

**October 3, 2005 – 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 Ronald A. Klette

**GOD IS ALL**

(Association Address)

By Ronald A. Klette

In the beginning God! These are the first four words in the Bible, and a good beginning to this address and to every thing we do. Understood, they are the solution to all the world's problems. Mrs. Eddy says, "The infinite has no beginning. The word beginning is employed to signify the only, – that is, the eternal verity and unity of God and man, including the universe." (S&H 502:24) Indeed, I would say that the first four words and the last word in the Bible embrace the whole of the Bible and Science and Health – in the beginning, God, amen. Just like that, that is all we need to know!

Just think of it, just God, nothing but God, only God, infinite God and nothing else! When was something added to this all-God, and when added, where did it come from? When was anything taken away from this all-God, and when taken away, where was it placed, this bit of God that was taken away? Silly questions to begin with, aren't they? But how many of us are not believing that just these things have happened and are happening many times in the course of our daily rounds?

I have a practitioner friend who in the past has left me quite frustrated on many occasions by her refusal to talk about anything but God. Her reason? I can assure you it is a very good one: she says there is nothing else to talk about! I used to get quite annoyed with her, but gradually over a period of years, I have arrived at the conclusion

that she is right. What else is there to talk about? Is there God and something else? I won't ask you to answer that question to me, just answer it to yourselves, and here I believe that I can do no better than quote from Miscellaneous Writings (177:19), "Answer at once and practically, and answer aright."

The answer can leave no room whatever for maneuvering or compromise or sidestepping. It throws a challenge right at us. It forbids us to say or think any "ifs" or "buts"! It is so or it isn't. What do you say? Remember; before you answer, there can be no compromise. There isn't God and something else, or...well, what do you say? Is there anything else at all? A very wonderful word that very small word "is"! It can only be applied to God. If God is, and He is, then anything else isn't, anything else isn't! I hope you will all take this home with you. In your thought tonight and think it over. Perhaps you will think yourselves into a corner, which you will not be able to get out of.

Just think of it, only infinite Mind to think as. God is your Mind: then don't think about Mind, think as Mind! Just Spirit to deal in, no matter to move in or about! Just a permanent residence in your soul, no soul living in your body ready to flyaway at any moment to some place called heaven – or the other place. (Don't many of us still feel that we may be going some place some day?) Just a great infinite Principle, which is forever conscious of us and with which we are one, without any effort or struggle on our part? Just a Life which is eternal now and ever present and which is such pure Life that there is not even the tiniest taint of death in it; no death day to worry about; pleasant thought? Ah, but no birthday to celebrate either! Just a wonderful Truth, which is actually everywhere and is everything that is – and could Truth be anything but pure good? A Truth that, even if we catch a glimmer of it, establishes itself in our experience effortlessly by its own irresistible power and presence. Said Jesus, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." How about Love? Mrs. Eddy said, "What a word! I am in awe of it. Over what worlds on worlds it hath range and is sovereign! The underived, the incomparable, the infinite All of good, the alone God, is Love." (Mis. 249:28) Do we have doubts that God is Love? Could the one and only Creator take a dislike to His own creation, to Himself and

begin to hate it? It is true that what is not pure love, is hate, for only absolute purity applies to God.

My very first experience of what the realization of the allness of God can do occurred right at the beginning of my practice, when I was sitting with some trepidation waiting for my phone to ring for the first time. When it did, I nearly fell off my chair. It was a call for help from a complete stranger, who could hardly speak and was apparently completely incapacitated by pains in the head and vomiting. Well, I frankly admit that I was by then in no mental condition to give a treatment. But not knowing what else I could do, I began to pace up and down the floor declaring out loud the absolute allness of God and the nothingness of any kind of sickness. I said to the world at large, "I refuse to accept anything in any direction whatsoever that contradicts the allness and the goodness of God." All this was done at the top of my voice while pacing up and down the floor. Every time any suggestion of the error tried to enter my consciousness, I rejected it and almost shouted the totality of God. I was far from calm, but I persisted in rejecting the error and declaring the allness of God.

After about twenty minutes of this, I could not go on any more. But it was not long before the patient phoned to say she had been healed and had spent the day doing all sorts of things she had not been able to do for a long time. It is only right to mention here that this was not the end of the problem. This illness had been troubling the patient for years, and although she had much help in Science, only very temporary relief had been experienced. She had been completely floored every three or four days living in fear of the attacks and was pretty desperate with it all. But the sudden attack on the error this time with the vigorous declaration of the allness of God, had broken the mesmerism, and within about three months she was completely healed.

Now, there were several lessons to be learned from this healing. One, that no matter what state of mind one appears to be in, God is always available and His help is never withheld. We should never say we can't give a treatment because we are not in the right frame of mind. We don't do the work, the Truth does, and this was positive proof, of that. Also, no matter what the circumstances, God is always

All. We just have to declare it and realize it. Whether we feel responsible or not, whether we are afraid or not, God still does the work and the results will always give us confidence. If we can't appeal to God because we are told we are not in the right frame of mind, or because we feel afraid (and I know that there are those who would lead us to believe that we can't expect a healing until we get rid of the fear), then how will we ever get in touch with God, for we have to get in touch with God before we can get rid of the fear. Go forward, never mind the obstacles. Trip over them. Fall over them. But go forward whether you are up or down! I have, of course, never forgotten this experience, and basically, I still believe it is the right way to give a treatment, although I am happy to tell you that I do not make so much noise about it any more.

### **God (There is None Else)**

Isaiah writes (45), "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord and there is none else. For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else. Tell ye, and bring them near; Yea, let them take council together: Who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

I quote at length because it seems that Isaiah was a prophet in close touch with his Maker at all times, and his use of the terms "I AM" and "there is none else" with such absolute assurance is fraught with meaning. It is obvious that when giving a treatment, Isaiah was in the habit of listening for God's voice and allowing this spiritual sense of the Almighty declaring Himself to do the work for him. When God spoke to him, Isaiah heard God speaking to him and saying, "I AM". It seems that Isaiah simply repeated to the Israelites God's words as they came to him and as he actually heard them. In this attitude of listening and hearing God declare Himself, Isaiah must have been absolutely conscious of his unity, his oneness with

God, so much so that any sense of material selfhood, that false sense that claims that we are a separate entity from God, must have been completely eliminated, made to retire to its own background of nothingness — you know, that false sense that says, “There is God, and here am I.”

Isaiah knew that God was his (Isaiah’s) selfhood, his actual Mind.

He knew that the only thoughts that could come to him, had to come from his Mind. He knew he couldn’t tell God anything, for as Mrs. Eddy so clearly saw, “Intercommunication is always from God to His idea man.” (S&H 284:31) So he listened and he heard. He obeyed the instruction of the Christ, “to enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret;” (Matt. 6:6) In other words, he consulted his Mind..

...Nothing is the opposite of something, but nothing is not just empty space. There is no such thing as space: There is only God. Any particular form of evil, be it sin, sickness, or death, is merely a belief that God is absent. Naturally, the absence of God being nothing, this particular absence of God appears in a pictured thought-form of evil which is the very opposite of the phase of God which we believe to be absent. If we have to believe a lie, it can never be a lie about nothing. It has to be a lie about something, about that which is real. Of course, God or good is never absent. We only believe He can be, and this belief is manifested to us in some form of evil. God being infinite, the manifestation in human experience of the belief that He is absent seems to be an infinite variety of evil. This is why a clear realization of the omnipresence and omnipotence of God without any specific denial of a particular form of evil will simply blot out any evil, no matter what form it takes.

Evil is really a positive proof that God, good is real. When Jesus stilled the storm at sea, he just knew the presence of God. He knew the carnal mind was telling a lie about the peace of Mind, about quietness and stillness of the omnipotence. He knew that God was omniaction and the storm faded out for lack of presence and action. Good fits itself to any need or situation. So long as we know that it is good that is present, it will always be in the right form to meet that particular need. We need never worry about the details. God always

takes care of those. Ignorance of the presence of God is not something – it is nothing. When we get down to thinking in this manner, we will find that there is no such thing as an opposite to anything. There are no opposites in creation, in reality.

You may ask, “How do I protect myself against this belief of evil?” Well, I am firmly convinced that the best protection against this plague is a thorough conviction that there is nothing to protect oneself against. If we did everything that everybody told us to do every day for protection work, we would be sitting in a chair doing protection work for ourselves from morning until night and all night too. Be reasonable about this. After all, God is all there is. There cannot be God and some evil presence besides waiting to pounce on us when we are not looking. If the work done by all the Christian Scientists in all the world for the destruction of evil over the last hundred years has been ineffective, then Mrs. Eddy’s labors have been in vain. But rest assured, this work has been effective and much error has been destroyed.

It is the impending destruction of all evil that is causing the upheaval in the world today but bear in mind that Jesus said many years ago, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) He did not feel that he had personally to overcome all the evil in all the world. He knew that it was sufficient for him to overcome the evil only in his own experience.

The realization of your perfection and indestructibility as an idea in Mind and the continual contemplation of the fact that there isn’t God and something else, just God, is your absolute protection from the illusion of evil forces. We do not have to be in a continual state of anticipation of disaster, nor do we have to be in a perpetual state of tension in case we have not done our protection work properly, or in the fear that we have left something out.

Once you have done your initial work, your best protection then is to refuse point blank to accept into your consciousness the mass of fear-producing suggestions, which are continually presenting themselves to you for acceptance, and refuse, to malpractice on your own work. Trust God. Take it easy – I mean in the sense of not allowing yourself to be disturbed. Be happy and joyful, which is

fulfilling your purpose in Life, and this is your best protection. Study carefully what Mrs. Eddy has given us on Page 211 of Miscellany.

### **God Incorporeal, but Not Bodiless**

The very first thing that Mrs. Eddy found it necessary to point out in her definition of God in the chapter in Science and Health entitled "Recapitulation", is that God is incorporeal, that is, without a material body. I believe that this is what she meant for God is not bodiless.

One of the things we learned in class was that man is the body of God. This was, no doubt, to counteract the false concept of God as a benevolent looking, although cranky, type of old man sitting on a throne somewhere up in the sky, meting out justice to some and plenty of injustice to many, – a God who could be angry with His creation, which was so imperfect that it was continually slipping up and doing something wrong and meriting dire punishments, such as plagues, and sickness and droughts. But, of course, we know better than that today. We no longer believe in such a God, do we?

Let us ask ourselves, "Have we really gotten down to thinking out what kind of a god we actually accept as God?" Do we ever say, when we don't feel so good, "I wonder what I have done wrong? I must have allowed a wrong thought to creep into my consciousness." Is this not an acknowledgement of a corporeal God with a creation so imperfect that it has slipped up somewhere and so merits punishment? Is not God your consciousness? Would it not have been better to know this right away, refuse to plead guilty to any crime meriting punishment? Our consciousness, which is God, could not possibly be invaded, so that there is nothing whatever to be punished or deserving punishment. Man is the body of God, and I believe this is the only permissible way we can think of God as having a body, for man truly is the embodiment of God's thinking, just as your body is surely the embodiment of your thinking. God is unconfined.

It would not be out of place here to say a word about that SENSE OF GUILT from which so many people appear needlessly to suffer, either because they feel they have done something wrong in the past, or because they feel they should have done something they didn't do. Some people simply feel guilty for no good reason at all;

not that there ever is any good reason for feeling guilty. Whatever reason anyone may feel they have for entertaining this false sense, I can assure those who feel plagued this way that whatever the cause, God does not know a thing about it and what God knows nothing about He is certainly not going to punish! We arrange our own punishment for everything we do, and everything we don't do! This utterly false and unnecessary feeling is one of the prime stoppers to progress spiritward, and is a complete waste of time. While you are entertaining a sense of guilt, you can't get on with it.

One can never see oneself as the pure image and likeness of God while feeling like some sort of a criminal, and if anyone thinks they are anything but the pure image and likeness of God, they should think again. The man that God made is wholly innocent, and there is no other man. That is the way God made him and he could never be guilty of wrongdoing. You are that man; claim your innocence. The more you do this, the less likely you are to be prone to wrongdoing. Refuse to entertain a sense of guilt. You can do this, you are entitled to do this. Please don't feel guilty simply because you exist. Because you do exist without any effort on your part, you are fulfilling the purpose for which you exist. All you have to do about this is to be happy about it, and this is doing all you are supposed to do.

### **Fear Masquerading as Love**

The carnal mind, pointing to Love, says to us, "That is fear." We instantly picture fear in some form or the other. It could be an accident, a disease, a fight, and this is all we can see until we stop to think and realize that we have been fooled, that because God is all there is to see, what we really have been looking at is God, seen through the distorted lens of fear (false evidence appearing real), but still it is God. Now you and I could, of course, have been just as instant in contradicting the suggestions of the carnal mind by declaring the omnipresence of Love (which, of course, is the Truth) and the consequent absence of fear. We could have said, "I know it is God, for God is all; so it isn't fear; it is Love." We just mustn't give fear an inning; we must not play cricket with the carnal mind. It is up to every dirty trick it can use against us. Could we possibly have said, "I agree, it is fear" when we know that God is all? This does not affirm

that fear is Love, not at all. It simply means that we refuse to recognize that there is anything called fear at all.

Where mortals saw the sinning mortal man, Jesus saw the perfect man of God's creating. He couldn't see that sinning mortal man, because it wasn't there. It also does not mean that because mortals saw a sinning and sick mortal, they were looking at something different to what Jesus was looking at! They were both looking at the same thing. They were both really looking at God, Love. Nobody here can see anything but God anywhere – can you? Principle and its idea is one, and that one is God, and God is all, so what can anyone see but God? Do you want to know how to love instead of fear? – Don't look for people and things. Just look for God. He is there!

Really and truly, all sin, sickness, death, any form of error is only fear in one of its forms trying to emulate the omnipresence of Love. I think it was one of our lecturers who introduced the word fear as "false evidence appearing real." It is false even before it becomes evidence. I do believe this is why Mrs. Eddy said in the chapter in Science and Health on "Christian Science Practice" that we must begin every treatment by allaying the fear of the patient; and she goes on to say that if you can get rid of the fear, the patient is healed, proving that the disease is some form of fear. Further on, she says that if we have done all and the patient is not healed, fear is governing the case. The meaning of the word "fear" has become distorted over the ages. To fear God, meant to love and respect God and it still means just that. If you believe that you feel afraid, just know that it is the carnal mind distorting the appearance of Love in your experience and calling it fear.

Very often, people ask me why this or that has happened to them and I invariably answer them by asking, "What would you do if you fell into a deep hole?" As my question is apparently irrelevant to the problem, I very seldom receive a direct answer. So I ask in turn, "Would you continue sitting on the bottom of the hole wondering how you came to fall in and asking why such a thing happened to you?" Obviously, the answer is that you would not waste any time asking why or how. You would use all the energy and ingenuity at your disposal to get out of the hole as quickly as possible. Don't let

us waste time examining error to find out how it came upon us or even look for a cause. Error has no cause at all and we are not suffering from it and there is only one thing to do about it. Heal it quickly, climb out of the hole as quickly as possible.

Now, as I began with the first four words in the Bible, "IN THE BEGINNING GOD," so I will end with the last word in the Bible - AMEN.

## Your Donations Make It Possible

*Maintaining a site as complex as [www.mbeinstitute.org](http://www.mbeinstitute.org) can be a daunting and costly task, but with the assistance of visitors like yourself, we will be able to continue to provide the quality articles and information you've come to depend on. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and generosity. Please mail or click for secure online transfer of your tax-deductible donation today.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (your receipt will be mailed to this address)

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:* The Mary Baker Eddy Institute  
3350 North Key Drive, #B313  
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

*Secure Online Transfer:* [Paypal](#)

