## Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent

Full-Text Lesson Sermon

January 2024

# Plainfield Christian Science Church

## Independent

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www.plainfieldcs.com

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.

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## SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024

## SUBJECT—GOD

GOLDEN TEXT: PSALM 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

## RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 62:1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12**

- **1.** Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him *cometh* my salvation.
- 2. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.
- 7. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
- **8.** Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us.
- 11. God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.
- **12.** Also unto thee, O Lord, *belongeth* mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

### LESSON SERMON

## The Bible

- 1. Exodus 20 : 1-3
- And God spake all these words, saying,
- I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 2. Genesis 21 : 22 (God)
- God *is* with thee in all that thou doest:
- 3. Isaiah 41 : 10, 17-20
- Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
- When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
- I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
- I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, *and* the pine, and the box tree together:
- That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.
- 4. Luke 4 : 14 (*to* :)
- And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:
- 5. Luke 11: 1-4, 9-13 (to 1st,), 13 (know)
- And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

- And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.
- Give us day by day our daily bread.
- And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
- And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
- For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?
- Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
- If ye then, ... know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

## 6. Psalm 103: 8-13

- The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
- He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever.
- He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
- As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
- Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

### 7. Acts 17: 22-28

- Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, *Ye* men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

- God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
- And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

## 8. II Corinthians 1:3-5

- Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;
- Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
- For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

### 9. Psalm 23: 1-6

- The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## Science and Health

## 1. 330:19 (God)-20

God is what the Scriptures declare Him to be, — Life, Truth, Love.

## 2. 332 : 4 (Father)-8

Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation. As the apostle expressed it in words which he quoted with approbation from a classic poet: "For we are also His offspring."

#### 3. 63:5-11

In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not, like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor does he pass through material conditions prior to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ultimate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the law of his being.

## 4. 387:27-32

The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.

### **5.** 275 : 6-19

The starting-point of divine Science is that God, Spirit, is All-in-all, and that there is no other might nor Mind, — that God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle.

To grasp the reality and order of being in its Science, you must begin by reckoning God as the divine Principle of all that really is. Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, combine as one, — and are the Scriptural names for God. All substance, intelligence, wisdom, being, immortality, cause, and effect belong to God. These are His attributes, the eternal manifestations of the infinite divine Principle, Love. No wisdom is wise but His wisdom; no truth is true, no love is lovely, no life is Life but the divine; no good is, but the good God bestows.

## 6. 519:10 (Science)-16

Science reveals infinity and the fatherhood and motherhood of Love. Human capacity is slow to discern and to grasp God's creation and the divine power and presence which go with it, demonstrating its spiritual origin. Mortals can never know the infinite, until they throw off the old man and reach the spiritual image and likeness.

## 7. 12:1-2 (to?), 22-24, 31-4

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick," says the Scripture. What is this healing prayer?

The common custom of praying for the recovery of the sick finds help in blind belief, whereas help should come from the enlightened understanding.

In divine Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail themselves of God as "a very present help in trouble." Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters."

## 8. 13:10-12, 14-17 (to 2nd,)

If our petitions are sincere, we labor for what we ask; and our Father, who seeth in secret, will reward us openly. ... Even if prayer is sincere, God knows our need before we tell Him or our fellow-beings about it. If we cherish the desire honestly and silently and humbly, God will bless it,

## 9. 7:23 (God)-26

God is not influenced by man. The "divine ear" is not an auditory nerve. It is the all-hearing and all-knowing Mind, to whom each need of man is always known and by whom it will be supplied.

### 10. 322:26-30

The sharp experiences of belief in the supposititious life of matter, as well as our disappointments and ceaseless woes, turn us like tired children to the arms of divine Love. Then we begin to learn Life in divine Science.

## 11. 494:10-11

Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.

## **12. 507** : **3-6**

Spirit duly feeds and clothes every object, as it appears in the line of spiritual creation, thus tenderly expressing the fatherhood and motherhood of God.

## **13.** 470 : 32-5

The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law,

in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.

## **14.** 276: 1-11, 17-24

Having one God, one Mind, unfolds the power that heals the sick, and fulfils these sayings of Scripture, "I am the Lord that healeth thee," and "I have found a ransom." When the divine precepts are understood, they unfold the foundation of fellowship, in which one mind is not at war with another, but all have one Spirit, God, one intelligent source, in accordance with the Scriptural command: "Let this Mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Man and his Maker are correlated in divine Science, and real consciousness is cognizant only of the things of God.

If God is admitted to be the only Mind and Life, there ceases to be any opportunity for sin and death. When we learn in Science how to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect, thought is turned into new and healthy channels, — towards the contemplation of things immortal and away from materiality to the Principle of the universe, including harmonious man.

## **15. 577** : **32-18**

In the following Psalm one word shows, though faintly, the light which Christian Science throws on the Scriptures by substituting for the corporeal sense, the incorporeal or spiritual sense of Deity: —

### **PSALM XXIII**

[DIVINE LOVE] is my shepherd; I shall not want.

[LOVE] maketh me to lie down in green pastures: [LOVE] leadeth me beside the still waters.

[LOVE] restoreth my soul [spiritual sense]: [LOVE] leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for [LOVE] is with me; [LOVE'S] rod and [LOVE'S] staff they comfort me.

[LOVE] prepareth a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: [LOVE] anointeth my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever.

## 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 JANUARY 14, 2024

## SUBJECT—SACRAMENT

GOLDEN TEXT: I SAMUEL 16:7

"For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 51: 6, 7, 10, 15-17** 

Psalm 19:14

- **6.** Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
- 7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
- **15.** O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
- **16.** For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering.
- 17. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
- **14.** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

## SUBJECT: SACRAMENT

## **LESSON SERMON**

## The Bible

## 1. Deuteronomy 10 : 12, 13

- And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,
- To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

## 2. Psalm 86: 11, 12

- Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.
- I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

## **3. Deuteronomy 30 : 6**

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

## 4. Jeremiah 29 : 11-14 (to :)

- For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
- And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
- And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:

### 5. Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

## 6. Matthew 5: 1, 2, 8, 16-20

- 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,
- Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
- For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
- Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

### 7. Matthew 19: 16-30

- And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?
- And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
- He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,
- Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?
- Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

- But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.
- Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
- When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?
- But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
- Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?
- And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.
- But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first.

## 8. Matthew 26: 17-20, 26, 27, 29

- Now the first *day* of the *feast of* unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?
- And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.
- And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.
- Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.
- And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

- And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;
- But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

## 9. Romans 16: 24

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

## Science and Health

### 1. 18:3-12

Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man's oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage. His mission was both individual and collective. He did life's work aright not only in justice to himself, but in mercy to mortals, — to show them how to do theirs, but not to do it for them nor to relieve them of a single responsibility. Jesus acted boldly, against the accredited evidence of the senses, against Pharisaical creeds and practices, and he refuted all opponents with his healing power.

## 2. 32:28-10

The Passover, which Jesus ate with his disciples in the month Nisan on the night before his crucifixion, was a mournful occasion, a sad supper taken at the close of day, in the twilight of a glorious career with shadows fast falling around; and this supper closed forever Jesus' ritualism or concessions to matter.

His followers, sorrowful and silent, anticipating the hour of their Master's betrayal, partook of the heavenly manna, which of old had fed in the wilderness the persecuted followers of Truth. Their bread indeed came down from heaven. It was the great truth of spiritual being, healing the sick and casting out error. Their Master had explained it all before, and now this bread was feeding and sustaining them.

## 3. 33:13-17

For this truth of spiritual being, their Master was about to suffer violence and drain to the dregs his cup of sorrow. He must leave them. With the great glory of an everlasting victory overshadowing him, he gave thanks and said, "Drink ye all of it."

SUBJECT: SACRAMENT

## 4. 25:13-16, 22-32

Jesus taught the way of Life by demonstration, that we may understand how this divine Principle heals the sick, casts out error, and triumphs over death.

Though demonstrating his control over sin and disease, the great Teacher by no means relieved others from giving the requisite proofs of their own piety. He worked for their guidance, that they might demonstrate this power as he did and understand its divine Principle. Implicit faith in the Teacher and all the emotional love we can bestow on him, will never alone make us imitators of him. We must go and do likewise, else we are not improving the great blessings which our Master worked and suffered to bestow upon us. The divinity of the Christ was made manifest in the humanity of Jesus.

## 5. 4:27-2

Audible prayer can never do the works of spiritual understanding, which regenerates; but silent prayer, watchfulness, and devout obedience enable us to follow Jesus' example. Long prayers, superstition, and creeds clip the strong pinions of love, and clothe religion in human forms. Whatever materializes worship hinders man's spiritual growth and keeps him from demonstrating his power over error.

## **6. 3:32-11**

While the heart is far from divine Truth and Love, we cannot conceal the ingratitude of barren lives.

What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds. To keep the commandments of our Master and follow his example, is our proper debt to him and the only worthy evidence of our gratitude for all that he has done. Outward worship is not of itself sufficient to express loyal and heartfelt gratitude, since he has said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

## **7.** 8: 1-9, 28-30

A wordy prayer may afford a quiet sense of self-justification, though it makes the sinner a hypocrite. We never need to despair of an honest heart; but there is little hope for those who come only spasmodically face to face with their wickedness and then seek to hide it. Their prayers are indexes which do not correspond with their character. They hold secret fellowship with sin, and such externals are spoken of by Jesus as "like unto whited sepulchres ... full ... of all uncleanness."

We should examine ourselves and learn what is the affection and purpose of the heart, for in this way only can we learn what we honestly are.

## 8. 13:5-12, 15 (God)-16

In public prayer we often go beyond our convictions, beyond the honest standpoint of fervent desire. If we are not secretly yearning and openly striving for the accomplishment of all we ask, our prayers are "vain repetitions," such as the heathen use. If our petitions are sincere, we labor for what we ask; and our Father, who seeth in secret, will reward us openly. ... God knows our need before we tell Him or our fellow-beings about it.

## 9. 11:29 (prayer)-32 (to 2nd.)

...prayer, coupled with a fervent habitual desire to know and do the will of God, will bring us into all Truth. Such a desire has little need of audible expression. It is best expressed in thought and in life.

## **10. 15 : 7-9, 21-24**

The Father in secret is unseen to the physical senses, but He knows all things and rewards according to motives, not according to speech.

Such prayer is answered, in so far as we put our desires into practice. The Master's injunction is, that we pray in secret and let our lives attest our sincerity.

### 11. 37:20-31

May the Christians of to-day take up the more practical import of that career! It is possible, — yea, it is the duty and privilege of every child, man, and woman, — to follow in some degree the example of the Master by the demonstration of Truth and Life, of health and holiness. Christians claim to be his followers, but do they follow him in the way that he commanded? Hear these imperative commands: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect!" "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature!" "Heal the sick!"

## **12. 34:10-17**

If all who ever partook of the sacrament had really commemorated the sufferings of Jesus and drunk of his cup, they would have revolutionized the world. If all who seek his commemoration through material symbols will take up the cross, heal the sick, cast out evils, and preach Christ, or Truth, to the poor, — the receptive thought, — they will bring in the millennium.

## 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

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(S&H, p. 442)

## SUNDAY JANUARY 21, 2024

## SUBJECT—LIFE

GOLDEN TEXT: II SAMUEL 22:33

"God is my strength and power: And he maketh my way perfect."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 18: 1, 2, 6, 17, 20, 21, 29, 32 Psalm 19: 14

- **1.** I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.
- 2. The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.
- 6. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.
- **17.** He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.
- **20.** The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.
- **21.** For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.
- **29.** For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.
- 32. It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.
- **14.** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

## LESSON SERMON

## The Bible

## 1. Psalm 27: 1, 3-5, 14

- The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will* I *be* confident.
- One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.
- For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.
- Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

## 2. Numbers 13: 1, 2 (to:), 17, 18, 25, 26 (to 1st.), 27, 28, 32, 33

- And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel:
- And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:
- And see the land, what it *is*; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they *be* strong or weak, few or many;
- And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.
- And they went and came to Moses,
- And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it.

SUBJECT: LIFE

- Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
- And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.
- And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

## 3. Numbers 14: 6-9, 26, 27, 30

- And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:
- And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, *is* an exceeding good land.
- If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.
- Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.
- And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
- How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.
- Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, *concerning* which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

## 4. Deuteronomy 31: 1-3 (to 2nd,), 3 (and Joshua), 6-8

- And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.
- And he said unto them, I *am* an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.
- The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, ... and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

SUBJECT: LIFE

- Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.
- And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.
- And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

## 5. **Joshua 3 : 7**

And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee.

## 6. Isaiah 40 : 28-31

- Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.
- He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.
- Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
- But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

## 7. I Peter 5:6-9 (to ,), 10

- Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
- <sup>7</sup> Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- Whom resist stedfast in the faith,

SUBJECT: LIFE

- But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.
- 8. Isaiah 30 : 15 (to :)
- For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

## Science and Health

## 1. 203:32 (God alone)

God alone is man's life.

## 2. 228:25(only)

There is no power apart from God.

## 3. 183:16-25

The supposed laws which result in weariness and disease are not His laws, for the legitimate and only possible action of Truth is the production of harmony. Laws of nature are laws of Spirit; but mortals commonly recognize as law that which hides the power of Spirit. Divine Mind rightly demands man's entire obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for any lesser loyalty. Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power.

## 4. 262:9-16

We cannot fathom the nature and quality of God's creation by diving into the shallows of mortal belief. We must reverse our feeble flutterings — our efforts to find life and truth in matter — and rise above the testimony of the material senses, above the mortal to the immortal idea of God. These clearer, higher views inspire the Godlike man to reach the absolute centre and circumference of his being.

### 5. **192**: 17-31

Moral and spiritual might belong to Spirit, who holds the "wind in His fists;" and this teaching accords with Science and harmony. In Science, you can have no power opposed to God, and the physical senses must give up their false testimony. Your influence for good depends upon the weight you throw into the right scale. The good you do and embody gives you the only power

obtainable. Evil is not power. It is a mockery of strength, which erelong betrays its weakness and falls, never to rise.

We walk in the footsteps of Truth and Love by following the example of our Master in the understanding of divine metaphysics. Christianity is the basis of true healing. Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.

## **6.** 193 : 32-2

It has been demonstrated to me that Life is God and that the might of omnipotent Spirit shares not its strength with matter or with human will.

### 7. 426:9-11

The struggle for Truth makes one strong instead of weak, resting instead of wearying one.

## 8. 97:5-7,21-25

In reality, the more closely error simulates truth and so-called matter resembles its essence, mortal mind, the more impotent error becomes as a belief.

The broadest facts array the most falsities against themselves, for they bring error from under cover. It requires courage to utter truth; for the higher Truth lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion.

## 9. 514:10-18

Moral courage is "the lion of the tribe of Juda," the king of the mental realm. Free and fearless it roams in the forest. Undisturbed it lies in the open field, or rests in "green pastures, ... beside the still waters." In the figurative transmission from the divine thought to the human, diligence, promptness, and perseverance are likened to "the cattle upon a thousand hills." They carry the baggage of stern resolve, and keep pace with highest purpose.

## 10. 28:32-6

There is too much animal courage in society and not sufficient moral courage. Christians must take up arms against error at home and abroad. They must grapple with sin in themselves and in others, and continue this warfare until they have finished their course. If they keep the faith, they will have the crown of rejoicing.

## 11. 417:5-10

Never tell the sick that they have more courage than strength. Tell them rather, that their strength is in proportion to their courage. If you make the sick realize this great truism, there will be no reaction from over-exertion or from excited conditions.

## **12.** 455 : 3-6, 8-16

A mental state of self-condemnation and guilt or a faltering and doubting trust in Truth are unsuitable conditions for healing the sick. Such mental states indicate weakness instead of strength. ... You must utilize the moral might of Mind in order to walk over the waves of error and support your claims by demonstration. If you are yourself lost in the belief and fear of disease or sin, and if, knowing the remedy, you fail to use the energies of Mind in your own behalf, you can exercise little or no power for others' help. "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

## 13. 387 : 8 (when)-12, 18-24

...when we realize that immortal Mind is ever active, and that spiritual energies can neither wear out nor can so-called material law trespass upon God-given powers and resources, we are able to rest in Truth, refreshed by the assurances of immortality, opposed to mortality.

That man does not pay the severest penalty who does the most good. By adhering to the realities of eternal existence, — instead of reading disquisitions on the inconsistent supposition that death comes in obedience to the law of life, and that God punishes man for doing good, — one cannot suffer as the result of any labor of love, but grows stronger because of it.

### 14. 79:29-5

Mind-science teaches that mortals need "not be weary in well doing." It dissipates fatigue in doing good. Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us. We have strength in proportion to our apprehension of the truth, and our strength is not lessened by giving utterance to truth. A cup of coffee or tea is not the equal of truth, whether for the inspiration of a sermon or for the support of bodily endurance.

### **15. 249**: **6-10**

Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor material power as able to destroy. Let us rejoice that we are subject to the divine "powers that be." Such is the true Science of being.

## 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 JANUARY 28, 2024

## SUBJECT—TRUTH

GOLDEN TEXT: PSALM 31:5

"Thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth."

RESPONSIVE READING: John 14:6
John 15:4-9

- **6.** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- **4.** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 5. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- **6.** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- **8.** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- 9. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

### **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 9 : 1-7

- And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.
- And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.
- And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth.
- And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?
- For whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?
- But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.
- And he arose, and departed to his house.

## 3. John 8: 31-36

- Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;
- And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
- They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?
- Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

- And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.
- If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

## 4. John 14: 16-26

- And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
- Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
- I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
- Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.
- At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.
- He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
- Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?
- Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
- He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.
- These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.
- But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

## 5. Acts 12:5-17 (to 1st.)

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

- And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.
- 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.
- And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.
- And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.
- And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.
- And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.
- But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished.
- But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison.

### 6. II Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

## Science and Health

### 1. 412:16-18

To prevent disease or to cure it, the power of Truth, of divine Spirit, must break the dream of the material senses.

### 2. 243:25-29

Truth has no consciousness of error. Love has no sense of hatred. Life has no partnership with death. Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God.

#### 3. 307:25-30

Truth has no beginning. The divine Mind is the Soul of man, and gives man dominion over all things. Man was not created from a material basis, nor bidden to obey material laws which Spirit never made; his province is in spiritual statutes, in the higher law of Mind.

## 4. 259:11-14

The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration.

### **5. 210 : 11-18**

Knowing that Soul and its attributes were forever manifested through man, the Master healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, feet to the lame, thus bringing to light the scientific action of the divine Mind on human minds and bodies and giving a better understanding of Soul and salvation. Jesus healed sickness and sin by one and the same metaphysical process.

#### 6. vii: 27-23

Since the author's discovery of the might of Truth in the treatment of disease as well as of sin, her system has been fully tested and has not been found wanting; but 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.

Theology and physics teach that both Spirit and matter are real and good, whereas the fact is that Spirit is good and real, and matter is Spirit's opposite. The question, What is Truth, is answered by demonstration, — by healing both disease and sin; and this demonstration shows that Christian healing confers the most health and makes the best men. On this basis Christian Science will have a fair fight. Sickness has been combated for centuries by doctors using material remedies; but the question arises, Is there less sickness because of these practitioners? A vigorous "No" is the response deducible from two connate facts, — the reputed longevity of the Antediluvians, and the rapid multiplication and increased violence of diseases since the flood.

## 7. 458:15-19

*Semper paratus* is Truth's motto. Having seen so much suffering from quackery, the author desires to keep it out of Christian Science. The two-edged sword of Truth must turn in every direction to guard "the tree of life."

## **8.** 411 : 10-12, 20-23

If Spirit or the power of divine Love bear witness to the truth, this is the ultimatum, the scientific way, and the healing is instantaneous.

The procuring cause and foundation of all sickness is fear, ignorance, or sin. Disease is always induced by a false sense mentally entertained, not destroyed. Disease is an image of thought externalized.

## 9. 224 : 28-13

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.

You may know when first Truth leads by the fewness and faithfulness of its followers. Thus it is that the march of time bears onward freedom's banner. The powers of this world will fight, and will command their sentinels not to let truth pass the guard until it subscribes to their systems; but Science, heeding not the pointed bayonet, marches on. There is always some tumult, but there is a rallying to truth's standard.

#### **10. 227**: **14-20**

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.

## 11. 182:32-7

The law of Christ, or Truth, makes all things possible to Spirit; but the so-called laws of matter would render Spirit of no avail, and demand obedience to materialistic codes, thus departing from the basis of one God, one lawmaker. To suppose that God constitutes laws of inharmony is a mistake; discords have no support from nature or divine law, however much is said to the contrary.

## 12. 183:26-29

Truth casts out all evils and materialistic methods with the actual spiritual law, — the law which gives sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, voice to the dumb, feet to the lame.

## 13. 367:24-5

The infinite Truth of the Christ-cure has come to this age through a "still, small voice," through silent utterances and divine anointing which quicken and increase the beneficial effects of Christianity. I long to see the consummation of my hope, namely, the student's higher attainments in this line of light.

Because Truth is infinite, error should be known as nothing. Because Truth is omnipotent in goodness, error, Truth's opposite, has no might. Evil is but the counterpoise of nothingness. The greatest wrong is but a suppositious opposite of the highest right. The confidence inspired by Science lies in the fact that Truth is real and error is unreal. Error is a coward before Truth.

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by Mary Baker Eddy

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(S&H, p. 442)

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