

April 3, 2006 – Subject: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real?

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from: An Association Address by Josiah C. Merriman.

PRACTICE... While I label this last subject “Practice,” really, the whole day has been devoted to practice. Reflection, or the showing forth of God, is the practice of Christian Science. God is the great Physician. Then He is the great Practitioner. God is the only practitioner on every case. He is infinite intelligence, – the all-knowing Mind. The practitioner is always known by his practice; thus, infinite intelligence blots out every error. There is only one way the great Practitioner can express Himself, and that is by His manifestation, man. So you, man, are the practice of God. Perfect Mind must express itself as perfect man.

There seem to be three forms of approach in treatment. These I wish to talk about briefly. The first is the personal type where you deal with person. This is the lowest form. Then another form is that where we treat the disease as a case. Treating a form of disease is not always successful. The disease serves as a decoy. What one should handle in every case is animal magnetism. The third form is the ultimate. Mrs. Eddy explains this very clearly on page seven of Unity of Good. Here she says, “When I have most clearly seen and most sensibly felt that the infinite recognizes no disease, this has not separated me from God, but has so bound me to Him as to enable me instantaneously to heal...” (Un. 7:8-12) This is the ultimate way. This is a clear realization of man’s oneness with God. This is knowing that God is “of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.” (Hab. 1:13)

“Covering iniquity will prevent prosperity and the ultimate triumph of any cause.” (S. & H. 446:30-31) This covering iniquity will prevent healing. Any form of dishonesty is a mental block to healing. What

is necessary is clearly seeing and feeling that the infinite recognizes no disease. This is your divine awareness. Mrs. Eddy says, "In the same spiritual condition I have been able to raise the dying to instantaneous health." (Un. 7: 13-15) You can do this. You have the expectancy of Spirit. This page seven in Unity of Good is a wonderful passage. I hope you study it diligently. In the last paragraph, she tells of another conviction she has: "That an acknowledgment of the perfection of the infinite Unseen confers a power nothing else can." (Un. 7:18-22)

You have been studying Christian Science for a long time. Not only have you been greatly helped through Science and have had many healings, you have also helped your friends through your understanding. You have awakened them to the truth of being. Our Leader says, "When we wake to the truth of being, all disease, pain, weakness, weariness, sorrow, sin, death, will be unknown, and the mortal dream will forever cease." (S. & H. 218:32-2) See what a comprehensive statement this is. All disease and all concomitant errors will be unknown, and the mortal dream will forever cease. What an astonishing declaration! Then Mrs. Eddy adds this saying: "My method of treating fatigue applies to all bodily ailments, since Mind should be, and is, supreme, absolute, and final." (S. & H. 219: 2-4) "There are no other heaven-appointed means than the spiritual with which to heal sin and disease. Our Master conformed to this law, and instructed his followers, saying, 'He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also.' This is enough." (My. 221:19-23)

Watch to see that nothing stands between you and God. We must watch to see that malicious mind, hypnotic suggestion, cannot make you accept one thing you would not wish to have in the kingdom of heaven. You can challenge the thoughts presented to you as to their quality and origin. You should not entertain in consciousness anything that you would not want to become universal. Fear is the belief entertained that God, good, is not all. Fear is the foundation of every disease. Destroy fear, and the disease disappears. The state of consciousness where there is no fear is the very presence of God. There is no error there.

When confronted by error, you do not need to hesitate in your handling of it. One error is no more real than any other. You know instantly that it is only telling what God is not, hence a mere negation. Mrs. Eddy says, "To decide quickly as to the proper treatment of error – whether error is manifested in forms of sickness, sin, or death – is the first step towards destroying error." (S&H 463: 21-24) "When the first symptoms of disease appear, dispute the testimony of the material senses with divine Science." (S. & H. 390:12-13) You must not let any claim dwell in your thinking. The textbook says, "Dismiss it with an abiding conviction that it is illegitimate, because you know that God is no more the author of sickness than He is of sin." (S&H 390: 21-23)" You must "agree" with the devil as soon as he makes his first appearance. When you agree, you have it settled. Agree with Jesus that the devil is a liar and the father of it. There is no truth in him. (See John 8: 44)

Problems are never physical. They are always mental. They always come to you as consciousness. If problems are not mental, then Mind is not all. When you translate matter – which is a misstatement or contradiction of Mind – back into Mind, – then there is no body matter. You simply change the misstatement into the statement of Truth. There are no material problems. When you translate matter back into Mind, there is no effort involved. You just state things correctly. Now do this! You know how. It is very simple. Remember, you cannot become aware of anything outside your own conscious being. There is nothing out there coming to torment you. It is you as evil challenging you as good, and vice versa. Just watch your mental processes. Observe the characters in your dialogue. You are doing all the talking for and against. If you say it, you are thinking it. You can reverse it. You can take charge and talk on the side you wish to carry.

For example, you might have had the suggestion that you could not come here today. You know who won. I have the evidence; you are here. You know it is as simple as that. You are always the attorney for the case and will win or lose according to your plea. How are you pleading the case? Your experience tells you. You see how easily you reached your decision to come today. Likewise, you can say and know you are well. Mrs. Eddy tells you that you are "incapable of

sin, sickness, and death. The real man cannot depart from holiness, nor can God, by whom man is evolved, engender the capacity or freedom to sin.” (S&H 475: 28-32)

She says, “What is termed disease does not exist.” (S&H 188:3 only) Then how could you get that which does not exist? Really silly, isn’t it? And yet we hear people say, “I’ve got” this, – “She’s got that.

Don’t get caught again saying “I’ve got” that which has no existence. Health is the eternal fact and is ever-present. You know this. The kingdom of heaven is within. Harmony is the basic quality. Health is harmony, and that is the normal manifestation of man. There is no disease. Health is the absolute consciousness of harmony and of nothing else. (See Rud. 11: 13-15) You never eradicate a disease. There is no disease. It is a false sense, – a notion.

Healing is the awareness of harmony. It is receptivity with realization. You cannot force anyone into Science or coerce him into accepting an idea. Receptivity has to be voluntary and spontaneous. The practice of Christian Science brings only Principle into play. Principle is our fundamental basis. All misconceptions, misstatements, and mistakes fade out in the light of Truth. Disease is a false sense, an illusion, a mistake. Like all errors, it is animal magnetism, and it must be unmasked. You will eliminate every mistake, and you will do it spontaneously through the understanding of Christian Science.

You teach best by example. Jesus said to Philip, “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.” Jesus was the example that showed us that we are all taught by God. Man is the being of God; what God is, man is as the divine reflection. Jesus never tried to make his friends receptive. He said, “Be thou clean.” He would not allow anything to enter consciousness that denied the purity of his mind. He had present perfection as his basis. Jesus said, “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.” You are the very presence of Mind. Be the presence of God; you really cannot be anything else. Never hesitate to admit this. It heals because it spontaneously obliterates evil. “When mortal man blends his thoughts of existence with the spiritual and works only as God works, he will no longer grope in the dark and cling to earth because he has not tasted heaven.” (S&H 263: 7-10)

“The substance, Life, intelligence, Truth, and Love, which constitute Deity, are reflected by His creation; and when we subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses to the facts of Science, we shall see this true likeness and reflection everywhere.” (S&H 516: 4-8) Do you want to see this true likeness and reflection everywhere present? Then subordinate this false testimony to the facts of Science. Why don’t you do this? You can. You can rejoice with Paul: “None of these things move me.” You are never beholding anything but the presence of God. This deduction is the only logical one you can make if you accept the Scientific Statement of Being.

Our Leader says, “Science not only reveals the origin of all disease as mental, but it also declares that all disease is cured by divine Mind.” (S&H 169: 18-20) Please note that all disease is mental. It is an illusion or false sense; both are wholly mental. And note all disease is cured by divine Mind. When Jesus says to us, “All these things I have done, you can do,” we understand; and Mind- healing is no longer a lost art.

Don’t talk about your healings. If you do, – you give them a semblance of reality. To discuss your healings too much might make you think that something happened, – that something changed. You will be lifted up and draw people unto you the more you know there is no disease. The one who knows there is no disease – and maintains this fact with vehemence, with God-given ardor – will draw men unto him. “... Aver that harmony is the real and discord is the unreal...” (Rud. 13: 19-20) Don’t ask about healings. Why ask more about nothing? You only tend to make it more real. How many times Jesus said, “Go, and tell no man.” It’s good practice not to talk about your healings. By reviewing cases, you again become conscious of error. You talk it, – you see it, – and you are liable to experience it again. “Avoid voicing error.” You know the old adage, “The criminal returns to the scene of his crime.” The whole thing is mental.

Mrs. Eddy said, “I beheld with ineffable awe our great Master’s purpose in not questioning those he healed as to their disease or its symptoms, and his marvelous skill in demanding neither obedience to hygienic laws, nor prescribing drugs to support the divine power which heals.” (Ret. 25: 29-3) Note, “I beheld with ineffable awe our

great Master's purpose in not questioning those he healed as to their disease or its symptoms..." "We never read that Luke or Paul made a reality of disease in order to discover some means of healing it. Jesus never asked if disease were acute or chronic, and he never recommended attention to laws of health, never gave drugs, never prayed to know if God were willing that a man should live." (S. & H. 369:14-19) "Sooner or later we shall learn that the fetters of man's finite capacity are forged by the illusion that he lives in body instead of in Soul, in matter instead of in Spirit." (S. & H. 223:3-6)

It is the illusion that man lives in body that gives us all our trouble. As Mrs. Eddy says, "When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling, steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in your thought." (S. & H. 495:14-16) "Disease is always. . . a false sense mentally entertained ..." (S. & H. 411:21-22)

The Scripture says that on the cross Jesus gave up the ghost. Now "ghost" is defined in the Glossary" as "an illusion; a belief that mind is outlined and limited..." (S. & H. 587:1-2) Mrs. Eddy sums it all up. She says, "The very name, illusion, points to nothingness." (S. & H. 129:28-29) Thus we see that the illusion of sickness is utter nothingness. When are you going to stop giving it reality? Why not unmask it now?

I have been talking to you about your textbook and the things contained therein. This textbook has been one of your closest friends and companions for years. Let us heed more closely what our great friend is telling us. You cannot express God falsely and be His full manifestation. Our textbook says, "Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake." (S. & H. 442:30-32) Just think of that; you can be a law to yourselves at all times. You can be a law that the practice of evil cannot harm you. Of course it cannot harm you, because man is incapable of voicing any error. You are the full manifestation of Mind. You can make it a law for yourself never to deviate from absolute Truth.

The other day in studying the textbook my thought was arrested by the statement, "God will heal the sick through man, whenever man is governed by God." (S. & H. 495:1-2) Man governed by God heals.

Our Leader says, “Whatever is governed by God, is never for an instant deprived of the light and might of intelligence and Life.” (S. & H. 215:12-14) When man is thus governed, he knows his oneness with God. He can express only Truth. He could manifest no error in any way, shape, or manner. This is absolute healing because he has nothing unlike God in his thought. “A knowledge of aught beside Myself is impossible.” (Un. 18: 25-26)

Mrs. Eddy says in No and Yes, “God’s law reaches and destroys evil by virtue of the allness of God.” (No 30:7-8) She adds, “God’s law is in three words, ‘I am All’ . . .(No 30:11 only) Our Leader says, “Man is never sick, for Mind is not sick and matter cannot be.” (S&H 393: 29-30) Note she says, “matter cannot be.” As I told you earlier, matter has never been discovered. There is no matter. Man is never sick, for Mind is not sick; and man is the full manifestation. Therefore, man is incapable of sickness. This is just simple, divine logic.

You must understand that you are God’s man, and there is only one man. Man is the expression of God’s being, the infinite Principle. This is the only man there is. When you see and understand that there is but one “I” or “Us,” you will have extraordinary success in your healing. “All of Truth is not understood; hence its healing power is not fully demonstrated.” (S. & H. 495:3-5) You remember the quotation, “Centuries will intervene...”? Well, we have not yet skipped over the intervening centuries; but progress is the law, and we are certainly progressing.

Constant study of Mrs. Eddy’s works takes us away from argument and process into the clear realization of divine Science. In the realm of Christian Science, the shackles loosen and fall away. Man gains his freedom. Eliminating argument and process, you become healers. Your work becomes instant – in season and out of season; you just naturally heal. Mrs. Eddy says, “It was the consummate naturalness of Truth in the mind of Jesus, that made his healing easy and instantaneous .” (Mis. 200:1-3) You can naturally do the same thing, unabashed, unrestrained, and with conviction. Now heal the sick as Jesus commanded.

Mrs. Eddy says, “...Good healing is today the acme of ‘well done;’ a healing that is not guesswork, – chronic recovery ebbing and flowing,

– but instantaneous cure. This absolute demonstration of Science must be revived.” (Mis. 355:6-9) Note “must be revived.” Who is to “do this reviving” of instantaneous healing but you? You are equipped; you have the capacity. Admit this fearlessly. You are the evidence of God, – the word of God. You are the sermon, the best one set forth today. The textbook says, “When the omnipotence of God is preached and His absoluteness is set forth, Christian sermons will heal the sick.” (S&H 345: 7-9) I know that you know the omnipotence of God, - and you can set forth the absoluteness of God. This is treatment. This heals.

“Body cannot be saved except through Mind.” (S&H 98:7-8) What a wonderful statement this is! “Body cannot be saved except through Mind.” You have to see that all is Mind. That is the only way to heal. Body is not Mind and something else. You can save it only by seeing the allness of Mind. It is Mind and nothing else. We know that “the only logical conclusion is that all is Mind and its manifestation...” We know that all we behold is Mind appearing, even to the “potato-patch.” (See Mis. 26: 5-8)

The Scriptures say, “...Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?” (Matt. 9:4, 5) Jesus saw clearly that God knows not disease. The man was healed, and it made no difference what Jesus said – whether “Your sins are forgiven” or “Pick up your bed.” One of our hymns says, “Where’r he went affliction fled, The sick were healed, the hungry fed. He spoke the word and raised the dead.” (Hymnal, 388)

Suppose a patient comes to you. He says he has a claim. Who do you treat for the claim, – the patient or yourself? Neither. The claim must be cast out of mortal consciousness by Christ and so destroyed. The patient has no claim, you have no claim, and God certainly has no claim. Then it is simply a mortal mind claim, and the Christ about the claim is what destroys the claim. Suppose, for instance, there is a claim to meet. God certainly has no claim. You as God’s idea have no claim. Then where is the claim? It is simply animal magnetism, a belief that a claim exists. Then handle animal magnetism, and the claim is gone. You have unmasked it. God is omnipresent.

“Science reveals the glorious possibilities of immortal man, forever unlimited by the mortal senses.” (S.& H. 288:27-28).

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