

October 31, 2005 – Subject: Adam and Fallen Man.

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 excerpt from a Martha Wilcox Association Address, 1944.

It should be our purpose to impart to and impress humanity with what our Father-Mind has revealed of Himself to us of divine Science, and demonstrate this Science in our daily lives and experiences. We have the ability and power from God with which to impress humanity with what divine reason, revelation and demonstration have given us.

No matter how circumscribed our sphere in life may be, we have within ourselves a definite direction to follow, and a divine purpose to fulfill.

There never has been a time in the history of Christian Science when Christian Scientists need so clearly to hear the within voice of Truth, and to know there is nothing external or outside of their own consciousness. Within our individual self is the battlefield, and there too is found the victory. We need to watch our thought that it does not become confused with the issues of the day. We need to be spiritually keen and alert in our thinking. We need to be “undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the material senses” and prove that Science is “still enthroned” (S&H 306:25).

The Coming of the Son of Man

At this hour humanity stands at the threshold of a mental overturning, an overturning unparalleled in human history. Jesus prophesied this hour. He said there would be “upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity” (Luke 21:25). Then followed his prophecy of encouragement and hope in these words: “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven” (Mark 13:26,27).

This prophecy of Christ Jesus, interpreted according to Christian Science, means far more than is seen on the surface. What is the coming of the Son of man?

The Son of man is not a person, but is the expression of the God-Mind in its totality of life, substance, and intelligence. These expressions of life, substance, and intelligence appearing in the highest sense comprehensible to human consciousness, is the coming of the Son of man.

The prophecy reads, “Then shall he send his angels.” This means that God or Mind will send His messages, His mighty mental and spiritual impressions, into the hearts of men at this time, just as He did to the patriarchs and prophets, to Zacharias, to Mary, to the Revelator, and to Mary Baker Eddy, if we are prepared to receive them and desire these saving messages as they did.

These angels are the God-Mind made comprehensible, practical, and visible in the human consciousness of this day. Who can doubt that many are the saving angels that come to men on the battlefield, on the sea, in the air, as well as to the business man, and to the wife or mother in the home, when they in their thinking reach out to God as their only deliverer?

The prophecy reads, He “shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.” God’s elect are not persons, are not saints, are not even those who classify themselves as Christian Scientists. No. The elect are God’s revelations of Himself, revelations of His life, His substance, His intelligence, appearing in our individual experiences. Life, substance, and intelligence are God’s essential qualities or revelations, and are His elect.

God or Mind reveals Himself in His essential quality of life, which gives to God, man, and everything in the universe, the sense of eternal existence. God or Mind reveals Himself in His essential quality of indestructible substance, which gives to God, man and everything

in the universe the eternal sense of dimension or sense of filling space. God or Mind reveals Himself in His essential quality of intelligence, which gives to God, man and everything in the universe the conscious qualities of feeling, knowing, and being.

At this time, God's elect - conscious life, conscious substance, and conscious intelligence, as they are in reality - are appearing in fuller and clearer degrees in our human experience. These spiritual and omnipotent operations of God or Mind, typified by the four winds, is the spiritual understanding that is coming to the human consciousness. This spiritual understanding is coming universally and practically, and is the coming of the Son of man.

Wherever these spiritual and omnipotent operations of God appear in human consciousness - even though in a limited degree, or in the uttermost parts of the earth - right there in that place, God or Mind is gathering together in unity His elect - His infinite qualities of life, substance, and intelligence, as they are in reality - and He is lifting them up to the uttermost parts of heaven, or is lifting these qualities in human consciousness to their highest degree of reality.

Are we, under whatever circumstances, looking within? Are we letting the divine understanding reign and be all? Are we comprehending, and experiencing eternal Life concretely? Are we experiencing the substance of God that is free from all discord and decay? Is our intelligence the pure consciousness of God without restrictions and limitations? If we, as Christian Scientists, are experiencing in some degree these qualities in our daily living, then we have a practical, operative Christianity.

SPIRITUAL POWER

Spiritual power does not just happen to come to us. Spiritual power is forever at hand, but it appears to us only as we put off the material sense of life.

It is natural for us, at times, to long for the quiet days of the past. And some Christian Scientists are content to remain in the same old mental and material grooves. So-called mortal mind tenaciously resists stir and change. Nevertheless progress or higher unfoldment in any field of endeavor, whether economic, educational, or

metaphysical, is not made without launching out into newer and higher modes of thought.

In order to gain spiritual power and fulfill our divine purpose in life, we must prepare our thought. We must educate mortal mind out of itself by bringing every wrong thought in our mentality into captivity, into obedience to Christ, Truth.

Mrs. Eddy spent many years in study, and in the healing of incurable diseases, before she gave to the world Science and Health. Both Mrs. Eddy and Jesus learned to do by doing, and learned to be by being.

Mrs. Eddy sets forth inescapable requirements by which we prepare our thought and gain that higher understanding which gives us spiritual power. She says, "Thought must be spiritualized, in order to apprehend Spirit. It must become honest, unselfish, and pure, in order to have the least understanding of God in divine Science" (Ret 28:9). This is a very emphatic admonition that we as Christian Scientists need to heed.

Spiritualization Through Translation

What is the process through which thought is spiritualized? The process is "the translation of man and the universe back into Spirit" (S&H 209:21). Through translation, we exchange our mode of material thought about man and the universe for a mode of spiritual thought that is the fact of man and the universe. In so doing, we become the spiritual fact of man and the universe. We should take our Concordances and gain a clear understanding of the word 'translation.' Our progress spiritward depends upon the translation of matter into Mind. (See Mis 25:12; 74:15.)

Mrs. Eddy makes the following statement in our textbook, "The compounded minerals or aggregated substances composing the earth, the relations which constituent masses hold to each other, the magnitudes, distances, and revolutions of the celestial bodies, are of no real importance, when we remember that they all must give place to the spiritual fact by the translation of man and the universe back into Spirit" (S&H 209:17). Why are these things of no real importance? Because we do not see these things as they are in

fact. We see only our material concept of them. Mortal mind or the lie has classified these spiritual ideas as matter or objects of material sense, and we, through immortal Mind, must translate the material objects back into their originals until we see them as divine facts.

Let us be honest. How many of us, a few weeks ago, translated the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its rocks back into originals, back into divine ideas, perfect and eternal as Mind? Our textbook says, "Spiritually interpreted, rocks and mountains stand for solid and grand ideas" (S&H 511:24). How many of us translated the hidden, blind, destructive forces of matter that were attached to Vesuvius back into their originals – back into the almighty forces that inhere in Spirit only?

So-called mortal mind says that the hidden destructive forces attached to Vesuvius are the destructive forces attached to our world today, are remote and apart from us, and over there. 'Over there' is always here. The so-called mortal mind that is over there is the same mortal mind that is here. The same destructive forces that seem to be over there are here within the realm of our own individual mind. Perhaps the degree is not the same, but the quality is the same.

Unless we, through our own immortal, divine Mind, translate these seeming destructive forces back into their originals, back into the omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence of the divine Mind, material thought about man and the universe for a mode of spiritual thought that is the fact of man and the universe. In so doing, we become the spiritual fact of man and the universe. We should take our Concordances and gain a clear understanding of the word 'translation.' Our progress spiritward depends upon the translation of matter into Mind. (See Mis 25:12; 74:15.)

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Unless we, through our own immortal, divine Mind, translate these seeming destructive forces back into their originals, back into the omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence of the divine Mind, we shall continue to see and feel mortal mind's thought objectified. It is only through translation that we lose the material sense of things and our thought becomes spiritualized.

To what extent are we translating ourselves, our bodies and their so-called functioning's, back into their originals – back into divine ideas and divine functioning's? Mortal mind has classified us as matter and has given us a material sense of body and its functioning's. But through translation, immortal Mind gives us the original, gives us man in God's image and likeness, gives us body as Mind's embodiment of right ideas, gives us functions as the perpetual operations of Mind forever eternal and harmonious.

When we translate the objects of material sense, the things of our universe, ourselves, our bodies and their functioning's, into their originals, we do not deal with anything external or objective to

ourselves. No. We replace the material sense object and its operations with divine ideas, and we do the replacing wholly within the realm of our own thought. This is the process through which our thought becomes spiritualized, so that we may apprehend Spirit.

The universal belief that ideas have become material things is the fundamental lie. What any material thing may seem to do or be is a lie about the eternal fact at hand. What is called a material body, or a material mountain, or a world war, or a poor business, is a false human concept of a divine idea at hand. It is the belief that ideas have become material and that man must have life and consciousness through the medium of matter. Through translation, we can gain our freedom from false beliefs and experience the divine facts in their reality.

Mrs. Eddy says of Christ Jesus, "His earthly mission was to translate substance into its original meaning, Mind"(Mis 74:15). She also says, "The great difficulty is to give the right impression, when translating material terms back into the original spiritual tongue" (S&H 115:9).

In order to give the right impression when we translate material terms back into the original spiritual tongue, we must grasp the spiritual sense of the original. Could any of us be affected by altitude if we knew we include within ourselves the spiritual fact, the only fact of altitude? The mountain, the grand and lofty idea of God, is not outside of us or apart from us, but it is part of the compound of ideas that is us.

Through translation of man and the visible universe back into the spiritual fact of man and the universe, we shall finally see and know that an elephant, or a planet, or airplane, is not larger or mightier than ourselves. We shall see all things as thought-forms or ideas or spiritual facts included within us and as possessing all the qualities and attributes of God.

As Christian Scientists we are to grasp the spiritual sense of the originals. The spiritual originals can only be discerned spiritually. Translation gives us an entirely new sense of things, and gives us a new language. Old terms have a new meaning. This new meaning, or new sense of things, is called by Mrs. Eddy religion's 'new tongue'" (Mis 25:15).

When we translate into the new tongue, we change what we have been calling matter or material substance back into the original spiritual meaning. Mrs. Eddy says, "The new tongue' is the spiritual meaning as opposed to the material. It is the language of Soul instead of the senses; it translates matter into its original language, which is Mind, and gives the spiritual instead of the material signification" (Hea 7:6).

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