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ST SAVINGS BANK

Christian Science Is Not Christianity

By Rev. George H. Bennett



"But refuse profane and old wives' fables."—Tim. 4:7
The passing centuries have witnessed the rise and fall of many philosophies, and the coming and going of many leaders of thought. The twentieth century has seen the advent of a unique system or doctrine—physical, metaphysical and religious—called Christian Science.

Mrs. Eddy's system of philosophy, at best, is but make believe. It is all based upon mere assumption, and is not true to fact of Scripture or history. Her definitions are mostly false; her reasonings are childish; and her conclusions are absurd.

Notice some of her definitions: She defines her own "science" as being identical with Christianity. The corporal senses she calls "error." Among the many things defined by her as "mortal mind" are matter, animal magnetism, hypnotism, sick and sinful humanity, depravity, evil beliefs, passions, appetites, fear, depraved will, self-justification, pride, envy, physical force, deceit, hatred, revenge, sin, sickness and death. Everything defined as "mortal mind" she declares to be unreal. Mrs. Eddy defines God as "substance." She also makes God synonymous with Mind, Soul, Spirit, Good, Truth, Principle, Deity, Love, Light and Intelligence. Wherever in her book these terms are spelled with a capital letter they signify God. Remember these definitions, as it will assist in perceiving her jugglery of words.

Mrs. Eddy denies the existence of matter. She says (page 584): "Matter has no life, hence it has no real existence." Our schools teach the real existence of matter as comprising some 78 different chemical elements. That they really exist is demonstrable. The change in the condition and form of iron, for example, by hammering, is a demonstration of the existence of iron. But Mrs. Eddy tells us matter has no existence because it has no life. This does not prove it has no existence for many things exist which have no life. If she had said, Matter has no life, hence it is inert—she would have stated the truth. The five senses testify to our consciousness that matter exists, while nothing but Mrs. Eddy's say-so denies it. Which will you believe? Only an ignorant or insane mind ever denies the testimony of the senses, unless, perchance, for humorous reasons, or financial reasons as in her case, it is engaged in make-believe.

Mrs. Eddy declares the physical forces are unreal. Does force exist? Yes, and it can be demonstrated. Change wrought in the condition and form of a piece of iron by the application of force, demonstrates the existence of force.

Mrs. Eddy denies man's personal entity and existence. She says (page 466) "Soul or spirit signifies Deity and nothing else. There is no finite soul nor spirit." Here she distinctly denies the personality of man. But do I exist. How may I know? Here is the proof: "I think, therefore I am. Surely I must exist before I can think; and the act of thinking is proof of the state of existence." Mrs. Eddy says further, "Man is not God and God is not man." (Page 480.) Now, if there be no finite soul nor spirit; and if man is not God and God is not man—then what is man? Here is her answer: "Man is not matter, he is not made up of blood, brain, bones and other material elements."

But right here she contradicts Christ who said: "That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit." So Christ teaches that man is linked with both matter and spirit. Mrs. Eddy completes her definition of man by saying: "Man is spiritual and perfect; man is idea, the image of Love, he is not physique. He is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas; the generic terms of all that reflects God's image and likeness; the conscious identity of being as found in science, in which man is the reflection of God, of Mind, and therefore is eternal; that which has no separate mind from God." (page 475.) In all this jumble of words Mrs. Eddy tries to tell us man is not a soul or spirit, but is only an idea—the stuff dreams are made of. She would have us believe man has no body or soul and "no mind separate from God"; and that man is eternal and pure. She contradicts the Bible here, which says concerning man's purity: "There is none righteous, no one not, all have sinned and come short of the glory

of God." And again concerning man's life, soul and physical nature, for Genesis, says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."

"Truth makes no laws to regulate sin, sickness and death, for these are unknown to Truth, and should not be recognized as reality." (page 184.) The word Truth means God. Evidently Mrs. Eddy never heard of the Ten Commandments which God gave to regulate the conduct of sinners. She never read the Scripture which says, "The Lord Scripture the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick." God used sickness and death here to regulate the sinful conduct of King David. She was so infatuated she denied God's statement, "Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return." St. Paul wrote, "Christ died for our sins."

What is termed disease does not exist. It is neither mind nor matter. (Page 188.) Disease, however, is a condition of mind or body or both, and is caused by living organisms called germs, or by poisons entering the body, which disturb its organs and functions or destroys them. Mrs. Eddy endeavored to cure sin and sickness by denying their existence. The Bible recognizes disease, for it mentions, ague, sickness, weakness, pain, palsy, loathsome disease, mutilation, wounds, lameness, sunstroke, blindness, fever, insanity, pestilence, boils and leprosy. Christ himself dealt with many maladies as real and healed them. So Mrs. Eddy flatly contradicts the facts of history; and every day experience.

But notice this: "Man is incapable of sin, sickness and death." (page 475.) Think of this brazen falsehood uttered soberly in the face of the history of mankind and facts that appear in every household, and in every human life. Whether man is a personal being or merely God's idea, still he is capable of sin, sickness and death. Her denial is the annulling by her of the biblical plan of salvation. It annuls Christ's mission of atonement and redemption. It annuls repentance, pardon, regeneration and judgment. Her denial of sin would strike all reference to sin out of the Bible and no reason would remain for the Bible's existence.

But is not sin real? What mean the hundreds of prisons with their guilty population of a half million souls, if there be no sin? What mean the thousand hospitals in the land, with their million sick and suffering mortals, if there be no sickness? What means the death of 380,000 persons of black plague in Naples in six months in the 17th century; and 144,000 in Constantinople in 1812; and 70,000 deaths in London? What means the destruction of 13 million lives by the black plague in China in a pestilence in the 14th century; and the scourge that slew 25 million people in Europe about 1350; what means the destruction of five million lives in the dreadful war now raging in Europe? Is there no death? Mrs. Eddy is dead! And her death gives the laugh and the lie to her denials of sickness and death.

Notice this: "Evil is but an illusion and has no real basis." (Page 480.) If the Christian scientist were hurt in a railway wreck, would he sue the company and swear to his injury and suffering? Yes, pain personal responsibility would all be quickly sworn to—if it would bring some real dollars. Is evil only an illusion? Suppose then you walk into the bank with a sack and proceed to carry off a bushel of coin and greenbacks. If you are not shot full of unreal holes, by an unreal pistol, in the unreal hands of the unreal banker, you would be quickly seized by the unreal sheriff and hustled to the unreal jail, to be tried by the unreal court and unreal jury; to land at last in a very real penitentiary; and when you found yourself wearing the stripes—locked behind steel bars, within strong walls, and deprived of your liberty—the change in your condition would quickly prove that sin and courts and prisons are realities.

"If sin, sickness and death were understood, as nothingness, they would disappear." (Page 480.) This is false and is proven so by the sins, suffering, sickness and death of Christian Scientists. Though they fully believe the nothingness of sin, sickness and death these evils do not disappear. Mrs. Eddy contradicts Scripture here, which says: "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Speaking of death the Bible says: "No man hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit,

neither hath he power in the day of death." Mrs. Eddy is clearly the deceiver here.

"The belief that life can be in matter or soul in body, and that man springs from dust or an egg, is the result of the mortal error Christ or Truth destroys." (Page 485.) To the contrary read this Scripture: "God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." And read this: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh the atonement by reason of the life." These are not mortal errors, nor did Christ come to destroy them.

But here is profundity: "When you can waken yourself or others out of the belief that all must die, you can then exercise Jesus' power to reproduce the presence of those who have thought they died, but not otherwise." (Page 75.) This is utter nonsense for Christian Scientists who believe it fall most miserably. By the way, what has become of Mrs. Eddy? Is she dead, or does she only think she died?

But read this: "If from an injury or from some cause, a Christian Scientist were seized with pain so violent that he could not treat himself mentally—the sufferer should call a surgeon, who would give him a hypodermic injection." (Page 464.) Mrs. Eddy here gives the laugh and the lie to all her vaporings on sickness, pain and death. Here she acknowledges the reality of injury and pain, and urges the use of drugs to relieve suffering. She confesses right here the failure of Christian Science in the crucial test of violent pain. Ha! ha! Yet in the face of this abject confession the Christian Scientists hug their delusion.

Why does not the government send Christian Science doctors to the European battlefields? Because they are "humbly and make-believe."

But now we come to the milk of the cocoon, "A thorough persual of the author's publications heals sickness." (Page 446.) But what's the use, if "man is incapable of sin, sickness and death?" Moreover the cure of sickness proves the existence of sickness. But, look here, there are large profits in the sale of her book—and this is the secret of Mrs. Eddy's make-belief philosophy.

A careful sifting of the incoherent language of Mrs. Eddy's book, "Science and Health and Key to the Scriptures," brings out a few ideas which are the basis of her so-called "Christian Science." Notice them:

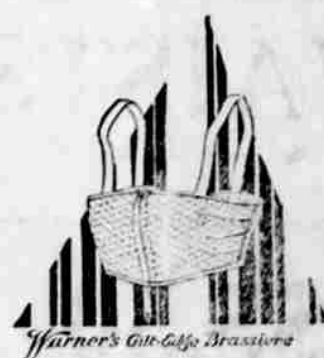
1. God is the only real existence. "God is substance."
2. Matter does not exist: "Matter has no life, hence it has no existence."
3. Man has no soul, no personal entity, no responsibility. "Soul or spirit signifies Deity and nothing else, there is no finite soul or spirit."
4. Nature, the world has no objective existence. "Matter is but an image of mortal minds;" and again, "The physical universe expresses the conscious and unconscious thoughts of mortals."
5. Physical force does not exist. She defines physical force as "mortal mind," and mortal mind she defines as "error."
6. Our physical senses have no reality or existence. She calls them "error," so whatever our senses report to the consciousness or understanding is false.
7. Sin, sickness and death have no part or existence among men. "Man is incapable of sin, sickness and death."
8. Christ did not come in the flesh as a man among men. Deity was not incarnated. "Man is not matter, he is not made up of brains, bones, blood and other material elements. Man is not physique." The belief that life can be in matter, or soul in body, and that man springs from dust or an egg is the result of mortal error. "Matter has not life, hence it has no existence." She therefore denies Paul, who writes, "It behooves Him in all things to be made like unto his brethren." She therefore denies that Jesus was born of Mary.

This, then, is the infidelity of Idealism as it appears in Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy is an anti-Christ of whom Paul warned the ancient church. The apostle urged, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables." Mrs. Eddy spent her life building up this system of false philosophy and religion, this system of infidelity. She calls it Christianity. And now come the spellbinders with torrents of words and soft platitudes to prove this idealistic infidelity is actually Christianity. It is not necessary to discuss their platitudes. It is only necessary to point to the eight fundamental dogmas of her idealism to prove her infidelity.

These denials of the existence of matter, nature, the soul, personal responsibility, physical force, our senses, sin, death, the incarnation of Deity in personal human form are the

(Continued on Page Six)

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