Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent

Full-Text Lesson Sermon

October 2025

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.

The Bible, and the Christian Science text-book, are our only preachers. [The] scriptural texts, and their correlative passages from our text-book, — these comprise our sermon.

The canonical writings, together with the word of our text-book corroborating and explaining the Bible texts in their denominational, spiritual import and application to all ages, past, present, and future, constitute a sermon undivorced from truth, uncontaminated or fettered by human hypotheses, and *authorized* by Christ.

— from the April 1897 Christian Science Journal

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

UNREALITY OCTOBER 5, 2025
Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? October 12, 2025
DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT OCTOBER 19, 2025
Probation After Death

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2025

SUBJECT—UNREALITY

GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 55:7

"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."

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 55: 3, 6, 8-12

- 3. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.
- **6.** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
- **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: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

- 1. Psalm 139 : 23, 24
- Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
- And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- 2. II Chronicles 33: 1, 2, 9-13, 15, 16
- Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem:
- But did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.
- So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, *and* to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.
- And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.
- Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.
- And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,
- And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.
- And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast *them* out of the city.
- And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

3. Isaiah 54 : 11, 13, 14, 17

- O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.
- And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children.
- In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.
- No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

4. Matthew 11:1

And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

5. Matthew 12: 22-25, 30-33, 35-37

- 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:
- He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.
- Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.
- And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

- Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.
- A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.
- But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
- For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

6. Romans 12: 1, 2, 9, 10, 16, 21

- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
- And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
- Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
- Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
- Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Science and Health

1. 472 : 24 (All)-30

All reality is in God and His creation, harmonious and eternal. That which He creates is good, and He makes all that is made. Therefore the only reality of sin, sickness, or death is the awful fact that unrealities seem real to human, erring belief, until God strips off their disguise. They are not true, because they are not of God.

2. 490:3-11

Will-power is but a product of belief, and this belief commits depredations on harmony. Human will is an animal propensity, not a faculty of Soul. Hence it cannot govern man aright. Christian Science reveals Truth and Love as the motive-powers of man. Will — blind, stubborn, and headlong — cooperates with appetite and passion. From this cooperation arises its evil. From this also comes its powerlessness, since all power belongs to God, good.

3. 277 : 7 (As God)-12

As God Himself is good and is Spirit, goodness and spirituality must be immortal. Their opposites, evil and matter, are mortal error, and error has no creator. If goodness and spirituality are real, evil and materiality are unreal and cannot be the outcome of an infinite God, good.

4. 396:14-20 (to,), 22-28 (to;)

The refutation of the testimony of material sense is not a difficult task in view of the conceded falsity of this testimony. The refutation becomes arduous, not because the testimony of sin or disease is true, but solely on account of the tenacity of belief in its truth, due to the force of education and the overwhelming weight of opinions on the wrong side,

At the right time explain to the sick the power which their beliefs exercise over their bodies. Give them divine and wholesome understanding, with which to combat their erroneous sense, and so efface the images of sickness from mortal mind. Keep distinctly in thought that man is the offspring of God, not of man; that man is spiritual, not material;

5. 327: 1-13 (to 2nd.), 22-24

Reform comes by understanding that there is no abiding pleasure in evil, and also by gaining an affection for good according to Science, which reveals the immortal fact that neither pleasure nor pain, appetite nor passion, can exist in or of matter, while divine Mind can and does destroy the false beliefs of pleasure, pain, or fear and all the sinful appetites of the human mind.

What a pitiful sight is malice, finding pleasure in revenge! Evil is sometimes a man's highest conception of right, until his grasp on good grows stronger. Then he loses pleasure in wickedness, and it becomes his torment. The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning. There is no other way.

Fear of punishment never made man truly honest. Moral courage is requisite to meet the wrong and to proclaim the right.

6. 291:1-9

The suppositions that sin is pardoned while unforsaken, that happiness can be genuine in the midst of sin, that the so-called death of the body frees from sin, and that God's pardon is aught but the destruction of sin, — these are grave mistakes. We know that all will be changed "in the twinkling of an eye," when the last trump shall sound; but this last call of wisdom cannot come till mortals have already yielded to each lesser call in the growth of Christian character.

7. 4:3-9

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.

8. 6:3 (Divine)-7

Divine Love corrects and governs man. Men may pardon, but this divine Principle alone reforms the sinner. God is not separate from the wisdom He bestows. The talents He gives we must improve.

9. 5:3-11, 29-32

Sorrow for wrong-doing is but one step towards reform and the very easiest step. The next and great step required by wisdom is the test of our sincerity, — namely, reformation. To this end we are placed under the stress of circumstances. Temptation bids us repeat the offence, and woe comes in return for what is done. So it will ever be, till we learn that there is no discount in the law of justice and that we must pay "the uttermost farthing."

An apostle says that the Son of God [Christ] came to "destroy the *works* of the devil." We should follow our divine Exemplar, and seek the destruction of all evil works, error and disease included.

10. 103:6-17

The destruction of the claims of mortal mind through Science, by which man can escape from sin and mortality, blesses the whole human family. As in the beginning, however, this liberation does not scientifically show itself in a knowledge of both good and evil, for the latter is unreal.

On the other hand, Mind-science is wholly separate from any half-way impertinent knowledge, because Mind-science is of God and demonstrates the divine Principle, working out the purposes of good only. The maximum of good is the infinite God and His idea, the All-in-all. Evil is a suppositional lie.

11. 458:32-8

Christianity causes men to turn naturally from matter to Spirit, as the flower turns from darkness to light. Man then appropriates those things which "eye hath not seen nor ear heard." Paul and John had a clear apprehension that, as mortal man achieves no worldly honors except by sacrifice, so he must gain heavenly riches by forsaking all worldliness. Then he will have nothing in common with the worldling's affections, motives, and aims.

12. 22:11-12

"Work out your own salvation," is the demand of Life and Love, for to this end God worketh with you.

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 OCTOBER 12, 2025

SUBJECT—ARE SIN, DISEASE, AND DEATH REAL?

GOLDEN TEXT: JOHN 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." — Christ Jesus

RESPONSIVE READING: Philippians 2:5-7, 12-15

- 5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- **6.** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- 7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant.
- 12. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- **13.** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
- **14.** Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- 15. That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Matthew 9:35

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

2. Matthew 10:1, 5 (to 3rd,), 8

- And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
- These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying,
- Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

3. Luke 4: 14, 31-39

- And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.
- And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.
- And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.
- And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,
- Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, *thou* Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.
- And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.
- And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

- And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.
- And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.
- And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

4. Luke 5: 12, 13

- And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on *his* face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.
- And he put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

5. Luke 19: 1-10

- And *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho.
- And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchæus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.
- And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.
- And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that *way*.
- And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchæus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.
- And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.
- And when they saw *it*, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.
- And Zacchæus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.

- And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.
- For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

6. Luke 10: 1, 2, 17-21

- After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.
- Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.
- And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.
- And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
- Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
- In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

7. Matthew 28: 16-20

- Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
- And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.
- And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Science and Health

1. 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."

2. 395:6-10

Like the great Exemplar, the healer should speak to disease as one having authority over it, leaving Soul to master the false evidences of the corporeal senses and to assert its claims over mortality and disease.

3. 79:19 (Jesus)-22

Jesus did his own work by the one Spirit. He said: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." He never described disease, so far as can be learned from the Gospels, but he healed disease.

4. 134:14 (Man-made)-20, 28-30

Man-made doctrines are waning. They have not waxed strong in times of trouble. Devoid of the Christ-power, how can they illustrate the doctrines of Christ or the miracles of grace? Denial of the possibility of Christian healing robs Christianity of the very element, which gave it divine force and its astonishing and unequalled success in the first century.

There is divine authority for believing in the superiority of spiritual power over material resistance.

5. 76:18 (Suffering)-21

Suffering, sinning, dying beliefs are unreal. When divine Science is universally understood, they will have no power over man, for man is immortal and lives by divine authority.

6. 430 : 13-26

I here present to my readers an allegory illustrative of the law of divine Mind and of the supposed laws of matter and hygiene, an allegory in which the plea of Christian Science heals the sick.

Suppose a mental case to be on trial, as cases are tried in court. A man is charged with having committed liver-complaint. The patient feels ill, ruminates, and the trial commences. Personal Sense is the plaintiff. Mortal Man is the defendant. False Belief is the attorney for Personal Sense. Mortal Minds, Materia Medica, Anatomy, Physiology, Hypnotism, Envy, Greed and Ingratitude, constitute the jury. The courtroom is filled with interested spectators, and Judge Medicine is on the bench.

7. 433 : 2 (Judge)-17

Judge Medicine arises, and with great solemnity addresses the jury of Mortal Minds. He analyzes the offence, reviews the testimony, and explains the law relating to liver-complaint. His conclusion is, that laws of nature render disease homicidal. In compliance with a stern duty, his Honor, Judge Medicine, urges the jury not to allow their judgment to be warped by the irrational, unchristian suggestions of Christian Science. The jury must regard in such cases only the evidence of Personal Sense against Mortal Man.

As the Judge proceeds, the prisoner grows restless. His sallow face blanches with fear, and a look of despair and death settles upon it. The case is given to the jury. A brief consultation ensues, and the jury returns a verdict of "Guilty of liver-complaint in the first degree."

8. 434:1-7, 17-24

Swift on the wings of divine Love, there comes a despatch: "Delay the execution; the prisoner is not guilty." Consternation fills the prison-yard. Some exclaim, "It is contrary to law and justice." Others say, "The law of Christ supersedes *our* laws; let us follow Christ."

The counsel's earnest, solemn eyes, kindling with hope and triumph, look upward. Then Christian Science turns suddenly to the supreme tribunal, and opens the argument for the defence: —

The prisoner at the bar has been unjustly sentenced. His trial was a tragedy, and is morally illegal. Mortal Man has had no proper counsel in the case.

9. 435 : 28-35

Then what jurisdiction had his Honor, Judge Medicine, in this case? To him I might say, in Bible language, "Sittest thou to judge ... after the law, and commandest ... to be smitten contrary to the law?" The only jurisdiction to which the prisoner can submit is that of Truth, Life, and Love. If they condemn him not, neither shall Judge Medicine condemn him; and I ask that the prisoner be restored to the liberty of which he has been unjustly deprived.

10. 437:32-7

The attorney, Christian Science, then read from the supreme statute-book, the Bible, certain extracts on the Rights of Man, remarking that the Bible was better authority than Blackstone: —

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion.

Behold, I give unto you power ... over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

11. 440:33-4

Here the counsel for the defence closed, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with benign and imposing presence, comprehending and defining all law and evidence, explained from his statute-book, the Bible, that any so-called law, which undertakes to punish aught but sin, is null and void.

12. 442:5-15

The Jury of Spiritual Senses agreed at once upon a verdict, and there resounded throughout the vast audience-chamber of Spirit the cry, Not guilty. Then the prisoner rose up regenerated, strong, free. We noticed, as he shook hands with his counsel, Christian Science, that all sallowness and debility had disappeared. His form was erect and commanding, his countenance beaming with health and happiness. Divine Love had cast out fear. Mortal Man, no longer sick and in prison, walked forth, his feet "beautiful upon the mountains," as of one "that bringeth good tidings."

13. 12:31-4

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."

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

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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 OCTOBER 19, 2025

SUBJECT—DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT

GOLDEN TEXT: ACTS 17:28

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being."

RESPONSIVE READING: Romans 6:12-18

- 12. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 13. Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.
- 14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- 15. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
- 16. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
- 17. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
- 18. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Psalm 32:1,2

- Blessed *is he whose* transgression *is* forgiven, *whose* sin *is* covered.
- Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

2. Psalm 85 : 7-13

- ⁷ Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.
- I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.
- Surely his salvation *is* nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.
- Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.
- 11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is* good; and our land shall yield her increase.
- Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

3. Matthew 8:18

Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

4. Matthew 9 : 1-8

- 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.

- ⁴ 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.
- But when the multitudes saw *it*, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

5. Luke 7: 36-48, 50

- And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.
- And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,
- And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.
- Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.
- And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.
- There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
- And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
- Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.
- And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

- Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
- My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
- Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.
- And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
- And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

6. John 14: 8-13

- Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.
- Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?
- Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.
- Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.
- Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

7. Romans 5: 1, 2, 8-11

- Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Science and Health

1. 18:1-9, 13-14 (to;)

Atonement is the exemplification of man's unity with God, whereby man reflects divine Truth, Life, and Love. 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.

The atonement of Christ reconciles man to God, not God to man;

2. 19:12-28

The Master forbore not to speak the whole truth, declaring precisely what would destroy sickness, sin, and death, although his teaching set households at variance, and brought to material beliefs not peace, but a sword.

Every pang of repentance and suffering, every effort for reform, every good thought and deed, will help us to understand Jesus' atonement for sin and aid its efficacy; but if the sinner continues to pray and repent, sin and be sorry, he has little part in the atonement, — in the *atone-ment* with God, — for he lacks the practical repentance, which reforms the heart and enables man to do the will of wisdom. Those who cannot demonstrate, at least in part, the divine Principle of the teachings and practice of our Master have no part in God. If living in disobedience to Him, we ought to feel no security, although God is good.

3. 22:20-27, 30 (Justice)-31

Love is not hasty to deliver us from temptation, for Love means that we shall be tried and purified.

Final deliverance from error, whereby we rejoice in immortality, boundless freedom, and sinless sense, is not reached through paths of flowers nor by pinning one's faith without works to another's vicarious effort.

Justice requires reformation of the sinner. Mercy cancels the debt only when justice approves.

4. 23:1-11

Wisdom and Love may require many sacrifices of self to save us from sin. One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part. That God's wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son, is divinely unnatural. Such a theory is man-made. The atonement is a hard problem in theology, but its scientific explanation is, that suffering is an error of sinful sense which Truth destroys, and that eventually both sin and suffering will fall at the feet of everlasting Love.

5. 24 : **20**-**22**

Does erudite theology regard the crucifixion of Jesus chiefly as providing a ready pardon for all sinners who ask for it and are willing to be forgiven?

6. 5: 22-25

Prayer is not to be used as a confessional to cancel sin. Such an error would impede true religion. Sin is forgiven only as it is destroyed by Christ, — Truth and Life.

7. 327:1-7

Reform comes by understanding that there is no abiding pleasure in evil, and also by gaining an affection for good according to Science, which reveals the immortal fact that neither pleasure nor pain, appetite nor passion, can exist in or of matter, while divine Mind can and does destroy the false beliefs of pleasure, pain, or fear and all the sinful appetites of the human mind.

8. 362:1-12

It is related in the seventh chapter of Luke's Gospel that Jesus was once the honored guest of a certain Pharisee, by name Simon, though he was quite unlike Simon the disciple. While they were at meat, an unusual incident occurred, as if to interrupt the scene of Oriental festivity. A "strange woman" came in. Heedless of the fact that she was debarred from such a place and such society, especially under the stern rules of rabbinical law, as positively as if she were a Hindoo pariah intruding upon the household of a high-caste Brahman, this woman (Mary Magdalene, as she has since been called) approached Jesus.

9. 363 : 8 (Did Jesus)-7

Did Jesus spurn the woman? Did he repel her adoration? No! He regarded her compassionately. Nor was this all. Knowing what those around him were saying in their hearts, especially his host, — that they were wondering why, being a prophet, the exalted guest did not at once detect the woman's immoral status and bid her depart, — knowing this, Jesus rebuked them with a short story or parable. He described two debtors, one for a large sum and one for a smaller, who were released from their obligations by their common creditor. "Which of them will love him most?" was the Master's question to Simon the Pharisee; and Simon replied, "He to whom he forgave most." Jesus approved the answer, and so brought home the lesson to all, following it with that remarkable declaration to the woman, "Thy sins are forgiven."

Why did he thus summarize her debt to divine Love? Had she repented and reformed, and did his insight detect this unspoken moral uprising? She bathed his feet with her tears before she anointed them with the oil. In the absence of other proofs, was her grief sufficient evidence to warrant the expectation of her repentance, reformation, and growth in wisdom? Certainly there was encouragement in the mere fact that she was showing her affection for a man of undoubted goodness and purity, who has since been rightfully regarded as the best man that ever trod this planet. Her reverence was unfeigned, and it was manifested towards one who was soon, though they knew it not, to lay down his mortal existence in behalf of all sinners, that through his word and works they might be redeemed from sensuality and sin.

10. 497:13 (We)-19

We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.

11. 21:1-5

If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation, you can finally say, "I have fought a good fight ... I have kept the faith," because you are a better man. This is having our part in the at-one-ment with Truth and Love.

12. 568: 24-30

For victory over a single sin, we give thanks and magnify the Lord of Hosts. What shall we say of the mighty conquest over all sin? A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her primal and everlasting strain.

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.

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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 OCTOBER 26, 2025

SUBJECT—PROBATION AFTER DEATH

GOLDEN TEXT: JEREMIAH 29:11

"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."

RESPONSIVE READING: Colossians 1:3, 9-13

- 3. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
- 9. For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- 10. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- 11. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
- 12. Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
- 13. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

- 1. **Proverbs 4 : 23**
- Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.
- 2. Acts 21:39 (Paul) (to 1st,)
- Paul said,
- 3. Acts 22: 3, 5 (I)-8, 10-15
- I am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, *and* taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.
- I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.
- And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.
- And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
- And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.
- And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.
- And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.
- And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*,
- Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

- And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.
- For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

4. Acts 14: 1, 2, 19, 20

- And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.
- But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.
- And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
- Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

5. Acts 20 : 7-12

- And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.
- And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.
- And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.
- And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing *him* said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.
- When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.
- And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

6. Acts 27: 1 (to 1st,), 2 (to 2nd,), 14 (not), 20, 21 (to 2nd,), 22 (I)-25, 44 (And so)

- And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy,
- And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched,
- ...not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.
- And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on *us*, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.
- But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said,
- I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship.
- For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,
- Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Cæsar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.
- Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.
- And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

7. Acts 28: 1-3, 5, 30, 31

- And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.
- And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.
- And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid *them* on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.
- And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.
- And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

8. II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he* is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Science and Health

1. 291:12-13

Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them.

2. 99:5-12

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," says the apostle, and he straightway adds: "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians ii. 12, 13). Truth has furnished the key to the kingdom, and with this key Christian Science has opened the door of the human understanding. None may pick the lock nor enter by some other door.

3. 233:1-7

Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. These proofs consist solely in the destruction of sin, sickness, and death by the power of Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them. This is an element of progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.

4. 254: 2-23

Individuals are consistent who, watching and praying, can "run, and not be weary; ... walk, and not faint," who gain good rapidly and hold their position, or attain slowly and yield not to discouragement. God requires perfection, but not until the battle between Spirit and flesh is fought and the victory won. To stop eating, drinking, or being clothed materially before the spiritual facts of existence are gained step by step, is not legitimate. When we wait patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs our path. Imperfect mortals grasp the ultimate of spiritual perfection slowly; but to *begin* aright and to continue the strife of demonstrating the great problem of being, is doing much.

During the sensual ages, absolute Christian Science may not be achieved prior to the change called death, for we have not the power to demonstrate what we do not understand. But the human self must be evangelized. This task God demands us to accept lovingly to-day, and to abandon so fast as practical the material, and to work out the spiritual which determines the outward and actual.

5. 428:30-6

The author has healed hopeless organic disease, and raised the dying to life and health through the understanding of God as the only Life. It is a sin to believe that aught can overpower omnipotent and eternal Life, and this Life must be brought to light by the understanding that there is no death, as well as by other graces of Spirit. We must begin, however, with the more simple demonstrations of control, and the sooner we begin the better.

6. 296 : 4 (Progress)-13

Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense and self. The old man with his deeds must be put off. Nothing sensual or sinful is immortal. The death of a false material sense and of sin, not the death of organic matter, is what reveals man and Life, harmonious, real, and eternal.

7. 258: 9-15

Man is more than a material form with a mind inside, which must escape from its environments in order to be immortal. Man reflects infinity, and this reflection is the true idea of God.

God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis.

8. 324 : 2-6, 13 (The)-18

Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the only Life. It is a warfare with the flesh, in which we must conquer sin, sickness, and death, either here or hereafter, — certainly before we can reach the goal of Spirit, or life in God.

9. 291:23-31

As death findeth mortal man, so shall he be after death, until probation and growth shall effect the needed change. Mind never becomes dust. No resurrection from the grave awaits Mind or Life, for the grave has no power over either.

No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment-day of wisdom comes hourly and continually, even the judgment by which mortal man is divested of all material error.

10. 271:20-2

Our Master said, "But the Comforter ... shall teach you all things." When the Science of Christianity appears, it will lead you into all truth. The Sermon on the Mount is the essence of this Science, and the eternal life, not the death of Jesus, is its outcome.

Those, who are willing to leave their nets or to cast them on the right side for Truth, have the opportunity now, as aforetime, to learn and to practice Christian healing. The Scriptures contain it. The spiritual import of the Word imparts this power. But, as Paul says, "How shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?" If sent, how shall they preach, convert, and heal multitudes, except the people hear?

11. 254: 27-32

If you launch your bark upon the ever-agitated but healthful waters of truth, you will encounter storms. Your good will be evil spoken of. This is the cross. Take it up and bear it, for through it you win and wear the crown. Pilgrim on earth, thy home is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God.

12. 568 : 24-30

For victory over a single sin, we give thanks and magnify the Lord of Hosts. What shall we say of the mighty conquest over all sin? A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her primal and everlasting strain.

13. 492 : 7 (Being)-12

Being is holiness, harmony, immortality. It is already proved that a knowledge of this, even in small degree, will uplift the physical and moral standard of mortals, will increase longevity, will purify and elevate character. Thus progress will finally destroy all error, and bring immortality to light.

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by Mary Baker Eddy

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