

April 10, 2006 – Subject: The Doctrine of Atonement.

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 article by Wentworth Byron Winslow.

THE BOOK OF LIFE; GOD’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The word “author” is defined as "One who creates, produces, or brings into being. ‘God is the Author of the universe.’"

The mind which wrote the tale of Robinson Crusoe, created, produced, or brought into being, the world of Robinson Crusoe. This mind could not have created the world of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” because it was not in that mind. The mind of the author was all there was to the characters and everything else in the story. They have no minds nor motivating power of their own apart from that mind of the author, which was their only ego: It equipped them with whatever they had, and enabled them to do whatever they did. Of themselves they could do nothing. Not a blade of grass grew, not a pebble lay upon the beach, nothing whatsoever came to pass without the operation of the mind of the author. The island could not have been equipped with a radio broadcasting station because as is evident, such was not in the author’s mind. The world of Crusoe was but the manifestation of the mind of the story writer, and that which was not in that mind could not be manifested. When anyone saw the world of Crusoe, he perceived only the mind which wrote the book, or that mind manifesting or revealing itself. There was no separate creation apart from that mind. There were not two, the manifestor and the manifestation, but one only, the manifestor in action or the mind which wrote the book in manifestation or being seen. Even Defoe whom we are accustomed to term the author, was but a character also, even as Crusoe. Defoe was not the author, but the mind which wrote the book was the author, and Defoe was but a character which as an amanuensis wrote into the book that which the author, mind, dictated. True Defoe was not in the story, but had the author wished

to have him in it, he could have done so. The mind which wrote the story was not Defoe's mind only, but the mind which was Defoe's mind, was likewise the mind of everything else in the tale, and in fact was the mind of many other characters in other books which Defoe wrote at the command of the author.

Everything on the island was in perfect synchronization because everything was controlled by the mind which wrote the story. If Crusoe, Friday or the cannibals had possessed minds of their own, there would not have been that perfect coordination. The cannibals might have landed sooner, or Crusoe might have been too late to rescue Friday and so the tenor of the whole story might have been changed; but because everything was governed by the mind of the author, everything occurred just as designed.

The mind of the author created Crusoe, Friday, their mothers and fathers, and everything else in the tale, but there was never anything to Crusoe, or any other character or thing, save only mind, the author. Everything in the book, every character, every action woven into the story, were the manifestation of mind, the author, and only that could be in the story which that mind elected to be in it. Everything depended on that mind. It was the universal mind of everything in the Crusoe world. Crusoe never spoke, the dog never barked, the rifle never cracked, but only mind, the author did these things or anything else that occurred. All was that mind in manifestation, and this creation added nothing whatsoever to the mind which wrote the book, for it was nothing but that mind revealed.

The Mind which is God spoke the Word, and so wrote the BOOK OF LIFE. John said "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy Book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:16) This BOOK OF LIFE is Mind made manifest. The creation was made by Him, "God is the Author of the universe." The universe and all it contains is simply Mind revealed, or Mind is in manifestation. It is not something apart from Mind, but it is Mind. It is not two but one. "Principle and its idea is (not are) one." (S. & H. 465) "All is infinite

Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all." (Ibid 468) The creation is Mind revealed, and that which we term creation is really a revelation, or Mind revealing itself. It is God's autobiography, "Was not this a revelation instead of a creation?" (Ibid 504) is the Word of God broadcast through Mrs. Eddy. God, Mind, could not make a material universe, for the very same reason that the author of the story of Crusoe could not create the world of Uncle Tom. A material universe is not in the Mind which is God, Spirit, nor was Uncle Tom in the mind which created Robinson Crusoe. God could not equip His creation with poverty, disease, death, or other evils, nor with materiality, because they are not in Mind. God "is of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." (Hab I) This creation of God, the Holy City, is Mind in manifestation, and there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's BOOK OF LIFE." That which is not in Mind cannot be manifested.

Whence then came matter, sin, disease, death, pain and other evils? It maybe said that they never did come, but that the human mind equips the universe with them and that only in belief. The mind of the Crusoe story did not equip Crusoe, the other characters, the island or the things there on, with matter. It was the reader the onlooker, or the human mind which did all this; and that not in reality, for when the human mind of the reader clothed the world of Crusoe with materiality, there was no more matter to it than when the mind of the author originally set it forth solely as idea entirely devoid of matter of any kind whatsoever. The human mind or the onlooker or reader of the BOOK OF LIFE alone clothes the spiritual world, the world of ideas, and the characters thereof likewise ideas, with materiality and the things which go with it but inasmuch as the universe is but the manifestation of Mind there is really no more matter to the real universe than there was matter to the world of Crusoe as a result of the human mind of the reader equipping it with materiality in thought. "Mortal mind inverts the true likeness, and confers animal names and natures upon its own misconceptions." (S. & H. 512) God or Mind manifests itself, and this manifestation is creation, a creation of Mind's ideas, wholly spiritual and of Mind and never material. In

fact Mind and its manifestation is but one and not two. It is Mind in manifestation or revealed.

The mind which wrote the Crusoe story controlled the world of Crusoe with all that pertained thereto in perfect coordination because there was no other mind apart from mind, the author, to do anything; and similarly everything in this wonderful world of ours in which “we live and move and have our being” (Acts:17) is governed by the one Mind, “the only I, or Us” (S. & H. 591) the “I AM” ...“the only Ego” (Ibid 588) or God, and is perfectly coordinated, and none has any other mind apart from the one Mind. Jesus said “Of myself I can do nothing. It is the Father that doeth the works” and again “My Father worketh hitherto and I work,” and still again “My doctrine (teaching) is not mine but His that sent me. If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory, but he that seeketh His glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” The world and its characters do nothing of themselves. Mind governs and controls all. “By its own volition, not a blade of grass springs up, not a spray buds within the vale, not a leaf unfolds its fair outlines, not a flower starts from its cloistered cell” (S. & H. 191); “He (Mind) maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He (Mind) leadeth me beside the still waters” (Psalm 23). Creation of itself does nothing, for it is simply Mind made manifest. Mind does all, and is all.

There is no other mind to reply to Mind eternally broadcasting “I made you, I create all things. I am omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, the only Life, Love, action, substance, and intelligence of the universe.” There is no other mind which can say that man was born of a woman; that he has a mind of his own apart from and independent of the one Mind; that man sees, hears, smells, tastes, feels, acts or is conscious apart from the one Mind. It is as impossible for this to be so, as it would be impossible for Crusoe to aver that he was born of a woman in contradistinction to the fact that he was created by the mind of the author, as were all the other people and things in the tale. Crusoe was never equipped with a mind of his own apart from the mind of the author of the story, and man was never equipped with a mind separate from the one Mind or God.

Mind governs the world, controls it, and does so in perfect harmony. Mind equips this world with whatever it has, gives it Life, Love, substance, intelligence, and whatsoever it requires in order that it may function properly, but the title never passes from Mind to the universe, nor from God to man: and although "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" the control and ownership forever inheres in Mind the "I AM".

Mind writes into this BOOK OF LIFE whatever is good, and the instant that Mind writes into the book any good thing quite irrespective of what it may be, at that instant it is manifested. It is sometimes said "I must not outline." This is true of course about man, but not about the Ego or "I", Mind, or God; for the fact is that Mind must outline, but Mind is the "I", the only "I". If the mind of the Crusoe story had not outlined it, there would have been no Crusoe world at all. Crusoe himself could not outline anything "Mind... outlines but is not outlined." (S. & H. 591) Mind the "I" outlines or there would be no BOOK OF LIFE, and no world; but man or creation cannot and does not outline. As the mind of the author outlined the whole procedure in the world of Crusoe, so Mind, God, outlines the whole procedure in this world. Otherwise there would be no manifestation, nothing to manifest. If it seemed part of the story to give Crusoe wealth, all that the mind of the author would have to do would be to write into the story that Crusoe finds a great cache of gold. It is just an idea or series of ideas in the mind of the author. There is nothing out of which to make the gold, no matter of any kind – just an idea. The human mind of the reader clothes the idea with matter, gives it ponderosity, dimensions and color, but there is no more matter, weight, color or size to it when this is done, than when it was an idea in the mind of the author. Where did the author get it? Where did God get the universe? "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen 1) God created the sun, moon, stars, earth and all that therein is. Where did He get them? From nowhere, out of nothing other than Mind. They were simply ideas in Mind. There they were and there they remain forever. They were not something apart from Mind. They were Mind, – Mind in manifestation; nothing more than was already there. "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." (Isaiah 65) They never were material. Job says "He (Mind) stretcheth out the north over the empty

place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” Yet when one needs something, money perhaps, he feels that he must earn it, get it from somewhere, out of the bank, out of the ground, or in some other way obtain it from some place. How foolish! “He (Mind) hangeth the earth upon nothing!” Surely the one Mind which does this may be trusted to continue the good work at least in-so-far as the so-called necessities of life are concerned. Mind can write whatever good it desires into the BOOK OF LIFE and it is instantly manifested.

We would perceive this if we would but let the “I” go unto the Father, Mind, rather than to continue to misplace the “I” elsewhere in creation where it does not belong. To be conscious of the fact that Mind is the only Ego, the I AM, the only Mind, the “only I, or Us” (S. & H. 591) of all creation, and to give Mind all power, all Love, all intelligence, and to be “aware that Mind is the only substance, the only health, peace, supply, the “All-in-all” (S. & H. 468) is to let the “I” go unto the Father, Mind. This is what Jesus referred to when he said “I and my Father are one.” It is to take the “I” from where we have misplaced it, mistaken it, and return it to the Father, Mind. This misplacement is all there is to sin. The word translated into the English scriptures as “sin” simply means “to miss” or “to miss the mark” to misplace the “I”! to mistake it from God, Mind, and put it into man or created things thus becoming a sinner “who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator” (Romans 1) To do this, to believe that power, Life, Love, intelligence, substance, health, supply and other truly spiritual things are inherent in or dependent on created things (material or spiritual matters not in the least) is to become a sinner, one who has misplaced the “I”, or “missed the mark,” an onlooker or prodigal, and as such will find himself wandering in a far country, far, far away from the Kingdom of God, and where no man can give unto him, for the simple reason that man has not and never will have anything to give, inasmuch as everything belongs to God, Mind, and there in that far country, the prodigal will feed on the husks of his own making, as a result of letting the “I” go away from the Father Mind.

The remedy is “I will arise and go to my Father” (unto Mind) to return the “I” unto the Father where it belongs and this is the simple meaning of the “Greek word “soteria” translated into the scriptures as

“salvation”. It means “a safe return” to the Father and as this is done one no longer beholds from the standpoint of the human mind, but from that of the Author, God, or Mind. Then the Father seeing him afar off, will come to him and greet him with a kiss of welcome, give to him the gold ring of authority and dominion, the new shoes of spiritual understanding, the best robe of undivided allegiance to the one Mind, kill the fatted calf, indicative of unfailing supply at all times of all that is good, and restore him to his rightful place in the Kingdom of God, as Mind in manifestation.

“Thine, oh Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine: Thine is the Kingdom, oh Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of Thee and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.” (First Chronicles 29/11 to 13)

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