Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent

Full-Text Lesson Sermon

September 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.

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

SUBJECT—MAN

GOLDEN TEXT: HEBREWS 11:6

"Without faith it is impossible to please [God]."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:1, 5, 13, 14, 18, 19, 24

- 1. In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.
- 5. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- **13.** For I have heard the slander of many: fear *was* on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.
- **14.** But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my God.
- 18. Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.
- 19. Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!
- 24. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Psalm 103: 1-3

- Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name.
- Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
- Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

2. Psalm 19: 7-10

- The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.
- The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.
- The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.
- More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

3. Exodus 17: 1-7

- And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was* no water for the people to drink.
- Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?
- And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?
- And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

- And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.
- Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

4. Luke 5 : 12-14

- 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.
- And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

5. Luke 17:5

5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

6. Mark 10 : 46-52

- And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimæus, the son of Timæus, sat by the highway side begging.
- And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.
- And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.
- And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.

- And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.
- And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.
- And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

7. Mark 11: 23, 24

- For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
- Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

8. Hebrews 11: 17, 19, 23-29

- By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,
- Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.
- By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
- Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
- Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

- Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

9. II Corinthians 5:7

⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Science and Health

1. 145:32-7

Our Master's first article of faith propounded to his students was healing, and he proved his faith by his works. The ancient Christians were healers. Why has this element of Christianity been lost? Because our systems of religion are governed more or less by our systems of medicine. The first idolatry was faith in matter. The schools have rendered faith in drugs the fashion, rather than faith in Deity.

2. 373:1-5

If we are Christians on all moral questions, but are in darkness as to the physical exemption which Christianity includes, then we must have more faith in God on this subject and be more alive to His promises.

3. 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.

4. 298:2-7

Life, Truth, and Love are the realities of divine Science. They dawn in faith and glow full-orbed in spiritual understanding. As a cloud hides the sun it cannot extinguish, so false belief silences for a while the voice of immutable harmony, but false belief cannot destroy Science armed with faith, hope, and fruition.

5. 146:13-5

Material medicine substitutes drugs for the power of God — even the might of Mind — to heal the body. Scholasticism clings for salvation to the person, instead of to the divine Principle, of the man Jesus; and his Science, the curative agent of God, is silenced. Why? Because truth divests material drugs of their imaginary power, and clothes Spirit with supremacy. Science is the "stranger that is within thy gates," remembered not, even when its elevating effects practically prove its divine origin and efficacy.

Divine Science derives its sanction from the Bible, and the divine origin of Science is demonstrated through the holy influence of Truth in healing sickness and sin. This healing power of Truth must have been far anterior to the period in which Jesus lived. It is as ancient as "the Ancient of days." It lives through all Life, and extends throughout all space.

Divine metaphysics is now reduced to a system, to a form comprehensible by and adapted to the thought of the age in which we live. This system enables the learner to demonstrate the divine Principle, upon which Jesus' healing was based, and the sacred rules for its present application to the cure of disease.

6. 367 : **30-19**

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 supposititious 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. Divine Science insists that time will prove all this. Both truth and error have come nearer than ever before to the apprehension of mortals, and truth will become still clearer as error is self-destroyed.

Against the fatal beliefs that error is as real as Truth, that evil is equal in power to good if not superior, and that discord is as normal as harmony, even the hope of freedom from the bondage of sickness and sin has little inspiration to nerve endeavor. When we come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error.

7. 226:14-2

God has built a higher platform of human rights, and He has built it on diviner claims. These claims are not made through code or creed, but in demonstration of "on earth peace, good-will

toward men." Human codes, scholastic theology, material medicine and hygiene, fetter faith and spiritual understanding. Divine Science rends asunder these fetters, and man's birthright of sole allegiance to his Maker asserts itself.

I saw before me the sick, wearing out years of servitude to an unreal master in the belief that the body governed them, rather than Mind.

The lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the sick, the sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of their own beliefs and from the educational systems of the Pharaohs, who to-day, as of yore, hold the children of Israel in bondage. I saw before me the awful conflict, the Red Sea and the wilderness; but I pressed on through faith in God, trusting Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land of Christian Science, where fetters fall and the rights of man are fully known and acknowledged.

8. 496:5-8

You will learn that in Christian Science the first duty is to obey God, to have one Mind, and to love another as yourself.

9. 295:5-15

God creates and governs the universe, including man. The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them. Mortal mind would transform the spiritual into the material, and then recover man's original self in order to escape from the mortality of this error. Mortals are not like immortals, created in God's own image; but infinite Spirit being all, mortal consciousness will at last yield to the scientific fact and disappear, and the real sense of being, perfect and forever intact, will appear.

10. 430:6-7

Faith should enlarge its borders and strengthen its base by resting upon Spirit instead of matter.

11. 429:27-28 (to,)

We must have faith in all the sayings of our Master,

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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

SUBJECT—SUBSTANCE

GOLDEN TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:8

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

RESPONSIVE READING: Philippians 3: 13, 14, 16, 20
Philippians 4: 6-8, 20

- 13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
- 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- 16. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.
- **20.** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- 7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- **8.** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
- **20.** Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

- 1. Matthew 26: 19 (to;), 31 (to:), 33-35, 59, 60 (to.), 63-65 (to;), 66, 69-75
- And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them;
- Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night:
- Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended.
- Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.
- Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.
- Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;
- But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none.
- But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.
- Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
- Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy;
- What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.
- Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.
- But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.
- And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

- And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.
- And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.
- Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.
- And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

2. I Peter 1: 1, 3, 4, 7, 23

- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
- Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
- That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
- Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

3. Acts 3:1-8

- Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*.
- And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;
- Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.
- ⁴ And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

- And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
- Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
- And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
- And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.
- 4. Acts 4: 1, 3 (to,), 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 21 (to:), 23, 24, 29, 30 (to;), 31, 32 (to:), 33, 34 (to:), 36 (to 1st,), 37
- And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,
- And they laid hands on them,
- And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?
- Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
- Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.
- So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people:
- And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

- And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:
- And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
- By stretching forth thine hand to heal;
- And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
- And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul:
- And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.
- Neither was there any among them that lacked:
- And Joses,
- Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5. Hebrews 11 : 1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Science and Health

1. 468:17 (Substance)-21

Substance is that which is eternal and incapable of discord and decay. Truth, Life, and Love are substance, as the Scriptures use this word in Hebrews: "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

2. 349:31-5

In Christian Science, substance is understood to be Spirit, while the opponents of Christian Science believe substance to be matter. They think of matter as something and almost the only thing, and of the things which pertain to Spirit as next to nothing, or as very far removed from daily experience. Christian Science takes exactly the opposite view.

3. 136:29-7

The disciples apprehended their Master better than did others; but they did not comprehend all that he said and did, or they would not have questioned him so often. Jesus patiently persisted in teaching and demonstrating the truth of being. His students saw this power of Truth heal the sick, cast out evil, raise the dead; but the ultimate of this wonderful work was not spiritually discerned, even by them, until after the crucifixion, when their immaculate Teacher stood before them, the victor over sickness, sin, disease, death, and the grave.

4. 325:30-2

When first spoken in any age, Truth, like the light, "shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not." A false sense of life, substance, and mind hides the divine possibilities, and conceals scientific demonstration.

5. 43:3-12

The magnitude of Jesus' work, his material disappearance before their eyes and his reappearance, all enabled the disciples to understand what Jesus had said. Heretofore they had only believed; now they understood. The advent of this understanding is what is meant by the descent of the Holy Ghost, — that influx of divine Science which so illuminated the Pentecostal Day and is now repeating its ancient history.

Jesus' last proof was the highest, the most convincing, the most profitable to his students.

6. 91:16-21

Absorbed in material selfhood we discern and reflect but faintly the substance of Life or Mind. The denial of material selfhood aids the discernment of man's spiritual and eternal individuality, and destroys the erroneous knowledge gained from matter or through what are termed the material senses.

7. **326**: 8-11, 20-21

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

Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way.

8. 179:7-11

Immortal Mind heals what eye hath not seen; but the spiritual capacity to apprehend thought and to heal by the Truth-power, is won only as man is found, not in self-righteousness, but reflecting the divine nature.

9. 139:15-27

The decisions by vote of Church Councils as to what should and should not be considered Holy Writ; the manifest mistakes in the ancient versions; the thirty thousand different readings in the Old Testament, and the three hundred thousand in the New, — these facts show how a mortal and material sense stole into the divine record, with its own hue darkening to some extent the inspired pages. But mistakes could neither wholly obscure the divine Science of the Scriptures seen from Genesis to Revelation, mar the demonstration of Jesus, nor annul the healing by the prophets, who foresaw that "the stone which the builders rejected" would become "the head of the corner."

10. 78:28-32

Spirit blesses man, but man cannot "tell whence it cometh." By it the sick are healed, the sorrowing are comforted, and the sinning are reformed. These are the effects of one universal God, the invisible good dwelling in eternal Science.

11. 278:28-3

All that we term sin, sickness, and death is a mortal belief. We define matter as error, because it is the opposite of life, substance, and intelligence. Matter, with its mortality, cannot be substantial if Spirit is substantial and eternal. Which ought to be substance to us, — the erring, changing, and dying, the mutable and mortal, or the unerring, immutable, and immortal?

12. 329 : 5 (A little leaven)-13

A little leaven leavens the whole lump. A little understanding of Christian Science proves the truth of all that I say of it. Because you cannot walk on the water and raise the dead, you have no right to question the great might of divine Science in these directions. Be thankful that Jesus, who was the true demonstrator of Science, did these things, and left his example for us. In Science we can use only what we understand. We must prove our faith by demonstration.

13. 275:12-23

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.

Divine metaphysics, as revealed to spiritual understanding, shows clearly that all is Mind, and that Mind is God, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, — that is, all power, all presence, all Science.

14. 468:21-24

Spirit, the synonym of Mind, Soul, or God, is the only real substance. The spiritual universe, including individual man, is a compound idea, reflecting the divine substance of Spirit.

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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

SUBJECT—MATTER

GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 40:4,5

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

RESPONSIVE READING: **Psalm 97:1, 4-7, 9, 12**

- 1. The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad *thereof*.
- 4. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.
- 5. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- **6.** The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.
- 7. Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all *ye* gods.
- **9.** For thou, LORD, *art* high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.
- 12. Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Isaiah 60 : 1-4 (*to 1st* :)

- Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
- For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
- And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
- Lift up thine eyes round about, and see:

2. Psalm 114: 1-7

- When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;
- Judah was his sanctuary, *and* Israel his dominion.
- The sea saw *it*, and fled: Jordan was driven back.
- The mountains skipped like rams, *and* the little hills like lambs.
- What *ailed* thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, *that* thou wast driven back?
- Ye mountains, *that* ye skipped like rams; *and* ye little hills, like lambs?
- Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

3. II Kings 6: 1-17

- And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.
- Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.

- And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.
- So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.
- But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.
- And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast *it* in thither; and the iron did swim.
- Therefore said he, Take *it* up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.
- Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp.
- And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.
- And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.
- Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?
- And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.
- And he said, Go and spy where he *is*, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan.
- Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.
- And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?
- And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

4. Isaiah 17:7,8

- At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.
- And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect *that* which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

5. I Corinthians 1: 26, 27, 29, 31

- For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called:*
- But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- That no flesh should glory in his presence.
- That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

6. II Corinthians 4 : 6, 16-18

- For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.
- For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
- While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

7. Habakkuk 2: 20 (the LORD)

...the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Science and Health

1. 277:24 (The realm)-32

The realm of the real is Spirit. The unlikeness of Spirit is matter, and the opposite of the real is not divine, — it is a human concept. Matter is an error of statement. This error in the premise leads to errors in the conclusion in every statement into which it enters. Nothing we can say or believe regarding matter is immortal, for matter is temporal and is therefore a mortal phenomenon, a human concept, sometimes beautiful, always erroneous.

2. 292:13-18

Matter is the primitive belief of mortal mind, because this so-called mind has no cognizance of Spirit. To mortal mind, matter is substantial, and evil is real. The so-called senses of mortals are material. Hence the so-called life of mortals is dependent on matter.

3. 278: 3-7, 12-22

Divine metaphysics explains away matter. Spirit is the only substance and consciousness recognized by divine Science. The material senses oppose this, but there are no material senses, for matter has no mind.

That matter is substantial or has life and sensation, is one of the false beliefs of mortals, and exists only in a supposititious mortal consciousness. Hence, as we approach Spirit and Truth, we lose the consciousness of matter. The admission that there can be material substance requires another admission, — namely, that Spirit is not infinite and that matter is self-creative, self-existent, and eternal. From this it would follow that there are two eternal causes, warring forever with each other; and yet we say that Spirit is supreme and all-presence.

4. 279: 9-10, 13-15, 22-29

Matter is neither created by Mind nor for the manifestation and support of Mind.

Spirit and matter can neither coexist nor co-operate, and one can no more create the other than Truth can create error, or *vice versa*.

Every system of human philosophy, doctrine, and medicine is more or less infected with the pantheistic belief that there is mind in matter; but this belief contradicts alike revelation and right reasoning. A logical and scientific conclusion is reached only through the knowledge that there are not two bases of being, matter and mind, but one alone, — Mind.

5. 250: 25-27 (to 2nd.)

Take away the mortal mind, and matter has no more sense as a man than it has as a tree. But the spiritual, real man is immortal.

6. **284**: 15-23, 28-3

Can Deity be known through the material senses? Can the material senses, which receive no direct evidence of Spirit, give correct testimony as to spiritual life, truth, and love?

The answer to all these questions must forever be in the negative.

The physical senses can obtain no proof of God. They can neither see Spirit through the eye nor hear it through the ear, nor can they feel, taste, or smell Spirit.

According to Christian Science, the only real senses of man are spiritual, emanating from divine Mind. Thought passes from God to man, but neither sensation nor report goes from material body to Mind. The intercommunication is always from God to His idea, man. Matter is not sentient and cannot be cognizant of good or of evil, of pleasure or of pain. Man's individuality is not material.

7. 285: 7-14

What, then, is the material personality which suffers, sins, and dies? It is not man, the image and likeness of God, but man's counterfeit, the inverted likeness, the *unlikeness* called sin, sickness, and death. The unreality of the claim that a mortal is the true image of God is illustrated by the opposite natures of Spirit and matter, Mind and body, for one is intelligence while the other is non-intelligence.

8. 217:29 (You)-8

You say, "Toil fatigues me." But what is this *me?* Is it muscle or mind? Which is tired and so speaks? Without mind, could the muscles be tired? Do the muscles talk, or do you talk for them? Matter is non-intelligent. Mortal mind does the false talking, and that which affirms weariness, made that weariness.

You do not say a wheel is fatigued; and yet the body is as material as the wheel. If it were not for what the human mind says of the body, the body, like the inanimate wheel, would never be weary. The consciousness of Truth rests us more than hours of repose in unconsciousness.

9. 273:21-28

God never ordained a material law to annul the spiritual law. If there were such a material law, it would oppose the supremacy of Spirit, God, and impugn the wisdom of the creator. Jesus walked on the waves, fed the multitude, healed the sick, and raised the dead in direct opposition to material laws. His acts were the demonstration of Science, overcoming the false claims of material sense or law.

10. 468:8-15

Question. — What is the scientific statement of being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.

11. 120:11 (matter)-12

...matter can make no conditions for man.

12. 269 : 21-28

The testimony of the material senses is neither absolute nor divine. I therefore plant myself unreservedly on the teachings of Jesus, of his apostles, of the prophets, and on the testimony of the Science of Mind. Other foundations there are none. All other systems — systems based wholly or partly on knowledge gained through the material senses — are reeds shaken by the wind, not houses built on the rock.

13. 205:32-3

When we fully understand our relation to the Divine, we can have no other Mind but His, — no other Love, wisdom, or Truth, no other sense of Life, and no consciousness of the existence of matter or error.

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 SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

SUBJECT—REALITY

GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 33:20

"Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken."

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 35: 1-7, 10

- 1. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
- 2. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God.
- **3.** Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.
- **4.** Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.
- 5. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
- 6. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
- 7. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.
- 10. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

LESSON SERMON

The Bible

1. Mark 1:1, 14 (Jesus), 15

- The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
- And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

2. Luke 17: 11-21

- And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.
- And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:
- And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.
- And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.
- And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,
- And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.
- And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?
- There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.
- And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.
- And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

3. Matthew 12: 22-28

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

4. Matthew 13: 1-3 (to 2nd,), 31 (The), 32, 45, 46

- The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.
- And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.
- And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying,
- The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
- Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.
- Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

5. Revelation 1 : 1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

6. Revelation 21 : 1-4, 10, 11, 23-27

- And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.
- And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,
- Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;
- And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.
- And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
- And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

- And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.
- And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

7. **Revelation 22 : 21**

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

Science and Health

1. 335:27-31

Reality is spiritual, harmonious, immutable, immortal, divine, eternal. Nothing unspiritual can be real, harmonious, or eternal. Sin, sickness, and mortality are the suppositional antipodes of Spirit, and must be contradictions of reality.

2. 590:1-3

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. The reign of harmony in divine Science; the realm of unerring, eternal, and omnipotent Mind; the atmosphere of Spirit, where Soul is supreme.

3. 560 : 10-15

Heaven represents harmony, and divine Science interprets the Principle of heavenly harmony. The great miracle, to human sense, is divine Love, and the grand necessity of existence is to gain the true idea of what constitutes the kingdom of heaven in man.

4. 592:18-20

NEW JERUSALEM. Divine Science; the spiritual facts and harmony of the universe; the kingdom of heaven, or reign of harmony.

5. 572:19-22

In Revelation xxi. 1 we read: —

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

6. 573:19 (St. John's)-16

St. John's corporeal sense of the heavens and earth had vanished, and in place of this false sense was the spiritual sense, the subjective state by which he could see the new heaven and new earth, which involve the spiritual idea and consciousness of reality. This is Scriptural authority for concluding that such a recognition of being is, and has been, possible to men in this present state of existence, — that we can become conscious, here and now, of a cessation of death, sorrow, and pain. This is indeed a foretaste of absolute Christian Science. Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way. There will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away. When you read this, remember Jesus' words, "The kingdom of God is within you." This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.

The Revelator also takes in another view, adapted to console the weary pilgrim, journeying "uphill all the way."

He writes, in Revelation xxi. 9: —

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

This ministry of Truth, this message from divine Love, carried John away in spirit. It exalted him till he became conscious of the spiritual facts of being and the "New Jerusalem, coming down from God, out of heaven," — the spiritual outpouring of bliss and glory, which he describes as the city which "lieth foursquare."

7. 575 : 7-7 next page

This sacred city, described in the Apocalypse (xxi. 16) as one that "lieth foursquare" and cometh "down from God, out of heaven," represents the light and glory of divine Science. The builder and maker of this New Jerusalem is God, as we read in the book of Hebrews; and it is "a city which hath foundations." The description is metaphoric. Spiritual teaching must always be by symbols. Did not Jesus illustrate the truths he taught by the mustard-seed and the prodigal? Taken in its allegorical sense, the description of the city as foursquare has a profound meaning. The four sides of our city are the Word, Christ, Christianity, and divine Science; "and the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." This city is wholly spiritual, as its four sides indicate.

As the Psalmist saith, "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." It is indeed a city of the Spirit, fair, royal, and

square. Northward, its gates open to the North Star, the Word, the polar magnet of Revelation; eastward, to the star seen by the Wisemen of the Orient, who followed it to the manger of Jesus; southward, to the genial tropics, with the Southern Cross in the skies, — the Cross of Calvary, which binds human society into solemn union; westward, to the grand realization of the Golden Shore of Love and the Peaceful Sea of Harmony.

This heavenly city, lighted by the Sun of Righteousness, — this New Jerusalem, this infinite All, which to us seems hidden in the mist of remoteness, — reached St. John's vision while yet he tabernacled with mortals.

8. 576:18-25

What further indication need we of the real man's incorporeality than this, that John saw heaven and earth with "no temple [body] therein"? This kingdom of God "is within you," — is within reach of man's consciousness here, and the spiritual idea reveals it. In divine Science, man possesses this recognition of harmony consciously in proportion to his understanding of God.

9. 577:12-27

This spiritual, holy habitation has no boundary nor limit, but its four cardinal points are: first, the Word of Life, Truth, and Love; second, the Christ, the spiritual idea of God; third, Christianity, which is the outcome of the divine Principle of the Christ-idea in Christian history; fourth, Christian Science, which to-day and forever interprets this great example and the great Exemplar. This city of our God has no need of sun or satellite, for Love is the light of it, and divine Mind is its own interpreter. All who are saved must walk in this light. Mighty potentates and dynasties will lay down their honors within the heavenly city. Its gates open towards light and glory both within and without, for all is good, and nothing can enter that city, which "defileth, ... or maketh a lie."

10. 339:20 (As)-25

As the mythology of pagan Rome has yielded to a more spiritual idea of Deity, so will our material theories yield to spiritual ideas, until the finite gives place to the infinite, sickness to health, sin to holiness, and God's kingdom comes "in earth, as it is in heaven."

11. 16:30-31

Thy kingdom come.

Thy kingdom is come; Thou art ever-present.

THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

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(S&H, p. 442)

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