

A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE Entitled 'The Scientific Conception of God'

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The following lecture was delivered Sunday afternoon at the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Many and varied are the questions which engage the attention of people about us, but if we could know their innermost thoughts we should find that there is one question common to them all.

Why does this question so persistently thrust itself upon thinking people? Is it not because, as Scripture declares, 'This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent'?

All down the centuries the Bible has taught and men have supposed they have believed in a God who is not only all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present, but who is benign and good, who, as St. John has said, is Love, and who, moreover, is available in time of trouble; and yet disease and all the hosts of evil have seemed to hold almost undisputed sway.

The trouble has been that, notwithstanding our professions and beliefs, we have regarded God as a sort of abstraction, far removed from our actual life and unavailable in times of distress.

What is needed, if men are to escape from the difficulties and diseases which beset them and attain that fulness of liberty which they are entitled to, is a clearer discernment of God's presence and availability, a fuller sense of the divine immanence.

This was the conviction which came to Mary Baker Eddy when, more than half a century ago, the truth of being came gently upon her thought at a time when a physical condition was fast leading her life away, and suddenly, while reading her Bible, she found herself restored to and of the cure effected during health and strength.

Evil approaches us and asks to be admitted into our thoughts and lives, but it cannot enter unless we consent. It is in itself inert, non-intelligent. When we close the door of thought against it, we have the ability to do evil, wishes and ceases to be. It is only by opening the door and permitting evil to come in that we are brought under its sway.

real to human sense, which sees through a glass darkly; but let us cling fast to the absolute truth and "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." So judging, we are irresistibly driven to the conclusion that divine Mind takes cognizance only of the good, the harmonious, the perfect, and does not recognize the imperfect, the discordant, the distressful.

What, then, do we know and of what are we ignorant? Man exists as a state of consciousness, and as actually there is but one Mind, one consciousness, man, in Science, radiates or reflects this Mind or consciousness. Herein is the secret of man's dominion.

Now we discern something of the range of the real man's mentality, for he is endowed with nothing less than divine intelligence. Therefore he is not lacking in the mental capacity necessary to perform any task that may be allotted him; he is not wanting in ability to see the human ills have no real hold upon him and he throws them off.

But someone may ask, "How can this be true in my case, for I never thought of this ailment of mine before it came upon me?" In reply to this question it may be said that we do not recognize all that is going on in the human or mortal mind, because there is unconscious as well as conscious mental action.

Right thoughts are invested with power, and energy, for they come from the divine Mind. By directing our thoughts we direct our lives.

Through the word "Life" as synonymous with God, she maintains, in unmistakable language and with flawless logic, that God is man's life. But in doing so she makes it clear that she is referring to spiritual man, not to the mistaken concept of man as physical.

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and is therefore without actual existence, because divine Mind is ever active and everywhere present. With vision thus clarified we can cope with human ills and infirmities successfully, expelling from consciousness the thoughts which produce or belie sickness, or, better still, closing the avenues to consciousness against the entrance of sick thoughts in the first instance.

Thus are we brought to realize that the omniscience of God means that a right state of mind—a consciousness of health, of harmony, of happiness—is now and everywhere present, even where sick or sinful thoughts may claim to be. This perfect state of mind, which is for every one to acquire, is heavenly. Its enjoyment need not be postponed to a future world, but is attainable here and now by the mental or spiritual process which rejects the false and embraces the good and the true.

Christian Science constantly reminds us of the importance of shutting out of our mental home wrong thoughts of every description, and of welcoming good thoughts only, for everything has its inception in thought. In other words, back of all things is a mental cause and propulsion. The evil deed would not have been committed if it had not first been thought or planned.

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of Deity as Life. It is difficult to conceive of intelligence and mental action separate from life. Indeed mind and life are so intimately associated that when we think of God as Mind, we almost immediately think of Him as Life also. The Bible declares that God is Life. Moses, in exhorting the Israelites to obedience to God, says to them, "He is thy life, and the length of thy days."

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ual being. Because of the belief that he inhabits a body of flesh and bone, the individual is in constant jeopardy, the sport of accident and the lodging-place of disease, instead of realizing that actually he is the idea in infinite Mind as exempt from disease and as assured from injury as God Himself.

There need be no apprehension that through the disappearance of matter the foundation of things will slip away or that man will lose his identity. Christian Science shows that man's individual entity persists throughout eternity, never to be absorbed in Deity nor yet to be disintegrated and lost among the shifting sands of time.

Closely related to the idea of Deity as Life is the concept of Deity as Love. Christianity has always associated love with the Supreme Being, though perhaps more as a characteristic or attribute than as a name or synonym.

Any one who chooses can begin at once to prove this momentous truth; and having demonstrated, though perhaps only in minor details, that discord, whether in the form of bodily ailment or of mental disturbances, can be put out of existence, he will be able to see that the sum total of human wretchedness can be disposed of on the basis of a reality. This can be done by intelligently and industriously giving place in thought to the good, the healthful things of Love, and in rejecting from thought the evil, the sensual, the sickly, the things of the devil.

Divine Principle. Mind, Life, and Love are not the only names or synonyms for Deity recognized by Christian Science. Spirit, Soul, Truth, Principle, are also synonymous or identical with God. The use of the word "Principle" in this holy office may, at first impression, be questioned, but as its meaning is more fully comprehended, it will be seen to be no less appropriate than Mind, Life, or Love.

Everything good, true, or permanent is founded upon and controlled by Principle. All right action, energy, intelligence, or life has its vitality and operation by virtue of indwelling Principle. The finest thing that can be said of an individual is to say he is a man of Principle. The highest type of government is a government by law rather than by men.

The boundless universe which we look out upon moves in perfect accord with what is called the law of gravitation. No place or point of operation of this law. Not a particle of dust so mean, not a heavenly body so splendid, but yields glad obedience to that unseen, unerring, irresistible influence.

This reign of law in the so-called material universe is typical of the action of divine Principle in the mind, in which we have our actual being. The human sense would have us believe that confusion and turmoil abound on all sides, but reason protests against such apparent absence of law and order and insists that since omnipotent Principle is everywhere operative, disorder is an illusion and harmony the all-in-all.

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MYRTLE CREEK NEWS. Everybody busy. The farmers are plowing and getting in their crops. The packing house people are still working in the fruit, the wood-haulers are filling the woodsheds and we are all getting ready for Old Winter to blow his bugle for a short rest before we harvest our immense broccoli crop. The high school will present a Fun Carnival next Friday evening at the school house, which will be well worth attending. The teachers and students are all working hard to make it a success. Turn out and help these young folks and show your appreciation of home-talent. Mrs. Moore Moor, of Dallas, is visiting her father, Rev. Patterson. Mrs. Katherine Lyons McGee, of Days Creek, has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milkey for several days. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McElroy, of Milton, have moved to the George Rich place on North Myrtle. Quite a large bunch of Christian Endeavorers motored to Roseburg county convention. They report a fine time and a good crowd in spite of a very rainy night. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Loftin have returned home from the coast where they spent a large part of the summer. Mrs. Lillie Farmer and children with Roseburg friends last Sunday. Mrs. S. E. Jess, of Grants Pass, was severely injured, not long ago by a mad cow. Mr. Jess was fortunate. Miss Mae Fawcett of Edgar Grove. Mrs. A. W. Mulkey is on the sick list this week. Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Barn's, of Wolf Creek, have moved into the Holiday home. Mrs. Bert Pearson and children have moved to Myrtle Point. Mr. Pearson will follow as soon as business will permit. Health Service Are you using our modern health examinations? The Oregon Life man can arrange for this service for you. No cost. Oregon Life CHAS. S. McELHINNY DIST. MGR.