

A Lecture On Christian Science Entitled: "Christian Science, God's Great Gift to Mankind"

Given by John Henry Weer, C. S., of Brookline, Mass.,
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The assembly room of the Wash- ington school was partially full Monday evening when John Henry Weer, C. S., of Brookline, Mass., gave his lecture, "Christian Science: God's Great Gift to Mankind" to a most interested audience.

Mr. Weer was introduced by Mrs. Bertha J. Smith of the local Church of Christ, Scientist, her short talk being interspersed with Bible references and quotations from Mrs. Eddy's writings.

Mr. Weer's address in full is given below:

In Jesus' conversation with a woman of Samaria, at Jacob's well, he said to her, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him and he would have given thee living water."

"If thou knewest the gift of God," said he. God's gift differs from material gifts, for it is not subject to rejection—it must be accepted ultimately, by everyone. In our blindness and self-assertiveness we may withhold acceptance and postpone a gracious yielding to the valid demands of divine law. But in ignoring the "gift of God" we deceive ourselves, for it is always at hand and is ours now. Paul declared, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Full enjoyment of this gift awaits a change of thought on our part. That change is going on in human consciousness continuously, unfolding to each one, in proportion to his receptivity to Truth.

Christian Scientists are convinced that they have found "the gift of God," and their conviction is supported by the regenerating effect of Christian Science on human lives. This is a divine revelation, not something of human devising nor a personally contrived system. It is from the source of "every good gift and every perfect gift," these, the Apostle James tells us, are "from above, . . . from the Father of lights." This "good gift . . . from above" is free to all. No one has to go anywhere to obtain it. No one has to wait for a future time. The time and the place are established. They are here and now, since God is everywhere; and wherever God is, His "good gift" is.

The Seed of Truth
Christian Science exerts a vital influence in the lives of all who earnestly seek to follow its rules, and they find it a real privilege to share its blessings with those who have a listening ear.

Knowledge of true being performs but little service, even for one's self, if it is not shared. Good cannot be confined; it is universal. There is no such thing as self-centered good. Our spiritual understanding must be kept actively engaged as a missionary on the highways of human thought if it is to be of lasting use to us.

Exponents of this demonstrable Truth do not expect the world to give unquestioning credence to the claims made for Christian Science. On the contrary, they ask that it be judged by its fruits, and offer positive proof of its efficacy.

Some specific cases of healing of human problems will be mentioned during the hour devoted to this address. Christian Science heals not alone physical difficulties. It is equal to meeting and mastering every form of error, in demonstration of man's God-given dominion as declared in the very first chapter of the Bible.

Demonstration of Dominion
Man's God-given dominion would have to be annulled or surrendered before man could be subject to disease, poverty, sin or death. But God would not annul, and man could not surrender, the dominion which is the very essence of man's existence. Healing in Christian Science requires an understanding of God as the perfect creator of a perfect universe which cannot lapse from perfection in any particular.

The course of a Christian Science treatment is based on perception of God's creation as wholly spiritual, as the ideas of divine Mind. It deals with all phases of discord, as mortal-mind beliefs which have no real existence. For instance, the process in a treatment for physical inharmonies is not to view a sick man as one who needs to be made well, but as one who

needs to be relieved of his belief that health is material and can be lost. Health is a condition of divine Mind and cannot be impaired. We are not to weaken our denials of the claims of evil by accepting testimony of the physical senses that there is in operation an evil influence exerting a power greater than God's. We are to strengthen our affirmations of the supremacy of good by knowing that such errors are only mortal mind's wrong concepts, temporarily obscuring the real man. Physical inharmonies are not ordained or sanctioned by God. "The illusion of material sense, not divine law, has bound you, entangled your free limbs, crippled your capacities, enfeebled your body, and defaced the tablet of your being" (Science and Health, p. 227).

For example: the case of a five-year-old child, unconscious and one side helpless with infantile paralysis. In the mother's absence, the grandmother, in charge of the child and burdened with a sense of responsibility, telephoned a practitioner for Christian Science treatment. The practitioner's clear understanding that no divine law had "entangled" the child's "free limbs" quickly brought healing. The next day the child was eating normally and playing about the house; and in another day was playing in the yard.

Christian Science, the Harmonizer
Christian Science harmonizes the discords of mortal existence. It demonstrates that the absolute government of divine Principle controls harmoniously all that really exists. As it purifies thought, it permeates even the minutiae of human affairs.

In the realm of physics, certain laws are accepted as governing all operations, as in the exactitude of the principle of mathematics. When mathematical calculations deviate from exactness they are outside the range of mathematical laws and consequently are counterfeits.

When our thoughts about God or any element of His universe, including GAL 3—Christian Science—Con. ing man, deviate from divine Principle, we place ourselves, mentally, outside the range of the law of God. If we accept as genuine a concept of man in a condition of want and woe, discord and disaster, we are believing something that is totally foreign to God.

There are people who have only the most primitive concept of mathematics but their ignorance doesn't suspend mathematical facts. It is all the more true that human misconceptions of the Science of true being cannot impede or impair the operation of the fixed divine Principle of the universe, supreme over all.

Christian Scientists learn of this producing and governing Principle and prove that God's presence and wisdom and power are vital realities, applicable to everyday human affairs. The course adopted for themselves and advocated for others involves a pronounced change in modes of thinking, revising even their concept of earthly affairs for the average man and woman.

Last year's dry leaves enrich the soil for this year's growth. Last year's joys and sorrows become the dry leaves of past experience. Their enriching lessons contribute to today's demonstration of life and intelligence. (See Miscellaneous Writings, p. 251-25.) God's plan ordains no interruption of individual spiritual growth, which is inevitably reflected in enhanced usefulness and harmony, freeing mortals from beliefs of limitation—including deterioration and decrepitude.

While Christian Science promotes longevity, it is also notably adaptable to the needs of young people. School pupils and college students who use their understanding of divine Truth gained through training at home and in Sunday school, find it an invaluable aid in their academics, sports, and social affairs. They also learn that their happiness and the esteem of their fellow students are not jeopardized by adhering to Principle in meeting arguments of error that it is smart and desirable to surrender their individuality by using tobacco or intoxicants or by other wrong or harmful indulgences.

A college senior wrote home recently: "Truly we have been given a great truth to work with. As I see

others grasp for it I am awed by its power and beauty. I must be showing it in my life somewhat, for others wonder at my joy—and I wonder what would be my joy if I lived even nearer to Principle. I only hope that I shall always remember that good is not personal but the reflection of divine Love."

Divine Revelation
Enlightened interpretation of the teachings of the Hebrew prophets and of Jesus and his apostles elevates human thought through progressive stages of hope and faith up to understanding.

Assuredly, spiritual understanding is needful for bringing fulfillment of the Bible promises of health, holiness, abundance, happiness. These promises really constitute one and the same promise presented in varying forms—the promise of a dwelling place in heaven, harmony. Time enters into such fulfillment only to the extent that enlightenment of human consciousness is postponed.

In the study of any worth-while subject, some grasp the fundamentals sooner than others. It was inevitable that through gradual illumination of human thought there would finally come one who would discern the facts of real being and explain them. **Discovery and Founding of Christian Science**

It was appropriate that this experience came to a cultured, Bible-loving New England woman, Mary Baker Eddy. She discovered the Christ, Truth, in 1866, and after establishing her discovery by demonstration she presented it to the world. It is not surprising that human thought was skeptical and antagonistic, for this revelation was destined to upset tradition. But today Mrs. Eddy and the Christian Science movement are widely recognized in the Christian world as important contributors to the salvation of mankind. Adherents of this religion are sincerely grateful for the respect and tolerance and approval among leaders and laymen of differing religious and medical faiths.

Mrs. Eddy's discovery restored her from the effects of a supposedly fatal injury and launched her upon a notable career of sharing. During the years when she was establishing her discovery by demonstration she was all the while writing, writing—recording her findings and explaining the facts to humanity—and her message is transforming the world's concept of God and man.

Our Textbook
Nine years after Mrs. Eddy discovered Christian Science, she published, in 1875, the first edition of her book, "Science and Health." In later years she added a Key to the Scriptures, and the volume is called the Christian Science textbook.

It is highly important that students and investigators of this religion possess, individually, a copy of the textbook, which contains the full statement of Christian Science. Numberless healings have resulted from the reading of the book by persons who had no previous knowledge of its teachings. In fact, the book includes a hundred pages devoted to testimonials of such healings.

A man told me that he filled a trunk with personal belongings and shipped it as a gift to a woman overseas—to a cousin whom he had not seen for years. After the trunk was on its way he found that he had inadvertently packed in it a copy of Science and Health. He did not mention this incident to his cousin, for GAL 3—Christian Science—Con.

he was happy in knowing that wherever one of those books goes it carries a message of hope and healing. In time he learned that when the trunk arrived his cousin was preparing for a surgical operation for goiter. But she found the book, the impersonal messenger of Truth, read its inspired pages, turned to God for help, and received her healing in Christian Science.

Our Bible
Many religionists love the Bible with an abiding faith in its message and yet feel baffled in their desire to get from it an understanding of God.

In the new light which Christian Science now throws on Scripture its positive value as a present-day asset is demonstrated. Formerly the Bible gave encouragement chiefly for tomorrow. Nearly always there was absence of the "now" of attainment. But Christian Science is changing that.

Students of this religion make daily use of the Bible, not as mere performance of duty but for the practical benefits they get from it. At the beginning of the day, as they devote a period of study of the weekly Bible Lesson—Sermon, carefully prepared by a committee of experienced Christian Scientists, they know that they are utilizing a vital influence for harmonious, intelligent direction of their steps for that very day and every day. Thereby they daily build better lives on an enduring foundation.

The Wholeness of Deity
Seven synonyms of God are enumerated by Mrs. Eddy on page 465 of Science and Health, namely: Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. It is profitable to ponder the significance of these terms as applied to human affairs. For instance, by perceiving God as divine Mind, His infinite intelligence is found reflected by all the ideas of that Mind; as Spirit, His universe is seen as wholly spiritual: as Soul, immortality is seen as entirely apart from materiality; as Principle, His unerring power becomes evident; as Life, endless being is found to be harmoniously reflected by man; as Truth, erroneous beliefs are scientifically overcome; as Love, the divine presence is more easily felt. Not only these but countless other concepts unfold to those who embrace as their very own this "good gift" which reveals all that exists in spiritual reality as ideas of divine Mind. But God, Spirit, does not and could not enter matter; nor can matter partake of the divine attributes.

This Science reveals in myriad forms the spiritual ideas of the one divine Mind, all reflecting divine

Love, and the highest of these ideas is man.

God's Image and Likeness
Since God is infinite Spirit, His image and likeness, man, is necessarily spiritual. The Bible records, in the first chapter of Genesis, the completion of creation—including man—and the chapter closes with the impressive statement that "God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good." The false belief that man is material is pictured by the allegory in the second chapter of Genesis, describing man as made from the dust of the ground.

God is knowable, and so is man. Both God and the genuine, perfect man are revealed as thought is spiritualized. Christian Science not only accepts but reaffirms the original account of the creation of man. We may postpone, but cannot escape, gaining knowledge of this real man.

Such knowledge is not to be gained by studying the counterfeit—mortal, material man. What we most need to know about him is enough to identify him—to distinguish him from the real. Then, the more clearly we perceive spiritual man, the more completely material man disappears. This transformation by no means deprives us of our true identity. As we apprehend man's oneness with God, we experience that illumination described by Mrs. Eddy in these words (Science and Health, p. 264): "As mortals gain more correct views of God and man, multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible," and she adds: "When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man's spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God's creation,—all the glories of earth and heaven and man."

This understanding brings to human affairs the power embodied in right thinking. It enables mortals to see beyond material limitations and environment and to rise above them. It does not come through scholarly

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