

**November 27, 2006 – Subject: God the Only Cause and Creator.**

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 Richard Claude Haw.

**THE TRUE VIEW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT**

People have probably always wondered about the causes of things. In primitive times through superstition, mankind often attributed causation to evil spirits, but nowadays, as facilities leading to clearer reasoning have developed, they tend to be more scientific or practical.

In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, writes: "Reason is the most active human faculty." But reasoning must start with a right premise. Reason based on the premises of material law and substance, and the reality of evil, is not true reasoning and cannot advance mankind out of the limitations inherent in material views of the universe. It cannot do so because it cannot rise above these limitations. Christian Science teaches that correct reasoning starts with God as the creator and governor of the universe. This process shows us the true, or spiritual view, of all-substance, life, intelligence, law, and causation, which in turn must show forth the nature and character of God, Spirit, Mind, good. Mrs. Eddy states:

"Reality is spiritual, harmonious, immutable, immortal, divine, eternal." (ibid) nothing claiming to have any opposite qualities can be real.

The source of evil has always puzzled thinkers; but because people are so concerned with trying to find a cause for evil or unreality, they remain in evil's clutches. According to Christian Science, anything not wholly good is not of God, and therefore is not real. Its nature is similar to that of a mathematical error. Can a mathematical error be said to be real? Where does it come from? Where does it go when corrected? If it is real, it should be unchanging; but would it then be possible to correct it? Mathematical error never, in fact, came from anywhere or goes anywhere when corrected. In the light of the truth, it simply

disappears. It is merely a mistake about mathematical reality, and it can cause trouble only as long as it is believed.

Both the believer in a material cause – mortal mind – and the belief are unreal. There is no cause in matter or in mortal mind. Cause is in God, divine Mind, alone, and it is entirely good, harmonious, spiritual, and perfect. It follows that the effect of this wholly good and spiritual cause must express God's qualities. The manifest form of an idea coexists with the Mind that creates it; therefore, in Science, one does not precede the other.

Nothing can be added to God's creation. In the first chapter of Genesis, we read the true account of creation. The last verse of this chapter states: "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." In the second and following chapters of Genesis, a mythical material creation involving evil and mesmerism is described. It is noteworthy that there is no record in the Scriptures of Adam ever having awakened from this false hypnotic dream. What is needed today is an awakening to reality on the part of mankind – a spiritual illumination that dispels the error of belief in evil and materiality.

The Bible tells us, "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." God's real spiritual creation is good and complete, and that which appears to us as our seeming human environment is but the expression of our present limited degree of unfoldment or understanding.

Christ Jesus himself showed the cause or origin of good when he said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." He also showed convincingly the mythical origin of evil when he spoke of the devil, evil, as follows: "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." If there is no truth in evil, we hardly need waste our time in seeking a cause for it.

It is vitally important in the practice of Christian Science to see through the attempts of animal magnetism, or suppositional evil mind, to find a cause for material phenomena, sin, disease, and limitation of

all kinds. No sooner has a so-called cause been found, that one then gives both the effect and the cause reality in his consciousness. Wrong thinking is an error that breeds error.

Sometimes it is helpful to know the error of thought underlying a malady, but the only purpose should be to correct the wrong thought with the truth. Psychology today seems to be emphasizing mental causes for physical ailments, but this is done within the context of belief in evil's reality. However, it is important for us to recognize that both materially mental cause and effect are powerless, erroneous beliefs. This is so because God, Spirit, good, is All, and the real man is made in His image and likeness. Good is omnipresent.

The need is always for more enlightenment, or understanding of spiritual reality. When one stands in the sun, a shadow is cast. This shadow has no substance, and neither have the shadowy beliefs of error substance, no matter how real they may appear to be. A shadow, however, implies light and a material object partially obscuring it. The shadow, however, is the result of the object's standpoint or position in relation to the light. In absolute spiritual being all is light, and there is no obstructing object, no darkness or shadow, no evil, sin, disease, or death. The light of Truth fills all space. As we awake to this fact, we shall see that all causation is in God, and every effect Godlike – good.

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