

# A Lecture on Christian Science

A lecture was given on Christian Science by Mr. Paul Stark Beoley, a member of the Board of Lecturers of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Mass., in Houston's lecture hall at 8:30 Monday, March 12th. Mr. Beoley is a member of the high school and a few well chosen words. The audience was well filled, and the discourse of the speaker was listened to with close attention. Mr. Beoley spoke as follows:

The teachings of Christian Science are generally known, but to those who do not know, it is not so well understood. The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, in her work entitled "Miscellaneous Writings," defined Christian Science as "the science of right thinking" (p. 12), and in another of her works, "The Science of Health," she says, "The essence of this Science is right thinking and right action" (p. 12). Man's actions are the expression of his thoughts. Let us then consider what constitutes right thinking, its effect upon the life of man, and the way by which one may learn so to think and thereby gain the benefits.

## Importance of Thought in Human Affairs

We are all deeply interested, whether we have realized the fact or not, in the most important of all things in the world to each one of us. We are primarily interested in our own thoughts, for there we find our own life and existence. We are also interested in the thoughts of relatives, friends, our business associates and in the thinking of society as a whole. We cannot fail to agree that thought is the most essential of all things in the world. All the affairs of the government are based, law is its foundation, business is carried on, human relationships are formed; in short, it is in thought that the whole scheme and order of our affairs is founded. Let us try to conceive of a day without thought in it and he will realize that thought is indeed the very medium and current of life. Stop thinking and the world could be a mass of inert matter and to society depends upon the thoughts he entertains. His thoughts and his life go hand in hand. They are coincident and inseparable. If then it is to be through thought that the world is to find the real and certain remedy for its ills, and that in this Christian Science teaches, it is very much to be desired that we should know how to think rightly, Christian Science recognizes that there must be a basis or standard according to which thought may be measured as right or wrong, the same as mathematical law measures with exactness the correctness or incorrectness of mathematical thinking. What then is this standard? A perspective of the world as we see it shows us that there is in it good thinking, bad thinking, matter and material phenomena. These must be accounted for and a rational basis reached for the explanation of evil and the establishment of good.

## The Only Source of Intelligence

In seeking an answer to the question how to think rightly, Christian Science recognizes that there must be a basis or standard according to which thought may be measured as right or wrong, the same as mathematical law measures with exactness the correctness or incorrectness of mathematical thinking. What then is this standard? A perspective of the world as we see it shows us that there is in it good thinking, bad thinking, matter and material phenomena. These must be accounted for and a rational basis reached for the explanation of evil and the establishment of good.

## The Suppositional Opposite of Good

For every fact we know in our daily life we may suppose its opposite—the ill about it. So in the universal order Mrs. Eddy discerned that evil and all the suppositions and material is but the suppositional or supposed opposite of God's creation, which is the good and eternal. She recognized that matter and evil are merely transient phenomena, the visualized concepts of the mortal or carnal mind, the opposite of the one true Mind, God. Jesus expressed this negative nature of evil which he spoke of it as "a lie," in which there is no truth. Thus evil and matter are seen as false mortal beliefs, mental in character, while matter is that which is good and eternal to the manifestation of divine Mind, God. Thus does Christian Science unite, not cut, the Gordian knot of mind and matter, the puzzle of the ages.

The human mind sometimes stands amazed when told that matter is only a mental phenomenon. If perchance any of you may feel shocked at this assertion you will be interested to know that what Mrs. Eddy asserted long before, namely, that matter is indeed not a substance of itself, but mental phenomena, the externalized concepts of the human mind. A prominent physical scientist in one of the best known European universities has within the past few years said: "Matter is a thing of thought which we have constructed for ourselves." Another says, "The universe as known to us consists wholly of mind and matter is a doubtful and uncertain influence of the human intelligence."

Mr. Eddy's premise was correct

and everything was in truth mental, the next and far more important question was, how evil, mortal mind, and its sinful and diseased conditions was to be mastered and destroyed by the one true Mind, God. This question she met without compromise, and through her writings she clearly elucidated the laws of the one true Mind and the scientific way in which these laws can be used to subjugate, overcome and destroy all evil and disease, that millions of mankind have through their application in thought been healed, comforted and purified. Her premise, which is in perfect accord with the Bible, that there is but one God, divine Mind, who creates only good, has been proven by irrefutable works to be the basis and starting point of right thinking.

## Evil Cast Out Through Right Thinking

The distinction drawn by Christian Science between the mortal and the immortal, the material and the spiritual, is no new thing, no new opinion. It is a spiritual and eternal fact, the central truth of the Bible. This Science points out that it is through the correct understanding of the one true Mind and his relationship to that Mind that man may free himself from all evil conditions. He learns to put out of thought the evil and temporal sense of existence, with its false and diseased beliefs, and gradually gains that consciousness which knows only good and is not subject to sin, disease or death. This is but the restoration in present-day language of the statement made by Paul to the Romans, that, "to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." There is nothing strange about spirituality or spiritual mindedness. Spirituality is simply good thinking, that is, thinking in accord with the one true cause, divine Mind. If all evil, sin and disease is mental, then it must be apparent that the thing to be done is to stop thinking evil and to think only good. From the world's point of view it may seem a monumental if not an impossible task to cast out all evil thinking. Without a sure and certain law to go by it would be so. But to the man who has gained even a slight understanding of the demonstrable supremacy of the one true Mind over all evil, the accomplishment seems but a natural and inevitable outcome of the law of God, operating through right thinking or spiritual understanding.

## The Nature of Mind

Cause signifies power. Divine Mind being the one cause, it must have all power. Being the only Mind, it must be all-wise. Being the only true substance, there is nothing to limit it, therefore it must be everywhere. Mind's expression or manifestation, which is its creation, must necessarily be mental and spiritual, since effect must have the same character and nature as its cause. Mind's creation too must be harmonious and good, being the creation of an all-wise and all-intelligent cause. There being no cause precedent to Mind, there can be no subsequent cause. Mind, therefore, must be and is self-existent and eternal, without beginning and without end. Now this Mind, as stated before, is the one God, and as understood in Christian Science is synonymous with Spirit, Father, Love, names which the Scriptures apply to Deity. Loving consideration must then characterize Mind's relationship with its creation, intelligence, which being the natural order of this creation, perfection is its standard and no element of evil or destruction is there.

## Acknowledging the divine Mind as the alone cause, Christian Science then reasons logically from cause to effect and brings out what must be true about man and the universe which spring from and are the expression of Mind. This is the second step toward getting a true basis for right thinking, and brings to light the one and complete idea of creation—Mind and its manifestation, God and His universe, including man, cause and effect—as the basis for all true thought. Here then is to be found the true and complete standard, God's standard, exact, scientific, unchanging.

## Man's Relationship to Mind

Reasoning then from Mind as the primary cause, let us see what man really is. How is he related to Mind? What is his function, his destiny? The Bible designates man as God's image, and holds that he is made after God's likeness, thus making him out to be the living representative or expression of God. These terms of course apply to the real and eternal man, not to the mortal and transient sense of man. But it is the real man we want to know about and bring to light. Since God is Mind and Mind's only mode of expression must be through its ideas, the very important fact is seen that the real man must be and is made after the image of Mind's idea, and is a state of consciousness forever expressing God. He is a celestial; divine in nature, the individualized idea of God. His function and destiny is forever to reflect and express Mind and intelligence in its limitless unfoldment. Man is forever predestinated to reflect God, and this is the only predestination there is.

So Christian Science teaches that man, the real, true, normal man, is forever linked to God as idea is linked to Mind, for God is Mind and man is Mind's idea. The real man, being mental and spiritual, cannot be, and therefore is not, materially, physically or mortally conditioned; since such conditions are temporal, not the offspring of eternal Mind, but of its opposite, mindless matter. Man as idea cannot fall away from or be separated from God, for God is his intelligence, his life, his substance; nor can God's goodness, overlook or forget man, for He cannot be separated from His manifestation. Man's life, health, and well-being are therefore always a matter of divine concern. This unity of man and God is a most essential point in the teachings of Christian Science, for without some intelligent grasp of original cause and his right

relationship to that cause, man is without a guiding star by which to chart his way out of the wilderness of earthly woe.

## The Atonement

Since God cannot create anything unlike himself, man must possess the same quality and substance as his creator. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." If we fail to recognize the relationship between God and man here indicated, we fail to grasp the basic truth of being, the vital part of Christianity, the very key to the salvation of mankind. This oneness of man with God in quality but not in quantity is indeed the doctrine of atonement as Christian Science explains it, or the doctrine of at-one-ment. Seen in the light of Christian Science, the doctrine of atonement is no longer a human doctrine but a spiritual fact, namely, man's natural and eternal oneness with God, divine Mind. Man separated from God would be like a numbered severed from mathematics, or a tone separated from music, or a ray of light separated from the sun. He would be a non-entity. As the number is one with mathematics, as the tone is one with music, as the ray of light is one with the sun, so man is one with God. So long as God is, man is. They are eternally correlated in thought and action, a relationship clearly defined by Jesus when he said "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father."

## The Christ-Idea

In place of an obscure, mysterious, or doubtful concept of God and His creation, Christian Science unfolds, as we have shown, the true idea or scientific concept of God and man which is the corner-stone of right thinking and living, and the way to Christian healing. The coming of this true idea of God and man in your consciousness and mine, is the coming of the Christ that is to free us from the bondage of evil and destroy all disease. It is important that we understand just what is meant by the Christ. Christ is defined on page 533 of the Christian Science text book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mrs. Eddy, as "the divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error." Christ then is the true idea of God and man which comes to displace the wrong concept of existence enshrined in human consciousness.

## This true idea, the spiritual idea, of God and man, taught by Jesus, is what Christian Science makes plain to the world today. It is the Christ which shows the coincidence and spiritual agreement between God and man. The Christ-idea is indeed the pearl of great price, the redeemer, the savior. It comes to each of us to lead us out of evil into good, out of error into Truth, out of ignorance into intelligence, out of matter into Spirit, away from earth to know God.

## Theologians have for many years confessed the Christ-idea with the corporeal man Jesus. Christian Science shows the distinction and spiritual agreement between God and the Christ, the true idea of God, which must come to each individual consciousness and resurrect it from false beliefs. To cling to a corporeal savior is to worship a fleshly concept, and Jesus said that the flesh profits nothing. Jesus was a human person. Christ is the true spiritual idea of life which Jesus understood and exemplified better than any other, but which I knowable and understandable cause of us. This true idea must be individually understood before man can know God. This idea lives through the ages and is the saving impartation of God, the emanation of His love and goodness, ever extended to him who tired of the husks of mortality, would return to his Father's house and seek for higher and better things.

## False Concepts

When we begin to lay hold of the true sense of being, actually to realize in spite of all the conflict and distress of mortal existence that there is indeed a God who is altogether good, who is all-wise and all-powerful, and who is now available to help us overcome and master evil—just as soon as we turn to Him, then out thinking be to get acquainted with God, to obey the Scriptural command, "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace."

A stranger is one who is unknown, strange. God is therefore strange to us if we do not actually know Him. This original concept of God as a stranger, just what Christian Science is here to remove. Let us suppose that Mr. A and Mr. B live in the same community. A common belief in the community is that Mr. B is unapproachable, distant, difficult to understand. Mr. A, without any personal investigation, believes the report and holds aloof from Mr. B, although he is in dire need of a friend. Mr. B, in fact, is not the kind of a person common report has made him out to be; he is not distant or difficult to understand, but on the contrary is easily approachable, is interested in doing good, is charitable, kind, and glad to help others. What has kept the men apart? Nothing but a false concept entertained by Mr. A, a concept which had no basis in fact, was not the outcome of truth, but was simply a false belief, a lie. Mr. A was deprived of Mr. B's friendship and friendly assistance for no reason at all. The false concept was the barrier. What was needed to restore a normal relationship was the truth in the consciousness of Mr. A.

## Is not the lesson plain? What is it but a false concept that is between suffering humanity and God? It is just that and nothing more. How many have accepted the common supposition that God is distant, unapproachable, and difficult to understand, even while the Bible describes Him as a God "at hand" and not afar off, who has said, "I will put my law into their hearts; and I will be to them a God," Christian Science dispels our false concepts of God, sweeps away with

mystery, superstition, ignorance and fear, and enthrones in man the true consciousness of God, which shows him to be all-good, all-powerful, ever available, all-wise, to be the God who presently "healeth all thy diseases," but be mental, physical, moral or of other nature.

Being acquainted with God, it is well to remember, is simply a state of mind; in other words, true consciousness. To know God man must be thinking correctly about God, and that is just what Christian Science is helping man to do.

When the gentle man of Nazareth voiced the message, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," he voiced the demand of Truth to those of every age, laboring in the shadow of ignorance, superstition and fear. Repent simply means to change your mind. Some men think this privilege, especially as it pertains to religion, is confined to the women, but it is not. Change your mind, change your thoughts, put away false concepts of God for now, here, and hand, is to be found the harmonious state of being, even at the point of consciousness, for Jesus also said, "The kingdom of God is within you."

## Mental Transformation Necessary

With a correct understanding of divine Mind as the one intelligent cause, and man as Mind's eternal idea, whose real selfhood is goodness, as the basis for right thinking, Christian Science shows man how to make this truth practical in his daily life. The method is the supplanting in consciousness of the temporal and mortal sense of life and selfhood with the true and eternal facts of spiritual life and manhood. It is a mental transformation which gradually exchanges a material for the spiritual sense of being.

Mental transformation is recognized as society as the way of progress and reform. All educational effort is but the supplanting of ignorant and limited concepts of being with more intelligent ones. Tyranny and slavery have disappeared as rapidly as man's thought has gained a clearer sense of the rights of man. The whole process of mental change seems the natural and right way to better things. And so it is not only in attaining better things inhuman society, but in that far more important realm of thought which deals with man's relationship to God. Through the teachings of Christian Science the false and limited concepts of God and man are giving way to that true sense of being which liberates from the tyranny of sin and the slavery of diseased beliefs.

The greatest proclamation of emancipation ever uttered was given by Jesus when he said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." We cannot know what is true while we believe what is false. Two objects cannot exist in the same space at the same time. No more can an erroneous concept of God and the true idea of Him be in thought together.

## Truth Changes Man's Viewpoint

That consciousness must change upon which has dawned the true idea of God and man. Life's outlook cannot remain the same, in place of regarding himself as a mortal of a few days set loose in a world of injustice, misery and woe, to weather the storms as best he may or be crushed by them. Two objects cannot exist in the same space at the same time. No more can an erroneous concept of God and the true idea of Him be in thought together.

## Recognizing that his true selfhood is the reflection of God, man seeks to order his thinking so that only goodness and love, God's thought, will ever be manifested in his consciousness. And with the true idea of perfect God and perfect man as his model he seeks always to think in accord with God, good. Man is God's living witness and expression, the very embodiment of good. Knowing God as incorporeal good, he knows that Deity can never appear in physical outline but is manifested in His ideas, and that therefore every good thought and every kind word or deed is God in action. Love expressed itself as man before the nearness of God, he strives earnestly to think so as to be at-one with Him. He seeks each day and hour to think and to live up to highest understanding of life as God, and so far as in him lies to let his true selfhood ever appear in thought and act. He is putting off the old man, as Paul terms the mortal self, and is putting on the new man of God's making.

## Christian Science a Sure Defense

We all know that when suit is brought by one man against another that the defendant usually appears in court to defend himself. If the defendant by reason of his ignorance of this right fails to appear or because of his negligence fails to put in a defense, the plaintiff, even though his claims are false, may secure a judgment against the defendant by default, the same as though the claims were proven true.

Let us suppose that A. sues B. The claims that he makes against B. are false. B. should appear, produce the true facts, so exposing the falsity of A's claim, which would then be cast out of court as worthless, and B. would be free of danger. The truth has saved him. But suppose B. through ignorance of his rights, or fear of A. or because he is negligent, fails to defend himself. Judgment is given against him and he suffers from the false claims the same as though they were true. His own folly has punished him. Mortals are in much the same position as B. the man who is being sued. Claims are being made against them, against their life, happiness and health. Evil is the plaintiff and has a host of false witnesses. It is of interest to note that evil is defined in the original text of the Bible as accuser. The claims are totally false, and all that man needs to do is to assert his rights, know and declare the truth, that evil never has, had, has

## Divine Wisdom Requisite

One does not find the warfare with the world, the flesh, and all evil, as many think; but in these anything that is worth while that is really to be gained, and difficult to understand, even while the Bible describes Him as a God "at hand" and not afar off, who has said, "I will put my law into their hearts; and I will be to them a God," Christian Science dispels our false concepts of God, sweeps away with

they seem. He must press on, knowing full well that he has the means at hand of overcoming all obstacles if he is faithful and believes in the power of God. Evil does not resist its usurped authority simply because man desires to be rid of it. It must be combated intelligently. Man must know something of its nature and be wise enough to detect its deceitful subtleties, bring it lies from under cover. Until he is wise, man cannot be good. "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold!" said Solomon, and Jesus admonished his followers to be as wise as serpents. Only as man reflects God does he gain wisdom, for all wisdom is in God, is indigenous to Mind, and is naturally reflected by Mind's idea, man. Wisdom so gained transcends all mortal opinion and human conjecture. It enables man to judge and act righteously, to avoid useless conflicts, and always to meet evil with good. It enables him to distinguish between the things of the moment and the things of eternity. Wisdom points the right way in every human situation and exalts Principle, which is God, to be the one lawgiver in man's daily life.

## Watchfulness Needed

Equipped with divine wisdom, man becomes a watchman at the door of consciousness, alert and vigilant. He scrutinizes the thoughts that seek entrance there, separates just so far as he knows how the chaff from the wheat, the false from the true, the mortal from the immortal, and rejects the evil and mortal as having no right to enter. Keeping his mind filled with goodness he finds to be the best protection against all evil. Fear, discouragement, hatred, disease, dishonesty, selfishness, lust, and all sin, he strives to keep out of his thought, for he knows that they are not of God and therefore do not properly belong to His reflection, man. He agrees to disagree with these thieves and robbers that would deprive him of happiness and health and despoil his character, or make him a lie, as John puts it, he seeks to exclude from his thought. He stops tolerating evil; he is unacquainted, stops talking about it, or dwelling upon it, but turns upon it as an enemy and drives it out with the truth of Truth. He begins to realize that man as God has made him is not the slave of evil in any form but has dominion over it. Evil can have no more power over man than over his Maker, since man is one with God.

## Uncovering Evil

Christian Science shows man how to defend himself against evil in every form. It shows that evil seeks to control and reach man either through mental suggestion, that is, through evil thoughts thrust into his consciousness, or by way of the physical senses. In the last analysis both methods are suggestion. Evil's subtle argument always is, as Science and Health explains, "It is I" (p. 250). It seeks to make man believe its claim of sin or sickness, and to give the body assent. "You have a pain," he does not have to respond, "Yes, I have a pain and I am sick," or because mental suggestion says, "I feel that man," he needs to accept such a thought into his consciousness. He learns that these claims of evil are just a part of evil's life about man. They are no part of the one infinite Mind or its manifestation, and man's every sense of the world to dispute them and deny their legality. He learns to assert with all the authority of God Himself what is the fact of being, namely, that man is in reality made by God, in His likeness and idea, is divine in quality and character; that he cannot be sick because God never made him sick, but made him perfect and so forever maintains and does not desert material sense contrary to God, good, therefore he is and incapable of encroaching, infringing or imposing upon or in any way making a condition for God's creature. Because sickness is not a phenomenon of God he knows that it cannot be a condition of man who is of and in God. God alone is the substance and condition of man. He knows too that there is nothing in God's man that can respond to mental suggestion. Man is a limited being, a Mind alone. Such conscious realization of the spiritual facts of being a Christian Science treatment. It is an antidote that evil and sickness cannot withstand and a specific for mental suggestion that is unfailing, for it has all the power of God behind it. It is God-enforced. It is God imparting Himself through His idea and is omnipotent to the tearing down of the strongholds of evil. A Christian Science treatment decolorates error and liberates man. Thus through right thinking Christian Science bears the sick, breaks in pieces the slave whip of sin, banishes the tyrant fear, and establishes the government of divine Principle, God.

## Prayer

Through true prayer man learns to know God. A correct understanding of prayer is therefore essential to an understanding of Christian Science. Scientific prayer is the mode of all Christian accomplishment. A Christian Science treatment is prayer. A Christian Science explains it, prayer is not imploring a far-away Deity. It is the simple and natural process of thinking in accord with the ever-present Principle, incorporeal good, God. It is that thinking which shuts out the claims of material sense and places all trust, confidence, and faith in God, relying solely upon His power and wisdom to protect and maintain the integrity of His universe, including man. Thus we have the Scriptural command, "Pray without ceasing," simply means to think righteously always. Through prayer thus understood man finds his oneness in thought and character with God, his scientific and eternal unity with divine Mind, everlasting good. Through prayer he gains the light of Truth in consciousness that drives out fear, heals disease, and gives man the moral strength which resists and overcomes sin. Prayer is man's active manifestation of his oneness with God. It is right mental activity based on a true concept of God and man. Since sin, disease and all evil is the outcome of wrong thinking, it must be plain that the prayer of right thinking is the only way that overcomes the world, the flesh, and all evil. It is man's God-given privilege

whereby he finds his oneness with the infinite and his place in the infinite plan.

"On earth peace, good will toward men," was the message that heralded Jesus' ministry. For nearly two thousand years, these words and the prayer of the Master: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," have been on the lips of Christendom. But what is the trouble? Something has failed. Somewhere there has been a hitch. "This people draw near me with their mouth," wrote Isaiah, "and with their heart far from me; but have removed their heart far from me." The trouble has not been with men's words. It has been with men's thoughts. Rivers of words will not bring God's kingdom to earth in a thousand centuries; universal right thinking will establish it in a day. And universal right thinking is no more and no less than every individual thinking that is, praying rightly. We each have a duty to perform, not only to ourselves, but to society. The brotherhood of man can never be a fact while an evil teaching remains in your consciousness or mine. Our words and our thoughts need to be brought into agreement.

## How to Gain an Understanding of Christian Science

The question is often asked, What is necessary for one to acquire that understanding of God and man which displaces the false concepts of materiality, the truth of spiritual being, heals the sick, and enables one to solve life's problems? Earnest study of the truth as set forth in the Bible and Science and Health, and its constant application in daily life, is essential. It is also necessary in approaching this question to remember that God and not man governs the universe. It is God's will and not the personal will of mortal man that must control, and frequently people come to Christian Science for help with the desire to have God work in their way. They wish to tell God what to do and perhaps offer a little advice on the best way for Him to do it. Such a state of mind never gets near to God, for it has failed to recognize that man's whole being is the expression of God and is eternally subject to His will, which governs the universe for the benefit and happiness of all.

## Self-surrender, surrender of the mortal sense of selfhood, is necessary to know God. Mortal man must be willing to let God's will be done whether or not it coincides with his personal preference. Many business deals ought never to work out the way men would have them, and Christian Science will never bring about a dishonest business deal or give the slightest assistance to any evil purpose. It is the operation of God's will alone. God dwelleth with him that is of an humble and contrite spirit. Friends, it requires true courage to be humble.

It should further be borne in mind that God eschews all evil, that he does not tolerate selfishness, self-will, dishonesty or sin in any form. He who seeks to understand God must be willing to surrender the mortal sense of self and all of his false mortal beliefs as rapidly as they come to light. He must be sincere and honest. Some try to get to heaven carrying a little hell along with them, under cover. Hell is our sinful beliefs and the fires of suffering they inevitably bring. Such a one makes no headway in Christian Science, and soon finds that he cannot in hold of heaven with one hand while holding on to hell with the other. We cannot serve two masters. God is One and infinite, and His blessings come not to the self-seeker, to the hypocrite or to the worldly-wise, who, snugly wrapped in the garments of his self-conceit would try a little of God in a way of his own.

It is the self-surrender of her who gave the widow's mite, her earthly a lesser opinion of her and her work would be to do what is true. It would be to shut out beauty and leave the heart frozen with the ingratitude which shuts the door on good, to him who is thus deceived. We all need gratitude, for gratitude goes hand in hand with right thinking. Gratitude is indeed the acknowledgment of good present. Gratitude is the recognition of God with us and opens the doors of thought to heavenly things.

Many expressions of the highest regard and respect for physicians and ministers are to be found in the writings of Mrs. Eddy, although she could not concur with their views upon medical and religious subjects. Christian Scientists entertain no hostility toward the medical profession nor toward those whose religious opinions differ from their own. They respect the fullest right of every individual to think as he or she may choose upon medical or religious matters, free from interference from others, and they ask but the same privilege for themselves.

## Conclusion

My friends, but two things are happening in the world today. Every experience, every phenomenon, however insignificant or however important it may seem, from the mortal combat of nations to the kind thought of the little child, is but a part either of the temporary and passing phenomena of evil destroying itself, or a part of the true and enduring phenomena of God manifesting Himself. Neither you nor I can avert a hair's breadth the immutable operation of these laws of God. What you and I may do is to choose whether we shall be dominated and deceived by evil hastening to its final destruction, with its attendant hell of suffering, or whether we shall be obedient to the divine Mind, God, and partakers of the genuine happiness, health and well being to which we are rightfully entitled.

Christian Science does not argue with any one. It does not urge any one to accept its teachings. It simply presents them to the world as they are and points to the evidence of the multitude of men and women who have tried them and found them not wanting. The choice must be individual. No one can work out our salvation for us. No one can know God by proxy. Like the river that flows for all and gives freely to him who comes to it, whoever he may be, but goeth not out of its course for any man, so Christian Science is a stream of living water flowing out into human consciousness, free to all who will partake of its blessing.

## The Obsolete Agency

The Obsolete Agency is the name of Jesus' command, and they are leaders in the human world.