

December 30 - Subject: God

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 — Talks On The Acts of the Apostles—By Peggy Brook. Click [here](#) for a short biography on the author.

ACTS 17, 22–28

Verses 22, 23. Mrs. Eddy says, “Paganism and agnosticism may define Deity as ‘the great unknowable’; but Christian Science brings God much nearer to man, and makes Him better known as the All-in-all, forever near”—Mind is infinite and knows all, so how can Deity be unknowable? Rather it is infinitely knowable. “Paul saw in Athens an altar dedicated ‘to the unknown God.’ Referring to it, he said to the Athenians: ‘Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you’” (S&H 596:3-9). The Christian apologists of those days were always at pains to show that the God whom they were declaring was the God whom mankind had always worshipped, and that men had always been naturally monotheistic, although unknowingly so. That’s in line with our purpose in *Ideas of Today*. We’re trying to show that there is nothing in the world that is progressive and good that is not the result of the leavening of the one infinite Principle or Mind that’s what we’re trying to “declare.”

Verse 24. Paul was showing that Mind is the one creator and that which is All. Mrs Eddy states, “Mind is the grand creator, and there can be no power except that which is derived from Mind” (S&H 143:26-27). She also says, “Life is Mind, the creator reflected in his creations. If He dwelt within what He creates, God would not be reflected but absorbed, and the Science of being would be forever lost through a mortal sense, which falsely testifies to a beginning and an end” (S&H 331:5-10). “Infinite Mind cannot be limited to a finite form, or Mind would lose its infinite character as inexhaustible Love, eternal Life, omnipotent Truth” (S&H 257:27-29).

“God... dwelleth not in temples made with hands”—of course Paul meant that literally, but I think you can also take it to mean that God isn’t an intellectual proposition, that He doesn’t dwell in the “temple” of a body or behind the temples in a brain, because God is Mind, infinite Mind, within and without all things, filling all space, “th All-in-all, forever near.”

Verse 25. Mrs. Eddy says, “Mind made the ‘plant of the field before it was in the earth’” (S&H 509: 23-24); “The divine Mind supports the sublimity, magnitude, and infinitude of spiritual creation” (S&H 511: 5-6); “From the infinite elements of the one Mind emanate all form, color, quality, and quantity, and these are mental, both primarily and secondarily” (S&H 512: 21-24).

Verse 26. “and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth”—Mrs. Eddy says, “It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth and Love” (S&H 467: 9-10).

Verses 27-28. There is a lovely fourfold sequence here.

"that they should seek the Lord"—the Word sense.

"if haply they might feel after him and find him"—the Christ sense.

"though he be not far from every one of us"—the coincidence of the divine with the human which Christianity demonstrates.

"for in him we live, and move and have our being"—the Science sense, the sense of infinite being.

"as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring"—two of their Stoic poets had said that.

Weekly Lesson Citations provided by the Mary Baker Eddy Institute
visit our website at www.mbeinstitute.org for more information
or call (239) 656-1951. We welcome your comments!



New!

Large-print version
mailed to you - for
only \$9.50!

Call: 239-656-1951