

A Lecture on Christian Science
 Entitled **Christian Science: Prayer Made Practical**
 by **Leonard T. Carney, C. S. B.**
 of Beverly Hills, California
 Member of the Board of Lecturers of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

The lecturer spoke substantially as follows:

Mankind, today, is in search of that which will solve the perplexing problems of life. The average man is seeking for a simpler, happier way of existence. Find a man who is truly happy, and you usually have one who is healthy and sufficiently supplied.

Man's Great Need
 The normal individual wants less of that which confuses him, interferes with his rightful course, and thwarts his just endeavors. Let him have less worry and he will have more confidence, less fear, and he will have more love, less earthliness, and he will have more heavenliness. So the great need of today is for the elimination of that which interferes with the continuity of harmonious living, for a fuller sense of life and its joys. Would you think a business executive unwise who wants to eliminate waste, lost motion, defects, and antiquated ways of doing things, by supplanting them with more expeditious methods, which would simplify the work and render it more beneficial? Is it not equally wise to seek a scientific knowledge of your own life to learn how to overcome waste of energy, loss of power, ill-health, diminishing happiness, and how to supplant them with joy, health, peace, and progress? Christian Science supplies this great need of mankind.

Mrs. Eddy's Mission
 Because Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, saw the urgent need of the sick and sinning, she longed to save them from their misery. Here, my friends, you have the animus, the transcendent determination, the life-purpose, of a woman who knew the bitterness, harshness, suffering, pain, and poverty of mortal existence as few gentlewomen have been forced to know it—to whom at times all doors were closed. It was through this dark experience, working, watching, praying to be shown how she might be delivered from a life of physical suffering, that she made the great spiritual discovery now known as Christian Science. It was through the sacred pages of the Bible, illumined by spiritual revelation, that in 1866 she experienced an instantaneous healing which resulted in a permanent cure of that which the doctors had pronounced incurable. From that time on, through long years of consecrated service to God and to healing mankind, such as has not been equaled since the time of Jesus, this lone woman, left for all ages an impress of spirituality that causes unnumbered souls to rise up and call her blessed.

The Bible, the Textbook, and Its Author

A Christian traveler was packing his suitcase when he remarked to a friend: "There is a little corner left open in which I desire to pack a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a telescope, a book of poems, a number of biographies, a bundle of old letters, a hymnbook, a sharp sword, a small library containing thirty volumes—all these must occupy a space of about three inches." In amazement his friend asked, "How are you going to manage that?" The reply was, "Very easily; in that space I am going to put my Bible; it contains all these things." It is sometimes said that Christian Scientists place their textbook above the Bible, but this is not so. They are obedient to what is given in the textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, where it is written (p. 497): "As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal life."

The truths of Christian Science do not originate in the book, Science and Health. They find their expression there, but their origin is in God. Truth is as old as God. The purpose of the textbook is to show how practical and applicable are the truths of the Bible, how the sick are healed, the sinning reformed, the sorrowing comforted. It explains many seeming incongruities that have long puzzled Bible students. The textbook exalts the Bible as no other book has done, and students of Christian Science study the Bible,

the authorized King James Version, as they have never studied it before. They also realize the importance of owning and studying the Christian Science textbook in connection with the Bible, and freely advise this course to others.

I once found myself lost in a mountain glade, in a forest of the Northwest. I did not know how I had entered the enclosure of entangled growth, so dense that not a path into it or out of it was to be seen, not an index visible. As I circled round and round, faster and faster with my fears of the approaching night and the unknown filling my thought, I suddenly stopped and began to realize the presence and power of God. His directing intelligence available then and there, as I had lately learned it from Mrs. Eddy's writings. As fear departed, I felt a peace and confidence that all was well. Then appeared to view the indefinite path through which I had entered the tangled wood, and in due course I was safe at the hotel. In her writings, Mary Baker Eddy has plainly marked the pathway out of the maze of material living for all to understand and utilize. To her we acknowledge full debt for transformation of our lives from what they were to what they are, and will be.

The message of Christ-healing came from God, and the woman who heard it became the messenger, commissioned and equipped by God to bring this divine message to the present age. We received this message through her writings. Her hand held the pen, but God gave her the words. Thus is fulfilled the forecast of John on Patmos who saw two witnesses to the Truth who should evidence it throughout all time. Those two witnesses are Christ Jesus and Christian Science, or God's law made available to humanity. We do not defy the personality of Mrs. Eddy; she would be the first to rebuke this; but we do accord to her, her rightful place in Christian history.

The Place of Prayer
 As in the time of Jesus, so in Christian Science, the means of healing is through the understanding and power of true prayer. It is notable that the first chapter of our textbook deals with this topic. Prayer is the opening of the mental door through which you and I may have communion or audience with God. If all the prayers uttered this very moment by those in need should conjoin in a mighty anthem, it would reverberate around the world. Men on rafts in the middle of the ocean, in planes above the earth, in the fox holes of the shifting battle, mingle their prayers with those of their loved ones at home (for there is no separation in divine Mind), and God answers these heartfelt prayers with deliverance.

What Is God?
 Where is God? If we look to the senses, that which we see or hear or feel, do we find God? Does He dwell in the earth, the tree, the stone? Does He inhabit a house of wood or a body of flesh? Job cried, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!" No human sense can reveal God to us. It is when we need Him most that we may know Him best. He comes to us, or we to Him, when our need is great. The greater the need the closer He is, "Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

Because God is everywhere, He is properly defined as the All-in-all, that is omnipresence, meaning all-presence; omnipotence, meaning all-power; omniscience, all true knowledge. Paul recognized the nature of Deity when he spoke of Him as "all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). From this we perceive that there is nothing outside of God, no wisdom, no intelligence, no presence, no power, no being. He is all-inclusive, all-embracing, all-encircling, all-enveloping. Christian Science clearly defines God without reservation, for it is not to an unknown God that prayer is uttered. God is defined in the textbook (p. 587) as "The great I AM; the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence."

At the time of Moses, I AM was a name for Deity, meaning "He is; HE who exists;" the living, self-existent, self-expressing, self-sufficient God, the One who was and is and ever shall be. The word Principle indicates that from which all things proceed, the cause, cause, and origin, the creator of all things. The name Mind means all-inclusive intelligence, of which there is but one, no more than one. Soul means infinite individuality, identity, one-ness, which is reflected in man and the spiritual universe. Spirit implies omnipresent substance without an iota of matter. Life is eternal, limitless self-existence. Truth is that which is real and

immortal; it is that which is, as opposed to that which is not. Love is the name of the tender, loving Father-Mother God to whom all our real needs are known and by whom they are supplied. As you see, these seven synonyms refer only to one God; however they each have their own office, in order to bring out the oneness, completeness, and allness of God.

Man in Science
 Man is defined in the Christian Science textbook (p. 591) as follows: "The compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind." Man is included within and encompassed in Mind as idea, not matter. Without man, God would be incomplete; and man without God, could not exist. Hence when we say God is all, we mean God and man, God and His manifestation. It naturally follows that man is not God any more than a ray of light is the sun.

An exalted sense of man is as necessary as an exalted sense of God. A perfectly good God and a deplorably evil man is anomalous. A perfectly good God could not create a man who could suffer and die. Whence, then, comes a sick, sinning, and unhappy mortal? You can find him nowhere except embraced in the human consciousness of mortal mind which is the false belief in a mind apart from God. Change your concept of man from a material to a spiritual basis through spiritual understanding, and no longer will you be conscious of a sick and unhappy mortal. If we look up to God to find man, not down to earth, we shall see man as he really is.

Reflection
 This brings us to what Mrs. Eddy indicates is a profound teaching in Christian Science—the subject of reflection. That which is profound is likewise simple and easy to understand. She presents an illustration of a person standing before a mirror and viewing his reflection in the glass (Science and Health 515:25-4). It is to be noted that to have a reflection there must be light. It is through the light of spiritual discernment that reflection in Science is understood. To the one standing before the mirror his image is not another person, it is what that person sees and knows about himself, and as himself. It is that selfsame person reflected in the mirror. Then she goes on to say, "Now compare man before the mirror to his divine Principle, God. Call the mirror divine Science, and call man the reflection." From this it is plain that man as reflection is what God knows about Himself; it is God's own spiritual knowledge of Himself. Man in Science is not God, he is the reflection of God, God's consciousness of His own perfect being. Thus man is the image of God Himself, as we read in Genesis, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." It follows that because there is only one God, there is only one spiritual man. This is the only man there really is, and in Science you are that man by right of individual reflection.

Unreliability of Matter
 Physical scientists appear to be at sea regarding the nature of matter. One of the greatest authorities admits that we do not possess any general basis for physics which can be regarded as logical. We are told by men of eminence that the universe, instead of looking like a great machine, looks more like a great thought. It is now generally believed that as far as our earth is concerned electricity in one form or another is the sole material used in building its fabric. Perhaps that is the reason for a restless world, that it is resting on restless forms of electric sparks. Speaking seriously, however, Christian Science has long taught that matter is an illusion, a vague concept of the human mind, and that to rely upon it for health and supply, recalls the words of the Psalmist, "An horse is a vain thing for safety."

The following may illustrate how in extremity one should reach out to God, not to matter, for safety. A boy of the Christian Science Sunday School whom we know well, was with his companions playing with a beach ball on the shore of a lagoon which led off from the ocean. Suddenly the ball was thrown into the water and the breeze from the ocean gently wafted it farther out over the quarter-mile stretch of water. The boy, although unable to swim any great distance, dashed after it with vigor. It kept just ahead of him, and he soon found himself far out in the water, his strength waning. Making frantic efforts to reach the ball that it might support him, he almost had his fingers upon it several times, only to have it pushed just beyond his reach. He looked back at the shore far away, his shouts for help apparently unheard. Great fear came

over him and his feet began to sink, as a great weight pulled him under, and water began closing over his head. A sudden thought of his family roused him, and the teachings of the Sunday school came to him, that God was ever present, and that he could rest in Him. In that instant he turned completely to God and came closer to Him than ever before in his life. He then saw that God was freeing him from the fear that was pulling him under. His feet and body began to rise to the surface, his strength returned, and he floated in safety. As he lay on the surface, he literally shouted for joy and poured out gratitude to God not only for being saved, but also to have witnessed such an instantaneous manifestation of God's power. In a short time he was able to make his way to shore, where he entered into the activities as if nothing unusual had happened.

How many men and women today are reaching out just to get their fingers on place, position, money to sustain them, friends to supply their needs, drugs to heal them, and matter to satisfy them! And how vain and uncertain is that expectation! Spirit, Love, Mind, infinite intelligence, is the only safe reliance.

Love is Needed
 If one were to be asked what is the most important lesson of Christian Science the answer would be the lesson of Love—love for God and man. Of what avail is it to be able to state correctly the letter of Science and yet allow its spirit to go unexpressed? The letter, then, becomes the dead leaves of winter, tossed in the chilly blast of intellectualism. The warm center, the living part, the heart of Christian Science is Love.

What is Love? It is larger than words, more extensive than thought. Nothing but divine Love itself can define it, nothing but deeds can attest it. According to St. John, "God is love," and he adds that he who knows Love knows God. Love can be defined only by those who love and are loving; it is defined in their deeds and in their lives. Divine Love means at-onement, unity, harmony. So love recognizes the oneness and harmony of all things.

On a mental blackboard let us draw a perpendicular line; on the right side of this line put the word "Love," with its meanings of at-onement, unity, harmony. On the left side of the line, let us mentally place a list of those opposite beliefs which spell separation, disunity, friction. At the top of this list we would certainly place "fear," for nothing destroys the unity and harmony of men as does fear; next we might place "hatred," then "impatience," "irritability," "discouragement," etc. How may we wipe out those on the left side of the line? By reversal, for they are all the reverse of Love. Strike out the word "fear," and on the right side of the line place "reliance on God;" in place of hatred, "love;" replace impatience with "patience;" irritability with "kindness;" discouragement with "gratitude." Thus there is nothing left on the left side of the line, for they have all been wiped out. By reversing them we gain at-onement, unity, harmony, love. How easy is this reversal if we are quick to detect the need for it, and willing to execute it; how satisfying; how healing! Timothy says, "Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort."

As a boy it was one of my duties to go to the barn each night to feed and bed down the family mare. Sometimes the wintry wind, the moaning of the trees, or the push of the storm, made me fear to be alone in the dark. But I had prepared the kerosene lantern in the afternoon, and when I lighted it and carried it at my side, I could whistle and be cheery, for I always saw that I was walking in a circle of light. Whether I was down below or in the loft above, I was careful to place the lantern so that I might walk and work within the circle of its light, and I was not afraid. Divine Love sheds a circle of light around those who manifest love. To walk and work within the consciousness of Love is to be shielded from all evil. "God is light," the Bible says, and if we walk in that light we shall not be in darkness, but under the protection of the Most High.

True Self-Appreciation
 There is a tendency among individuals to think either too highly of themselves, or on the other hand, too lowly. Paul refers to this when he advises one not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly. Worldly self-somethingness must give way to self-nothingness, if we would find our true self as the child of God.

Does it sound like belittling oneself thus to speak of self-abnegation? Christian Science never takes away something without putting something (Continued on page ten)

Envy, rivalry, hate need no temporary indulgence that they be destroyed through suffering; they should be stifled from lack of air and freedom.—Mary Baker Eddy.

It is the temper of the highest hearts to strive most upwards when they are most burdened.—Sir Philip Sidney.

Affliction is the wholesome soil of virtue, where patience, honor, sweet humility, the calm fortitude, take root and strongly flourish.—David Mallet.

Prosperity is a great teacher; adversity is a greater. Possession pampers the mind; privation trains and strengthens it.—Hazlett.

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