

MAN'S NEEDS MET BY IDEAS DERIVED FROM GOD

The Bible, Source of True Ideas Vital to Human Welfare

Paul Stark Seeley Lectures on Christian Science in the Multnomah Schoolhouse

An authorized Christian Science lecture was delivered Monday night, May 14, in the Multnomah School House, by Paul Stark Seeley, C. S. B. of Portland. On behalf of the sponsoring Society, the Speaker was introduced by Mrs. Elva P. Williams, First Reader of the Society with the following remarks.

"Friends, Christian Science Society, Multnomah, welcomes you here this evening to hear a lecture on Christian Science, entitled, 'Christian Science: The Revelation of True Ideas.' 'The purpose of a Christian Science lecture is to make known the availability and power of spiritual law which is destined to end war, establish true brotherhood and bring peace and plenty to all.

"The late Charles Steinmetz once told Roger Babson that he believed the greatest discoveries in the next fifty years will be made along spiritual lines. Material things he said, are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful.

"The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, writes in one of her little books, Pulpit and Press, page 8. 'The children are destined to witness results which will eclipse Oriental dreams. They belong to the Twentieth century.'

"Students of Christian Science have been making wonderful discoveries along spiritual lines during the past fifty years.

"The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., has established many channels for the dissemination of Christian Science. One of these channels is the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. We have with us this evening a member of this Board.

"I am happy to introduce to you Mr. Paul Stark Seeley, C. S. B. of Portland, Oregon, who will now address you."

Mr. Seeley then spoke substantially as follows:

In the early history of the human race the activity of men was greatly limited by the darkness of night. No light but that of the sun, the moon, and the stars was known. Then many centuries ago someone discovered fire which was used in crude ways to gain some dominion over darkness. There followed after many years the discovery of the use of fats to make more light. In more recent times oil and gas have been utilized, and lastly electricity has greatly advanced the conquest of night. We can now travel work, and play athletic games, if we choose, by night as well as by day. Contrary to the early belief of human beings, the light-producing forces were here all the time. But they had to be discovered and applied.

What has been done to conquer physical darkness illustrates what is gradually being accomplished in conquering mental darkness. The night of ignorance—ignorance of man, his cause and destiny—is being dispelled, and the resulting fear and doubt overcome, by the discovery and understanding of the true idea of the one intelligent creative cause and man's unity therewith. Like the forces used to produce physical light, these light-producing ideas have always been here. But someone had to desire them, search for them with patience and courage. The one whose thought has, in our time, most clearly perceived and utilized these ignorance-destroying ideas is Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. Gratifying recognition of the work of this great leader of religious thought has recently been given by the women of the United States. In votes recorded by the Ladies' Home Journal to determine the twelve women of this country who have contributed the most to the century of progress celebrated in Chicago in 1933, Mrs. Eddy was accorded the highest vote.

Significant Changes
In April 1931, the Spanish monarchy was overthrown and a republic set up. Eight months later the republic's fundamental law, its constitution, was adopted. This constitution contained an enactment unique in the history of human governments. It renounced war as an instrument of national policy. Such events do not happen by chance. What produced this decision by representatives of Spain's twenty-four millions of people? The decision came because the constitution makers of Spain accepted in some degree a higher ideal of existence. They recognized in a degree that human governments should encourage men to live in peace with and love one another, rather than to make war upon and hate one another.

Probably we can all agree that the ideas which will ultimately abolish war exist today. There is no limit to the ideas of good will, justice, kindness, mercy, friendship, love, that are immediately available to each individual everywhere. These war-destroying ideas are at Geneva, in London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Tokyo, and Washington. They are everywhere,

because the Mind that is their source and substance is everywhere.

If the means, or ideas, to produce peace are just at hand why do we not have world peace? Because we accept and believe in a negative sense of mind, the opposite of the divine Mind that makes the ideas of peace and good will. We yield thought to the domination of this false mind which produces fear, distrust, greed, self-will, and war. War will disappear from the earth as you and I rid our everyday thinking of the thoughts of conflict and contention which produce strife in the home, in the business in the church, and finally between nations. Peace-thinkers are peacemakers. "Peace on earth" was the first promise of the heretics of Christ's coming. The ideas that will produce peace in every home, in every business, church, and nation were available then as they are now. Are you and I willing to use them?

True Ideas Solve Problems
The Mind that provides the true ideas that are the only antidote for war also provides that the ideas that will destroy, and so solve, every wrong condition, individual and collective, physical, social, political, and economic. The solution will appear as you and I are willing to surrender our belief in the wrong sense of mind and yield our thought to the Mind which is God.

Christ Jesus had no material wealth, no social prestige, to accomplish his mission. He used only spiritual ideas wherewith to accomplish his works. He had no medicine kit, no surgical instruments; he made no diagnosis; but he did have an unlimited supply of health-producing, harmony-causing ideas. He understood that every form of discord was primarily a wrong thought condition which could be dispelled by the light of true ideas. He solved human problems by dissolving them with Mind-provided ideas. So must we.

What we call a problem is an opportunity to destroy with true Mind the argument of negative material sense, and material thinking, that there is present some mindless, unintelligent condition. For instance, material sense and material thought argue disease can be present even though it is not an effect of intelligence. So with false appetite, strife poverty. To the false sense of mind that conceives them they seem real, but they can and must be driven into oblivion by true Mind and its ideas. Whatever lacks an intelligent cause lacks reality.

True Idea of God Fundamental
Our first need is the true idea of the cause of creation. Some people have no idea at all of God, the only cause; others have a vague belief. But what satisfies thought is not the absence of any idea of God, or the presence of some vague concept, but the understanding of the true idea of Deity, or cause. Surely our understanding of the Science of Life must rest on that idea and be developed from that one basis. A wrong concept of God separates you from God so long as you accept it. You know a friend only as you have the true idea of him and his nature. So you can know God only as you possess the true idea of God, His character, qualities, and nature. The one way of approach to God is the thought-way. It is by having in thought the true idea of God. Ask yourself, What is my idea of God? Is it vague or definite? a hazy theory or a provable fact?

True Idea of Man
Linked to the true idea of God, or cause, is the true idea of the effect of God, called man. What is your idea of yourself? What are you? Why are you? Where are you bound? The mistaken concept that man is a perishable creature of both mind and matter, separated from God, is the misconception which has greatly obscured the true idea of Him.

It is easy to see that what is most essential to the progress of the race is worth-while ideas—ideas that enable men to live in peace and happiness, ideas that make for honesty, justice, courage, faith, understanding. The cause of real ideas must be Mind. Intelligence, or Mind, making these ideas, is most essential to man. And what is most essential to man must be his cause. With Mind as cause reason deduces that man, the effect of Mind, must be of the substance of Mind, Spirit, must be Mindlike and spiritual in quality. He must be intelligent, harmonious, permanent. Here, then, are the basic ideas of reality—God the only true Mind and man a mode or manifestation of divine Mind.

Lessons from the Garden
In a garden on the south coast of Sweden one could have found in the summer of 1930 some pea vines making a healthy and vigorous growth. The seeds from which they grew were three thousand years old and had been brought to Sweden by a Danish professor who got them from the tomb of the Egyptian King Tut-ank-

Amen. Thirty centuries of time had not destroyed their vitality. What mortals see as things, divine metaphysics resolves into thoughts of true Mind, God. Time can never separate the real life of a seed or flower from its creative Principle, or Life, which is God. These seeds, resisting the forces of three thousand years of time, gave some hint of this spiritual fact. Christian Science teaches that as man's real identity is the individual expression of Mind, God, so the true identity of every seed, flower, and animal is a lesser expression of Mind, God, and like man is joined to God, as idea is united to Mind, forever responsive to Life's law of growth and multiplication.

One day last summer my wife asked me to help her plant some marigolds in our garden which she had purchased at the flower market. We knew that if properly planted and watered they would produce freely of their colorful blooms and they did so. So far as we could see these plants were separate material objects, rather fragile, with stringy roots and green tops. But they had identities beyond what our eyes could see. Their real identities were as ideas of Mind, God, who is expressed by everything perfectly beautiful and good. The material flower is a symbol of the more perfect original formed by Mind. "The floral apostles are hieroglyphs of Deity," says Mrs. Eddy on page 240 of "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." The real identities of these marigolds were linked to the active, living Mind-power, which caused them to live, to have color, form, identity, distinctive from all other forms of life, and grow and multiply according to their kind. They had no such power within themselves. They belonged really to the universe of ideas, all joined to Mind, and were evidences or expressions of Love, or Mind.

Tennyson has written,
"Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is."

The writings of Mrs. Eddy show us that mortals misinterpret seeds and flowers as concepts of a moment, but spiritual sense reveals their true identities as ideas in the realm of perfect Mind, responsive to its mandate of life and growth. It is the primary relatedness of the flowers to Mind and their responsiveness to its producing power which makes them in their upward growth counteract the pull of earthward gravitation. Says Mrs. Eddy (Science and Health, p. 508), "The only intelligence or substance of a thought, a seed, or a flower is God, the creator of it." Birds sing, seeds grow, flowers bloom, trees bear, men think, because, in reality, they are active living modes or manifestations of the one Life, which is God.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you," said Jesus. The mustard seed one of the smallest of seeds, because of its unqualified obedience to the Mind that gives it its real identity and life, possesses God-given capacity for growth and production beyond anything that seems possible to material sight. So you and I, as we become more willing to yield our consciousness with unqualified faith to the Principle, or Mind, that is our Life, will find unlimited development and growth divinely natural to us.

All Effects in God
Christian Science teaches that, like the seed and the flowers, the real life identity of man reflects the one real Life as thought reflects Mind. The true identity of flowers, birds, and animals, are some of the lesser ideas of Mind which go to make up the universe, which is Mind's full manifestation. Man is the highest idea of Mind, whose individual consciousness includes, through understanding the lesser ideas. Indeed, these lesser ideas are essential to man's individuality. Even in the human sense we can see that our existence would be very drab and incomplete were we to subtract from our consciousness all sense of birds, flowers, trees, grass, and animals. The lesser ideas are essential to our selfhood.

All the forms and identities of real Life are spiritual and are reflections of God, included in God. They could not continue to exist as effects, detached or isolated from their life-giving cause, any more than a sunbeam could be a sunbeam detached from the sun. Many believe the life and soul of man to be in the unintelligent physical body. Dr. Mayo states that he has taken the body all apart and put it together again but has found no trace of man's soul therein. Good reason: it is not there. Man is really in Mind, the opposite of matter, because he is really an idea or manifestation of Mind, and as such must be within Mind, his only Life and substance. Says the Bible, "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way." Man belongs to God. He is Mind's eternal possession. As the digit six belongs to and is in the principle of mathematics, so man's real life is an individual expression of Mind, and is mentally in Mind. The effect belongs to, and is always within, the cause. Man's individual life blends

must be a present God. If God is eternal, God is NOW. Mortals forget sometimes that whatever is eternally with the universal Life, Truth, and Love which is God.

If religion is of benefit to us God true is the fact now. Moses had no thought of God as a future power. He perceived God's nature to be I AM, not I will be. Jesus thought from the basis of what is divinely and eternally true. Always he used the present tense when he told of God and man's sonship with Him. A poet has written:

"Within Thy circling power I stand
On every side I find Thine hand;
Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
I am surrounded still by God."

Man's Capital Inexhaustible
Each one of us is provided by our God, eternal Mind, with an unlimited supply of the most valuable capital in the form of true ideas. These God-provided ideas meet our every need. They produce health, happiness, harmony, peace, good judgment initiative, prudence, successful activity.

A business man who had to plan advertising campaigns, which demanded much originality, for a large manufacturing corporation found he was very much afraid that some day he would run out of ideas and lose his position. This fear made his life miserable. His attention was called to Christian Science and he began to study it. Gradually he realized that he had an inexhaustible supply of ideas because his consciousness was joined forever to and formed by the infinite Mind whose ideas were limitless. His fear was destroyed and he kept his position. Why? Because he accepted the true idea of himself and his relationship to God, Mind, in place of an ignorant concept that produced baseless fear.

We need to lean more on our rich, powerful Mind, God, with His Angel legions of true, intelligent loving ideas. If you knew you had all the resources of the United States in influence, money, and arms to support some undertaking you were engaged in you might feel assured of success. But you have more than the combined resources of any human government backing you in every right endeavor. You have the omnipotent power, the matchless wisdom, the universal presence of God and His legions of ideas to work for you and with you to produce for you health of body, peace of mind, success in use of Mind-ordered activity.

The dark cloud that needs to be removed from our mental horizon is the wrong concept of God and man, of cause and effect. The Christ-idea accepted and lived removes this cloud and all its attendant shadows.

How to Possess True Ideas
But, says someone, I want true ideas to fill my thought, but how can I get them? By study of the Bible and the Christian Science text book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." In these books is the clearest revelation of God's ideas available to men. Read contemplatively the great statements therein. Digest, assimilate, them. Then use them in daily life. Cling to them when negative thoughts would sear into consciousness. Battle down the suggestions of fear, resentment, sickness, sin, with the Christ, the saving true idea of God.

A young inquirer into Christian Science read the textbook through. He liked it but did not seem to get very much out of it. He had read it rather hastily not recognizing that its teachings, which were so contrary to his past education, needed to be carefully pondered and digested. When he returned the book to the friend from whom he borrowed it the friend asked him if he liked it. He replied affirmatively, but without much enthusiasm. The friend said, "Well, perhaps you got about as much out of it as I did when I first read it. But I knew that there was something there I hadn't understood, so I started reading it again, more thoughtfully. I read the first page of the chapter on Prayer close to fifty times. Then I began to realize what it really meant." The inquirer decided to follow his friend's example. More thoughtfully he approached the book. That first page he read and reread over thirty times and then the power of the ideas there given began to be realized. He was started on the road Godward.

If our automobile engine doesn't start quickly we try again and again until it runs. So, with our mental mechanism. We cannot expect to get anywhere if we stop trying simply because it doesn't "spark" at our first effort. If we are to grasp the great ideas of existence we must be willing to think, to think as Christ Jesus thought. We need to read not so many words, but to understand the spiritual meaning of the words we read. Without the spiritual thought-value words are valueless. On the eagle wings of uplifting thought we are exalted to the realization of our oneness with God.

Solitude a Boon to Progress
Jesus once said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to the Father which is in secret." Because the Father "is in secret"—is apart from the highways of material thought—we can find Him only as we come into His secret place of spiritual consciousness, apart from the whirl of materiality. We are told in the New Testament that Jesus went apart into a mountain to pray. And after his periods of withdrawal for communion in

thought with God and His Christ he would come among the multitudes and heal all their diseases. The discovery that each of us has immediate access to and can at any hour find God is a discovery we must utilize. Periods of withdrawal for thought and study in quiet solitude are a great help to spiritual growth. Men are so busy about things. The need is for more to be busy dealing in and pondering true thoughts.

Cicero said, "I am never less alone than when alone." Mrs. Eddy has written (Message to The Mother Church for 1901, p. 20), "The Christian Scientist is alone with his own being and with the reality of things." When the individual feels the presence of the Life and Love that is God he knows he is alone with reality. God and His thoughts are everywhere. There is no isolation but rather blessing and growth for the one who withdraws from the atmosphere of a material environment to find the presence of God.

Dominion Over Environment
When we assimilate somewhat the true idea of God as everywhere and our selfhood at-one with Him, environment in the universe of Love's ideas, we gain a dominion and superiority over the difficulties of trying human environment.

In the desert country of the southwestern part of the United States lives a bird called the cactus wren, which builds its nest in the prickly cactus plants native to that region. The prickly thorns which are its immediate environment do not disturb or harm it. It comes and goes from its safe abode, untouched by the surrounding thorns which are shunned by man and beast. The bird does not accept the thorns as any impediment to its freedom and happiness. So we, when we refuse to accept the thorns of human surrounding as able to harm or annoy us, can find our superiority to trying environments until such times as our clearer thinking is externalized in better surroundings.

The Bible abounds with instances of the power of unwavering trust in God to deliver from trying situations and difficult environments. Because of the ideas of God and man which united them to God and His delivering power, the pit could not for long hold Joseph; the error represented by the animality of the whale could not for long possess Jonah; the lions' den could not suppress Daniel, nor the tomb confine Christ Jesus. When one becomes conscious of the fact that man is the reflection, or idea, of the infinite Love, or Ego, he cannot be imprisoned by any medley of errors called a difficult human environment. God makes and environs man. Matter does not.

Sickness Healed by True Ideas
Someone may wonder how the use of true ideas can heal organic and other disease. Men have been educated to believe that the body can have conditions develop in it apart from thought. Christian Science contributes the important fact that sickness is not only related to thought but is the direct product of thought. Many people have been unwilling to accept this fact until they have been healed of the most severe forms of disease through the utilization of Mind-power alone, as taught in Christian Science. It is of course undeniable that if wrong thought causes disease the one effective remedy is right thought, true ideas.

Dr. George W. Crile of Cleveland has said, "Man cannot fear, he cannot hate, he cannot worry intellectually—he fears with all his organs. . . . The emotions, worry, fear, hate, and jealousy affect every cell in the body. Some organs are stimulated, some inhibited: all are disturbed; waste products are increased; foundations of certain characteristics of human diseases are laid."

You cannot put medicine on wrong thoughts, nor can a surgeon's knife eradicate them, but you can exterminate them and their products with true thoughts. Worry, hatred, resentment, jealousy, and all the rest dissolve as shadows before the light of true ideas of God and man. Here is an authenticated case of healing through the power of spiritual ideas as taught in Christian Science.

Tuberculosis Healed
A woman had in childhood become afflicted with tubercular conditions in her glands, joints, and lungs. The usual medical remedies, climate, serums, operations, were resorted to without effect. The conditions became more aggravated as she grew to young womanhood. The last X-ray picture taken when she was unable to walk showed the ankle bone had been destroyed and the bone affected to the knee. Amputation of the limb was urged by two surgeons. A third, then president of the American Medical Association, after careful examination said it was one of the most clearly defined cases of bone tuberculosis he had ever seen. His opinion was that the patient would never be able to walk again because, to use his words, "Nature's support is gone."

In her extremity the woman turned to Christian Science and had treatment. The bodily functions quickly became normal, the cough disappeared. It was not long before she could walk with the aid of crutches. From that time she never allowed anything to keep her from regular attendance at the Christian Science church services, where she could hear the healing ideas of Truth declared from the Bible and Science and Health. For

some time she was confronted in her thoughts with the question, But just how can I be healed? She did not comprehend how Mind could replace the ankle bone. A practitioner finally helped her to see that matter was wholly negative; that it possessed no power to afflict her, but was, as Jesus proved it to be, but a condition of negative material thought which the true understanding of divine Mind could and would subjugate, as the individual accepted the true idea of himself as spiritual, not material, and God, Mind, as his only eternal substance and Life.

As she saw these truths, in some degree, the question, How can I be healed? was silenced with the conviction, Now I know I can be healed. She set about earnestly to fill her thought with the true ideas of God, spiritual creation and spiritual man, and so to nullify the false sense of a material cause, of afflicted man, of destructive law which had produced the diseased condition. She saw she would be healed as soon as she gained in some far degree the understanding of God and her true selfhood as God's spiritual likeness. These ideas she found in the Bible and Science and Health. The battle to overcome the false material sense testimony was not an easy one. It required persistence, patience, and courage.

Within twelve months from the time she saw the way that the healing could be done, the ankle bone was sufficiently healed so that the foot could be used somewhat. She walked with but one crutch instead of two. A few months later the second crutch was given up and she was healed. This was some years ago. Her vocation necessitates the use of the ankle in an unusual degree and she has been using it without the slightest discomfort. She was transformed by the renewing of her mind, by the filling of thought with the light-bringing, health producing ideas which God, her real Mind, had provided for her, not by dwelling on the evidence of disease. The discords gave way as she realized in some measure her true self to be the divinely substantial evidence of perfect Life, or Mind, God. True ideas did the work. She and the faithful practitioner solved her problem by dissolving it with God's potent health-restoring ideas.

Employment and Supply
Employment involves activity, and activity is product of thought. All invention, communication, transportation, commerce, result from thought action. There seems to be a wrong sense of mental activity which produces human business activity at times, then through fear stops its activity with resulting distress. Christian Science teaches that God, the true Mind, produces constant activity. Action is inherent in Life. Life-action, God's action, is evidenced in the activity of intelligent ideas. Man, the expression of Life's spontaneous action, can no more cease to be employed in his God-initiated activity than God can cease to be. God is self-expressed in His perpetual activity of self-manifestation. Man is essential to, and is presently included in, this self-activity of God, for man expresses that activity. He is therefore never, in reality, inactive or unemployed.

Jesus' statement of this fact is thus given in a modern translation. "My Father works unceasingly, and so do I." John said, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." To have the Son of God is to be conscious of the true idea of man as God's perfect son, or image, and consistently to cling thereto. If to have the son is to have true life, then to have the consciousness of man as "the son" is to have true life-activity, or employment. As we become more willing to cling to the true idea of God and man, mentally lean, rely on, trust to, Mind and its supremely wise methods and limitless power, the obstructions and limitations which the negative material mind may claim to be insurmountable can and will level away.

A fearful employer may have his fear displaced with confidence and see a need for our services. Our usefulness may be recognized and desired.

(Continued on Page Five)

SCIENCE AND HEALTH With Key to the Scriptures by MARY BAKER EDDY

The original standard and only Text-book on Christian Science Mind-healing in one volume of 700 pages. Published in English, French and German, at prices from \$3 to \$5 also a Braille edition for the blind. The textbook and all other works by Mrs. Eddy, together with other authorized Christian Science literature,

MAY BE READ OR PURCHASED
at
Any Christian Science Reading Room
Including Portland's Joint Reading
Room 1130 American Bank Bldg.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY
Holds Meetings in
Multnomah School House
Sundays 11 a. m., Wednesdays 8 p. m.