

**January 30, 2006 – Subject: Spirit.**

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: Helen M. Wright's MARY BAKER EDDY INSTITUTE LETTER #12.

**MARY BAKER EDDY INSTITUTE Letter 12 (excerpts)**

**THE SYSTEM**

Seen in the classified section of a local newspaper:

“Illiterate? Write today for free help.”

Are you illiterate in the “system” of Christian Science Yes? Then you are in the company of nearly six billion people today. This fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy that” the remnant shall be small and very feeble.”

Why is the remnant so small and feeble?

Mrs. Eddy advised, “Work, work, work, watch and pray.” Are we making excuses to hide our laziness? Or worse, are we reluctant to give up the comfort and seeming pleasure of our errors? Are we like the two shipwrecked sailors adrift on a raft in the ocean? When they had just about given up hope of rescue, one began to pray loudly: “O, Lord, I’ve led a worthless life. I’ve neglected my children and been unkind to my wife, but if you’ll save me, I promise I...”

“Hold it!” the other shouted, “I think I see land!”

Like the sailors we can take hope. The Promised Land is in sight, and we can reach it, *if* we overcome our own laziness and our attachment to error. Though the moment seems dark and the prophecies dire, if you read the last page of the Bible you will see it turns out all right.

Even now, help is at hand. In the year 1866 Mary Baker Eddy’s experiences led her to discover the “system” that heals every discord

by revealing our oneness with Love and all good. This “*system*,” which Mrs. Eddy denominated Christian Science, all can learn, and *all* eventually *will* learn, just as everyone has learned that the earth is round and not flat and as all today can learn the Science of mathematics. But we must make the effort to learn it just as we today learn the science of mathematics.

Mrs. Eddy humbly said, “I am not the door through which to enter, nor the rock upon which to build, but what God has spoken to this age through me [through her own true Mind, ‘the kingdom of God’ within” her consciousness] is the way and sure foundation, and no man enters by any other way into Christian Science.”

In teaching Christian Science, our Leader quickly found that, “Apart from the usual opposition to everything new, the one great obstacle to the reception of that spirituality, through which the understanding of Mind-science comes, is the inadequacy of material terms for metaphysical statements (S. & H. 114:32).” To overcome this problem, she worked long and hard to give us – through divine Science – seven terms for God, and to define them and their relation to each other, and how they operate.

How was the infinite subject of mathematics reduced to a system that any child can learn and demonstrate? Many thousands of years ago someone must have conceived that what today we call the infinite subject of mathematics could be reduced to a system, just as Mary Baker Eddy, through divine revelation, learned that the infinity of our true being could be reduced to a system that all could learn and understand.

That person, thousands of years ago, could have begun by counting the ten fingers of his two hands, and named them 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. And, gradually (guided by the one Mind) he learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide. That grew into the system of mathematics that each child can learn in school.

In the same way the Science of our being will some day be taught in all schools and then, – like Shakespeare wrote, we can be in any place as soon as think it. Through Mary Baker Eddy’s great discovery of the Science of our being “Mankind [will] awaken to their present

owner-ship of all good” (My. 356:1). To help this awakening there will be much spiritual education to come in the vast invisible land of the Internet, where the Mary Baker Eddy Institute has put the first and last editions of Science and Health, as well as Prose Works and Mrs. Eddy’s Church Manual.

### **Numerous Revisions Bring System To Textbook**

Think of Mary Baker Eddy providing 432 editions! What a sacred and painstaking labor of love! Why did Mary Baker Eddy devote so much time, energy and thought to revising Science and Health? Through these numerous revisions of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy worked carefully to bring the system of Christian Science to full expression.

Finally, with changes made in June, 1907, she brought the entire textbook – the greatest book that has ever been written – into a divine God-governed system that can be learned and demonstrated like that of mathematics and music. Having perfected this “system,” Mrs. Eddy did not renew her copyright on her final edition of Science and Health; henceforth a copyright was no more needed for the Christian Science textbook than it is needed for mathematics or music.

What was the crowning, essential touch that brought the system to full perfection? In 1907, after forty-four years of arduous work, Mary Baker Eddy gave you and me and all mankind a definitive statement of what we really are, when she penned the most momentous sentence ever written in the history of mankind.

What was this sentence? It was her answer to the question, “What is God?”

It said: “God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love.”

### **What You Are In Reality**

Why is this definition of God so vitally important?

It tells you not only what God is, but also what, in reality, you are....

A student recorded that Mrs. Eddy told a class that upon the truth of these terms for God rests the basis of the Science; in fact, they are the Science.” To another class Mrs. Eddy said, “Upon the Truth of these terms for God, rests the whole structure of Christian Science” (Mis. Doc. pp. 61 & 84).

Here we see how the first and last editions of Science and Health work together to open our perfect understanding of Science. After finishing the last edition of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy turned to Laura Sargent and said, there, Laura, I have hidden it and hidden it and hidden it and if I hide it any more they will never find it.” What had she hidden? She had hidden what she plainly, outspokenly – like the lion’s roar, – proclaimed in the first edition: “You are the Principle, Love,” because “the kingdom of heaven is within you” – is your true Mind and consciousness....

The last edition reduces to human comprehension what God had revealed to Mary Baker Eddy in the first edition. This is why it is so necessary to study the first edition as well as the last. “God wrote the textbook,” Mrs. Eddy said, “I only held the pen.”

It may take a thousand years for all humanity to fully understand the system Mary Baker Eddy has laid out, or hidden, in the textbook; but it is there, and it will be learned, just as we all have learned that the earth is round and not flat as everyone believed only five hundred years ago, and just as we all have learned the science of mathematics.

### **What Happened When People Realized The Earth Was Round?**

In Science and Health (p. 268:1) Mrs. Eddy tells us, “In the material world, thought has brought to light many useful wonders. With like activity have thought’s swift pinions been rising to the realm of the real, to the spiritual cause of those lower things which give impulse to inquiry.”

When people realized that the earth wasn’t flat, that it was round, vast new worlds opened up for mankind; an era of unprecedented discovery was ushered in. Five hundred years ago no one knew the earth was round. Today we all know it, and this knowledge has transformed every aspect of our lives.

Now we are on the brink of a new understanding that will bring about an even more momentous transformation, stripping away many more limitations.

### **What is this discovery?**

We are realizing that the world isn't material. Mankind is nearing the end of the material sense of things. A few hundred years from now humanity will be saying: "Just think! Five hundred years ago people thought they lived in a matter body! Can you believe it? They must have been living in a cave!"

Yes, the material sense of things is coming to an end as thought is being spiritualized. Mrs. Eddy tells us that in proportion as man including the universe is translated back into Spirit all will be found harmonious and perfect. (S. & H. 209)

The end of the material senses is as inevitable as the end of the flat earth.

We see the end of the material sense of things in what our physical scientists are finding and teaching. The Wall Street Journal ran an article that said there are signs that physical scientists are becoming theologians. And daily we read of medical doctors telling their patients that it's all in the mind; "get rid of hate" worry, fear and all wrong thinking and you will recover."

All the wonders of the last five hundred years of human progress are as nothing compared to what lies ahead for us. Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy healed the sick and raised the dead. They transcended the seeming limits of time and space and matter. "Human theories are inadequate to interpret the divine Principle involved in the miracles wrought by Jesus and especially in his mighty, crowning, unparalleled, and triumphant exit from the flesh" (S&H 117:19).

When once we learn the "system" incorporated in the textbook, we too, like Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, will do the marvelous things they did. The possibilities are endless....

We are no longer living in a cave or in the theological age. We have come to the scientific age where Science has a "system." (See S&H 146:31). We have come to the age of thinkers...



## Words Mrs. Eddy uses to describe aspects of SPIRIT: SPIRIT

|                 |                |                    |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| ability         | faith          | progress           |
| adores          | firmament      | purity             |
| appear          | fruit          | quality            |
| baptism         | focus          | reality            |
| blesses         | good gratitude | reflection         |
| birth           | incubator      | regenerates        |
| chain           | illumination   | reigns             |
| chemicalization | leaven         | separates          |
| (Soul/Spirit)   | language       | spiritual strength |
| Christianity    | likeness       | spiritual warfare  |
| conception      | love           | substance          |
| creates         | nature         | supreme            |
| (Spirit/Mind)   | offspring      | (Spirit/Mind)      |
| day             | only           | understanding      |
| dedication      | order          | (Soul/Spirit)      |
| devotion        | patience       | unfoldment         |
| develop         | positive       | warmth             |
| discerns        | prism          | worship            |

## OPPOSITES OF SPIRIT

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| absorption  | materiality |
| animal dust | matter      |
| evil        | mingles     |
| electricity | physical    |
| flesh       |             |

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