

A Lecture on Christian Science

Entitled Christian Science: Prayer Made Practical by Leonard T. Carney, C. S. B. of Beverly Hills, California

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.

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.

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.

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."

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.

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.

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.

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!"

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).

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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Does it sound like belittling oneself thus to speak of self-abnegation? Christian Science never takes away something without putting something

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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