

Jesus' Healings Being Repeated, Says Symonds

In a world devoted to research and material achievement, a different approach to mankind's problem, a spiritually scientific approach, is meeting the test of consistent healing, Walter S. Symonds of San Antonio, Texas, told a large audience in Brookings September 18.

During the last 80 years the expanding practice of Christian Science has restored—with unmistakable certainty—the spiritual healing practiced by Christ Jesus and the early Christians, Mr. Symonds said. As a result, he added, materialistic thinking is being as directly challenged by pure Christianity today as it was 2,000 years ago.

Mr. Symonds, on tour as a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, spoke in the Christian Science church under the auspices of Christian Sci-

ence Society. He was introduced by Mrs. Albert Mincer, first reader. He spoke on "Christian Science: The Joyous Gospel of Healing and Love."

Spiritual healing became lost about three hundred years after the crucifixion of Jesus, the lecturer pointed out, but the desire to know God better remained. The practice of spiritual healing was restored to the world by Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, he said.

"Spiritual healing is the basis and strength of our religion," he declared.

By way of illustrating the application of healing Christianity to a practical situation, he told of the healing of a young naval officer during World War II who had been seriously injured in his leg overseas, and who was hospitalized on the West Coast.

The doctors first believed that there was no hope for the young officer. But he was a Christian Scientist, and while obedient to the rules and regulations imposed upon him by the Navy, he placed his trust completely in God, and called upon a Christian Science wartime minister for help. According to Mr. Symonds, the boy clung steadfastly to his understanding that man's life, as God's child, is eternal.

Slow but steady progress was manifested from the very beginning of Christian Science treatment, Mr. Symonds reported. "It was interesting to watch the step by step progress.

"First there was the belief that life would be lost after the injury, but soon it became evident the young officer would survive. Then came the expressed opinions, 'His leg will have to be amputated, and a medical discharge will be the outcome.'

"The wartime minister continued treatments", said Mr. Symonds, and soon the physicians conceded that the officer might get about in a wheel chair. The wartime minister and the boy continued to pray. There was improvement. Crutches were resorted to, and then one crutch. Gradually mortal belief had given way to progress, but one final mortal law was laid down, 'He will always have a stiff leg and a limp.' In a few months this fear was overcome also, and the young officer was free. He was healed and returned to active duty."

Mr. Symonds defined Christian Science healing as the "restoration of human thinking to discern spiritual sense of things—the restoration to human thought

of the true sense of man, overcoming the false belief of disease and death."

A spiritual understanding of prayer is essential to healing, he stated. "There must be a consecration of one's thought, life and action to God before it can be truly said that he is praying. This nearness to God is more felt than seen and an individual experience through spiritual inspiration," he explained.

Such spiritualized thinking changes human standpoints from reliance on materiality to trust in the reality of the one infinite God who created the universe and man in spiritual perfection, he declared.

Those who demand evidence of the efficacy Christian Science healing, such as the material scientist does of material theories in the solution of his problems, have a wealth of proof available to them, the lecturer said.

He emphasized that the healing power of God is applicable to all human discords, and that in one issue alone of the Christian Science Sentinel there were authenticated healings ranging from sore throat and cigarette habit to broken bones, tuberculosis, diphtheria, blood poisoning, nervous collapse

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