

March 27, 2006 – Subject: Unreality.

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: John Doorly's. Talk on the Science of The Bible - Volume VII.

The Significance of the Firmament

Before we go any further, I want to remind you of what Mrs. Eddy says about the second day in Genesis and the symbol of the firmament. To me this is super-important, and it shows so clearly the futility of so-called higher metaphysics, which says that because God is all there is only one universe, and, that therefore the material universe is a dim sense of that one universe. It isn't anything of the kind. It is no more our dim sense of the divine universe than $2 + 2 = 5$ is a dim sense of mathematics. $2 + 2 = 5$ is no sense of mathematics, it is "nonsense." Unless we people get this question clear in our thought we won't go anywhere at all; we shall just have mingling, and mingling is the curse of metaphysics.

So Mrs. Eddy writes of this second day: "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.' Spiritual understanding, by which human conception, material sense, is separated from Truth, is the firmament. The divine Mind, not matter, creates all identities, and they are forms of Mind, the ideas of Spirit apparent only as Mind, never as mindless matter nor the so-called material senses. "And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.' Spirit imparts the understanding which uplifts consciousness and leads into all truth. The Psalmist saith: 'The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. 'Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good. Understanding is the line of demarcation between the real and unreal. Spiritual understanding unfolds Mind, – Life, Truth, and Love, – and

demonstrates the divine sense, giving the spiritual proof of the universe in Christian Science...God's ideas reflect the immortal, unerring, and infinite. The mortal, erring, and finite are human beliefs, which apportion to themselves a task impossible for them, that of distinguishing between the false and the true." Only Spirit can discern between the false and the true, nothing else can. "Objects utterly unlike the original do not reflect that original. Therefore matter, not being the reflection of Spirit, has no real entity" (S. & H. 505:4-25, 28-5).

If the carnal mind could have made a universe more unlike God's universe than the material universe, it would have done so. Mrs. Eddy says that "from first to last, the body is a sensuous, human concept" (S. & H. 177: 13-14). God's man is idea, the mortal man is belief. God's idea is infinite; the mortal man is finite. God's idea is spiritual; the mortal man is material. God's idea is from everlasting to everlasting; mortal man begins, gets sick, and dies. And so in every way "human conception, material sense," is as unlike reality as it can be. So for goodness sake don't let's try to draw conclusions about reality from the material universe, because if we do, we shall be drawing our conceptions of reality from the only hell there is, the hell of materiality. Unless we have a firmament, unless we have that spiritual understanding which separates human conception, material sense, from Truth, we shall never go anywhere.

The Firmament: Some New Testament Illustrations

I have been reading a good deal in the New Testament recently, and I have been very much struck by some of the things which are said there about this same question. For example, Matthew writes: "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest

while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matt. 13: 24-30). You cannot gather the wheat until you are able to destroy the tares, and you have to destroy those tares scientifically and metaphysically. Until you have gained that sense of metaphysics which is not only subjective, but has authority and dominion, so that it enables you through the Christ translation to analyze, uncover, and annihilate error in various phases, you can’t demonstrate reality, you can’t gather the wheat into the barn.

Mrs. Eddy says exactly the same thing in “Retrospection and Introspection.” She writes: “Since there is in belief an illusion termed sin, which must be met and mastered, we classify sin, sickness, and death as illusions. They are supposititious claims of error; and error being a false claim, they are no claims at all. It is scientific to abide in conscious harmony, in health-giving, deathless Truth and Love. To do this, mortals must first open their eyes to all the illusive forms, methods, and subtlety of error, in order that the illusion, error, may be destroyed; if this is not done, mortals will become the victims of error” (Ret. 64: 20-29).

The same thought is also expressed by Paul in his Epistle to the Thessalonians, where he writes: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come,”— the day of the Christ, — “except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.... For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let,”— that is, “he who hinders will hinder,”— until he be taken out of the way.” How are you going to take the belief of evil in its myriad manifestations “out of the way?” You must take it out of the way just as you take mistakes out of mathematics, or inharmonies out of music. You must do it scientifically, systematically, little by little, “precept upon precept,” and you can’t side step it, it’s impossible. The Science of divine metaphysics comes to show you how, through “line upon line; here a little, and there a little,” to analyze, uncover, and annihilate the

myriad claims of the human mind, and nobody has any chance of demonstrating reality until he learns to do that. Time and time again in my own humble experience I have proved the truth of that. For instance, the other day I had to help a case in which the governing error was a claim of heredity. That case was healed, but I couldn't have touched it if I hadn't known what the claim was. Because it was a claim of heredity, it could only be healed through an understanding of the one parent Mind; nothing could touch it but that.

And so until we learn through Christ to analyze, uncover, and annihilate evil, we shall not be able to demonstrate Christianity, to use the firmament. Now, the people who are straining at what they call higher metaphysics, are trying to do without Christ as the "divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error," and to do without Christianity as that which obliterates the mortal concept. Consequently they are not proving the unreality of sin, disease, and death – they are just *saying* that these are unreal, which doesn't prove it at all.

What proves the unreality of mistakes in mathematics is an *understanding* of the categories of mathematics. What proves the unreality of discords in music is an *understanding* of the harmonies of music. And so what disproves the errors of the human mind, which we call sin, disease, and death, materiality, is an *understanding* of the divine infinite calculus of God's ideas in divine metaphysics, and nothing else will.

Our last selection is from Helen Wright's book *Made Whole Through Our Marriage to God*.

CHAPTER 1

THE JOURNEY BEFORE US

The Path to Wholeness

We are starting out on a great and glorious God-inspired, God-led adventure into the land of our marriage to the infinite good we call God – into the land of Christian Science, the ultimate revelation

concerning what we already *ARE* in reality, but are unaware of. "...with sandals on and staff in hand, waiting for the watchword and the revelation of what, how, whither," let us be faithful and obedient, and "God will do the rest" (Mis. 158:20).

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