- And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
- And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.
- But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- SUBJECT: LOVE
- That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
- For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?
- And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others?* do not even the publicans so?
- Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.
- 4. Acts 10: 1-5, 7-15, 19, 20, 23, 24 (to 1st.), 25, 26, 28, 34, 35
- There was a certain man in Cæsarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*,
- A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.
- He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.
- And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.
- And now send men to Joppa, and call for *one* Simon, whose surname is Peter:
- And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;
- And when he had declared all *these* things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.
- On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:
- And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,
- And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
- Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

- And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.
- But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.
- And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common.
- While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.
- Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.
- Then called he them in, and lodged *them*. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.
- And the morrow after they entered into Cæsarea.
- And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*.
- But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.
- And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.
- Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
- But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

5. I John 5:2-4 (to:)

- By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:

6. Romans 8 : 28, 31, 35, 37-39

- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
- What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
- Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Science and Health

1. 572:6-8,12 (to,)

"Love one another" (I John, iii. 23), is the most simple and profound counsel of the inspired writer.

Love fulfils the law of Christian Science,

2. 6: 17-18

"God is Love." More than this we cannot ask, higher we cannot look, farther we cannot go.

3. 19:6-11

Jesus aided in reconciling man to God by giving man a truer sense of Love, the divine Principle of Jesus' teachings, and this truer sense of Love redeems man from the law of matter, sin, and death by the law of Spirit, — the law of divine Love.

4. 516:9-13

God fashions all things, after His own likeness. Life is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in goodness, which impart their own peace and permanence. Love, redolent with unselfishness, bathes all in beauty and light.

5. 112:32 (As)-8

As there is but one God, there can be but one divine Principle of all Science; and there must be fixed rules for the demonstration of this divine Principle. The letter of Science plentifully reaches humanity to-day, but its spirit comes only in small degrees. The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love. Without this, the letter is but the dead body of Science, — pulseless, cold, inanimate.

6. 454: 10 (only), 17-24

Love is enthroned.

Love for God and man is the true incentive in both healing and teaching. Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action. Love is priestess at the altar of Truth. Wait patiently for divine Love to move upon the waters of mortal mind, and form the perfect concept. Patience must "have her perfect work."

7. **57**: 22-30

Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, enlarging, purifying, and elevating it. The wintry blasts of earth may uproot the flowers of affection, and scatter them to the winds; but this severance of fleshly ties serves to unite thought more closely to God, for Love supports the struggling heart until it ceases to sigh over the world and begins to unfold its wings for heaven.

8. 266:6-19

Would existence without personal friends be to you a blank? Then the time will come when you will be solitary, left without sympathy; but this seeming vacuum is already filled with divine Love. When this hour of development comes, even if you cling to a sense of personal joys, spiritual Love will force you to accept what best promotes your growth. Friends will betray and enemies will slander, until the lesson is sufficient to exalt you; for "man's extremity is God's opportunity." The author has experienced the foregoing prophecy and its blessings. Thus He teaches mortals to lay down their fleshliness and gain spirituality. This is done through self-abnegation. Universal Love is the divine way in Christian Science.

9. 242:15-20

Self-love is more opaque than a solid body. In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love the adamant of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin and death.

10. 234: 4-16

Whatever inspires with wisdom, Truth, or Love — be it song, sermon, or Science — blesses the human family with crumbs of comfort from Christ's table, feeding the hungry and giving living waters to the thirsty.

We should become more familiar with good than with evil, and guard against false beliefs as watchfully as we bar our doors against the approach of thieves and murderers. We should love our enemies and help them on the basis of the Golden Rule; but avoid casting pearls before those who trample them under foot, thereby robbing both themselves and others.

11. 326:8-14

All nature teaches God's love to man, but man cannot love God supremely and set his whole affections on spiritual things, while loving the material or trusting in it more than in the spiritual.

We must forsake the foundation of material systems, however time-honored, if we would gain the Christ as our only Saviour.

12. 88: **18-20**

To love one's neighbor as one's self, is a divine idea; but this idea can never be seen, felt, nor understood through the physical senses.

13. 239 : 5-10, 16-22

Take away wealth, fame, and social organizations, which weigh not one jot in the balance of God, and we get clearer views of Principle. Break up cliques, level wealth with honesty, let worth be judged according to wisdom, and we get better views of humanity.

To ascertain our progress, we must learn where our affections are placed and whom we acknowledge and obey as God. If divine Love is becoming nearer, dearer, and more real to us, matter is then submitting to Spirit. The objects we pursue and the spirit we manifest reveal our standpoint, and show what we are winning.

14. 518: 13-23

God gives the lesser idea of Himself for a link to the greater, and in return, the higher always protects the lower. The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle, or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seek-

ing his own in another's good. Love giveth to the least spiritual idea might, immortality, and goodness, which shine through all as the blossom shines through the bud. All the varied expressions of God reflect health, holiness, immortality — infinite Life, Truth, and Love.

15. 45: **16-21**

Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts! Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of human hope and faith, and through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love.

THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

Daily Prayer

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: "Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 4

A Rule for Motives and Acts

Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church. In Science, divine Love alone governs man; and a Christian Scientist reflects the sweet amenities of Love, in rebuking sin, in true brotherliness, charitableness, and forgiveness. The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously.

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 1

Alertness to Duty

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6

Take Notice

"Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake."

(S&H, p. 442)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SUBJECT—SPIRIT

GOLDEN TEXT: ACTS 27:23

"For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve."

RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 91 : 1, 2, 9-11 Isaiah 63 : 7-9**

- 1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
- **9.** Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;
- 10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come night hy dwelling.
- 11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- 7. I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.
- **8.** For he said, Surely they *are* my people, children *that* will not lie: so he was their Saviour.
- 9. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

- 1. Psalm 68: 17 (to:)
- The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand, *even* thousands of angels:
- 2. Psalm 34: 1, 4, 7
- I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
- I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.
- The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
- 3. Acts 5: 12, 14-23, 25-29, 33-35 (to 1st ,), 38 (Refrain), 39, 42
- And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.
- And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)
- Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.
- There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.
- Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,
- And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.
- But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,
- Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.
- And when they heard *that*, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

- But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,
- Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.
- Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.
- Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.
- And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,
- Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.
- Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
- When they heard *that*, they were cut *to the heart*, and took counsel to slay them.
- Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;
- And said unto them,
- Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:
- But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.
- And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

4. Acts 12: 1-3 (to 1st.), 4, 5, 7-11

- Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.
- And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

- And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.
- And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
- Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.
- And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.
- And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.
- And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.
- When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.
- And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

5. II Corinthians 3: 4-6, 17

- And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:
- Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;
- Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Science and Health

1. 512:8-16

Spirit is symbolized by strength, presence, and power, and also by holy thoughts, winged with Love. These angels of His presence, which have the holiest charge, abound in the spiritual atmosphere of Mind, and consequently reproduce their own characteristics. Their individual forms we know not, but we do know that their natures are allied to God's nature; and spiritual blessings, thus typified, are the externalized, yet subjective, states of faith and spiritual understanding.

2. 581:4-7

ANGELS. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.

3. 298:25-30

Angels are not etherealized human beings, evolving animal qualities in their wings; but they are celestial visitants, flying on spiritual, not material, pinions. Angels are pure thoughts from God, winged with Truth and Love, no matter what their individualism may be.

4. 299:7-17

My angels are exalted thoughts, appearing at the door of some sepulchre, in which human belief has buried its fondest earthly hopes. With white fingers they point upward to a new and glorified trust, to higher ideals of life and its joys. Angels are God's representatives. These upward-soaring beings never lead towards self, sin, or materiality, but guide to the divine Principle of all good, whither every real individuality, image, or likeness of God, gathers. By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides they tarry with us, and we entertain "angels unawares."

5. 566: 29-8

The Old Testament assigns to the angels, God's divine messages, different offices. Michael's characteristic is spiritual strength. He leads the hosts of heaven against the power of sin, Satan, and fights the holy wars. Gabriel has the more quiet task of imparting a sense of the ever-presence of ministering Love. These angels deliver us from the depths. Truth and Love come nearer in the hour of woe, when strong faith or spiritual strength wrestles and prevails through the understanding of God. The Gabriel of His presence has no contests. To infinite, ever-present Love, all is Love, and there is no error, no sin, sickness, nor death.

SUBJECT: SPIRIT

6. 548 : **9-13**

How little light or heat reach our earth when clouds cover the sun's face! So Christian Science can be seen only as the clouds of corporeal sense roll away. Earth has little light or joy for mortals before Life is spiritually learned.

7. viii: 3 (to)-8

...to reach the heights of Christian Science, man must live in obedience to its divine Principle. To develop the full might of this Science, the discords of corporeal sense must yield to the harmony of spiritual sense, even as the science of music corrects false tones and gives sweet concord to sound.

8. 298:8-24

What is termed material sense can report only a mortal temporary sense of things, whereas spiritual sense can bear witness only to Truth. To material sense, the unreal is the real until this sense is corrected by Christian Science.

Spiritual sense, contradicting the material senses, involves intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, reality. Material sense expresses the belief that mind is in matter. This human belief, alternating between a sense of pleasure and pain, hope and fear, life and death, never reaches beyond the boundary of the mortal or the unreal. When the real is attained, which is announced by Science, joy is no longer a trembler, nor is hope a cheat. Spiritual ideas, like numbers and notes, start from Principle, and admit no materialistic beliefs. Spiritual ideas lead up to their divine origin, God, and to the spiritual sense of being.

9. 505:16-21

Spirit imparts the understanding which uplifts consciousness and leads into all truth. The Psalmist saith: "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good.

10. 224:22-4

A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he came of old to the patriarch at noonday?

Truth brings the elements of liberty. On its banner is the Soul-inspired motto, "Slavery is abolished." The power of God brings deliverance to the captive. No power can withstand divine Love. What is this supposed power, which opposes itself to God? Whence cometh it? What is it that binds man with iron shackles to sin, sickness, and death? Whatever enslaves man is opposed to the divine government. Truth makes man free.

11. 227:14-26

Discerning the rights of man, we cannot fail to foresee the doom of all oppression. Slavery is not the legitimate state of man. God made man free. Paul said, "I was free born." All men should be free. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Love and Truth make free, but evil and error lead into captivity.

Christian Science raises the standard of liberty and cries: "Follow me! Escape from the bondage of sickness, sin, and death!" Jesus marked out the way. Citizens of the world, accept the "glorious liberty of the children of God," and be free! This is your divine right.

12. 223:2-6

Paul said, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Sooner or later we shall learn that the fetters of man's finite capacity are forged by the illusion that he lives in body instead of in Soul, in matter instead of in Spirit.

13. 481 : 2-6

Man is tributary to God, Spirit, and to nothing else. God's being is infinity, freedom, harmony, and boundless bliss. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Like the archpriests of yore, man is free "to enter into the holiest," — the realm of God.

14. 521 : **12-17**

The harmony and immortality of man are intact. We should look away from the opposite supposition that man is created materially, and turn our gaze to the spiritual record of creation, to that which should be engraved on the understanding and heart "with the point of a diamond" and the pen of an angel.

THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

Daily Prayer

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: "Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

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Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6

Take Notice

"Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake."

(S&H, p. 442)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024

SUBJECT—SOUL

GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 33:22

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23:1,3

Psalm 25: 1, 4, 5, 10, 13, 20

- **1.** The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 1. Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.
- **4.** Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.
- **5.** Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
- **10.** All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- **13.** His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.
- **20.** O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Psalm 33: 1-6, 8-15, 18-22

- Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: *for* praise is comely for the upright.
- Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery *and* an instrument of ten strings.
- Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.
- For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.
- ⁵ He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.
- By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
- Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
- For he spake, and it was *done;* he commanded, and it stood fast.
- The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.
- The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
- Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD; *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.
- The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.
- From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.
- He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.
- Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;
- To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

- Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he *is* our help and our shield.
- For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.
- Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

2. Psalm 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

3. Luke 7 : 6 (to Jesus), 11 (went into)-16

- ⁶ Then Jesus
- ...went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.
- Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.
- And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.
- And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
- And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.
- And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

4. Mark 8 : 22-25

- And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.
- And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.
- And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.
- After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

5. John 12:44

Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

6. John 15: 7-14

- If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
- These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.
- This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

7. Isaiah 58 : 10 (if)-12, 14

- ...if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:
- And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.
- And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.
- Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

8. Psalm 34 : 1-4

- I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
- My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.
- O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Science and Health

1. 120:4-6

Soul, or Spirit, is God, unchangeable and eternal; and man coexists with and reflects Soul, God, for man is God's image.

2. 60:29-1

Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul. Higher enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal man.

3. 467: 1-16

Question. — What are the demands of the Science of Soul?

Answer. — The first demand of this Science is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." This me is Spirit. Therefore the command means this: Thou shalt have no intelligence, no life, no substance, no truth, no love, but that which is spiritual. The second is like unto it, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love. Mankind will become perfect in proportion as this fact becomes apparent, war will cease and the true brotherhood of man will be established. Having no other gods, turning to no other but the one perfect Mind to guide him, man is the likeness of God, pure and eternal, having that Mind which was also in Christ.

4. 62:27-4

The higher nature of man is not governed by the lower; if it were, the order of wisdom would be reversed. Our false views of life hide eternal harmony, and produce the ills of which we complain. Because mortals believe in material laws and reject the Science of Mind, this does not make materiality first and the superior law of Soul last. You would never think that flannel was

better for warding off pulmonary disease than the controlling Mind, if you understood the Science of being.

5. 70: **12-4**

The divine Mind maintains all identities, from a blade of grass to a star, as distinct and eternal. The questions are: What are God's identities? What is Soul? Does life or soul exist in the thing formed?

Nothing is real and eternal, — nothing is Spirit, — but God and His idea. Evil has no reality. It is neither person, place, nor thing, but is simply a belief, an illusion of material sense.

6. 114 : 23-31

Christian Science explains all cause and effect as mental, not physical. It lifts the veil of mystery from Soul and body. It shows the scientific relation of man to God, disentangles the interlaced ambiguities of being, and sets free the imprisoned thought. In divine Science, the universe, including man, is spiritual, harmonious, and eternal. Science shows that what is termed *matter* is but the subjective state of what is termed by the author *mortal mind*.

7. 119:29 (Christian)-3

Christian Science reverses the seeming relation of Soul and body and makes body tributary to Mind. Thus it is with man, who is but the humble servant of the restful Mind, though it seems otherwise to finite sense. But we shall never understand this while we admit that soul is in body or mind in matter, and that man is included in non-intelligence.

8. 89:18-24

Mind is not necessarily dependent upon educational processes. It possesses of itself all beauty and poetry, and the power of expressing them. Spirit, God, is heard when the senses are silent. We are all capable of more than we do. The influence or action of Soul confers a freedom, which explains the phenomena of improvisation and the fervor of untutored lips.

9. 125:12-20

As human thought changes from one stage to another of conscious pain and painlessness, sorrow and joy, — from fear to hope and from faith to understanding, — the visible manifestation will at last be man governed by Soul, not by material sense. Reflecting God's government, man is self-governed. When subordinate to the divine Spirit, man cannot be controlled by sin or death, thus proving our material theories about laws of health to be valueless.

10. 481:24-32

If Soul sins, it must be mortal. Sin has the elements of self-destruction. It cannot sustain itself. If sin is supported, God must uphold it, and this is impossible, since Truth cannot support error. Soul is the divine Principle of man and never sins, — hence the immortality of Soul. In Science we learn that it is material sense, not Soul, which sins; and it will be found that it is the sense of sin which is lost, and not a sinful soul.

11. 14:12-22

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well. Sorrow is turned into joy when the body is controlled by spiritual Life, Truth, and Love. Hence the hope of the promise Jesus bestows: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; ... because I go unto my Father," — [because the Ego is absent from the body, and present with Truth and Love.]

12. 9:17-24

Dost thou "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind"? This command includes much, even the surrender of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship. This is the El Dorado of Christianity. It involves the Science of Life, and recognizes only the divine control of Spirit, in which Soul is our master, and material sense and human will have no place.

13. 14:25-30

Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man's dominion over the whole earth. This understanding casts out error and heals the sick, and with it you can speak "as one having authority."

THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

Daily Prayer

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: "Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 4

A Rule for Motives and Acts

Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church. In Science, divine Love alone governs man; and a Christian Scientist reflects the sweet amenities of Love, in rebuking sin, in true brotherliness, charitableness, and forgiveness. The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously.

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 1

Alertness to Duty

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.

Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6

Take Notice

"Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake."

(S&H, p. 442)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024

SUBJECT—MIND

GOLDEN TEXT: ROMANS 15:6

"With one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 55: 3, 6-12

- 3. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.
- **6.** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
- 7. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- **8.** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
- **9.** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- 10. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
- 11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.
- **12.** For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

2. Matthew 5 : 2

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3. Matthew 6 : 8 (your), 33

- 8 ...your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.
- But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

4. Matthew 9:3,4

- And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth.
- ⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

5. Matthew 12: 22-26, 28

- Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.
- And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?
- But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.
- And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:
- And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?
- But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

6. Luke 5 : 18 (to :), 20-25

- And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy:
- 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.
- And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

7. John 4: 1, 3, 4, 6 (to:), 7, 9-21, 23-26

- When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,
- ³ He left Judæa, and departed again into Galilee.
- ⁴ And he must needs go through Samaria.
- Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well:
- There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.
- Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
- Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

SUBJECT: MIND

- The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?
- Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?
- Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
- But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.
- The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.
- Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.
- The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:
- For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.
- The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.
- Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
- Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.
- But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
- God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.
- Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

8. Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Science and Health

1. 496:3 (there)-8

...there is but one Mind, and this ever-present omnipotent Mind is reflected by man and governs the entire universe. You will learn that in Christian Science the first duty is to obey God, to have one Mind, and to love another as yourself.

2. 427:21-25

The great difficulty lies in ignorance of what God is. God, Life, Truth, and Love make man undying. Immortal Mind, governing all, must be acknowledged as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, as well as in the spiritual.

3. 588: 11-13 (to ,), 15 (governed)-19

There is but one I, or Us, but one divine Principle, or Mind, governing all existence; man and woman unchanged forever in their individual characters, ... governed by one Principle. All the objects of God's creation reflect one Mind, and whatever reflects not this one Mind, is false and erroneous, even the belief that life, substance, and intelligence are both mental and material.

4. 429:13-16

Mortal mind affirms that mind is subordinate to the body, that the body is dying, that it must be buried and decomposed into dust; but mortal mind's affirmation is not true.

5. 425 : 21-28

God is more to a man than his belief, and the less we acknowledge matter or its laws, the more immortality we possess. Consciousness constructs a better body when faith in matter has been conquered. Correct material belief by spiritual understanding, and Spirit will form you anew. You will never fear again except to offend God, and you will never believe that heart or any portion of the body can destroy you.

6. 509:29-5

Knowing the Science of creation, in which all is Mind and its ideas, Jesus rebuked the material thought of his fellow-countrymen: "Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the

signs of the times?" How much more should we seek to apprehend the spiritual ideas of God, than to dwell on the objects of sense! To discern the rhythm of Spirit and to be holy, thought must be purely spiritual.

7. 332:9 (Christ)-17

Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness. The Christ is incorporeal, spiritual, — yea, the divine image and likeness, dispelling the illusions of the senses; the Way, the Truth, and the Life, healing the sick and casting out evils, destroying sin, disease, and death. As Paul says: "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

8. **295**: 5-8, 11-15

God creates and governs the universe, including man. The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them. ... Mortals are not like immortals, created in God's own image; but infinite Spirit being all, mortal consciousness will at last yield to the scientific fact and disappear, and the real sense of being, perfect and forever intact, will appear.

9. 88:9-14 (to 2nd.)

How are veritable ideas to be distinguished from illusions? By learning the origin of each. Ideas are emanations from the divine Mind. Thoughts, proceeding from the brain or from matter, are offshoots of mortal mind; they are mortal material beliefs. Ideas are spiritual, harmonious, and eternal.

10. 94: 24-26 (to;), 28-32 (to 1st.)

Our Master easily read the thoughts of mankind, and this insight better enabled him to direct those thoughts aright; ... Our Master read mortal mind on a scientific basis, that of the omnipresence of Mind. An approximation of this discernment indicates spiritual growth and union with the infinite capacities of the one Mind.

11. 95 : 1-3, 5-11

The effect of his Mind was always to heal and to save, and this is the only genuine Science of reading mortal mind. ... Paul said, "To be spiritually minded is life." We approach God, or Life, in proportion to our spirituality, our fidelity to Truth and Love; and in that ratio we know all human need and are able to discern the thought of the sick and the sinning for the purpose of healing them. Error of any kind cannot hide from the law of God.

12. 85 : 1-18

This Mind-reading is the opposite of clairvoyance. It is the illumination of the spiritual understanding which demonstrates the capacity of Soul, not of material sense. This Soul-sense comes to the human mind when the latter yields to the divine Mind.

Such intuitions reveal whatever constitutes and perpetuates harmony, enabling one to do good, but not evil. You will reach the perfect Science of healing when you are able to read the human mind after this manner and discern the error you would destroy. The Samaritan woman said: "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"

It is recorded that Jesus, as he once journeyed with his students, "knew their thoughts," — read them scientifically. In like manner he discerned disease and healed the sick.

13. 14: **12-18**

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well. Sorrow is turned into joy when the body is controlled by spiritual Life, Truth, and Love.

14. 231:30-2

Man, governed by his Maker, having no other Mind, — planted on the Evangelist's statement that "all things were made by Him [the Word of God]; and without Him was not anything made that was made," — can triumph over sin, sickness, and death.

THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

Daily Prayer

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