

Weekly Lesson Citations

DEAR FRIENDS: We plan to use this spot on our web page to bring you a different set of citations each week—expanding on specific citations from the “Weekly Lesson.” A paraphrase can so often open thought to new insights of familiar statements. In this way we hope to share with you some of the wonderful work that has been done in Christian Science over the past fifty years and in to the present by authors you may or may not have yet met.

Our first selection this week is from—Talks On The Science of the Bible, Volume VII—By John Doorly.
Our second selection this week is from—Talks On The Acts of the Apostles—By Peggy Brook.

December 31 SUBJECT: God

ISAIAH 43

The Christ in its Own Aspect: Love: The Calculus is the Comforter

At this point we come to the lone of Love in the Christ in its own aspect, and we have summarized it in this way: Christ, Truth, fulfilled in Love.

“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine”—“perfect Love casteth out fear” “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee”—that gives a wonderful sense of the motherhood which says “Be not afraid,” that motherhood which is the fulfillment of the Christ-idea. “Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east,”— from the Christ.— “and gather thee from the west;”—from Science;—“I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth” (Isa 43:1,2,4-6).

As you begin to see the fulfillment of the Christ, to see that Christ is always mothered in divine Love and therefore always translated, you will understand the divine infinite calculus, symbolized here by the east, west, north, and south. The Christ comes to us today as a calculus of divine ideas The Christ came first as a little light to the Hebrews; then it began to come to Moses as the law; then it began to come as prophecy: in the prophetic age it came as a sense of system, because the prophetic age was the fourth thousand years of the Scriptural record, illustrating Principle; in the fifth thousand years it came at the point of Life, or individuality, and the man Jesus was the symbol of the Christ in that age; today in the sixth thousand years since Adam, and in the sixth period of thought, it is coming as Truth, or universal manhood, as a divine infinite calculus of ideas, all revealing God. The Christ is coming in this scientific age as God’s one ideal of Himself being translated to the point of a divine calculus of ideas, every idea divinely diversified, classified, and individualized, every idea reflecting the nature of God and so reflecting every other idea. The Christ comes to you and to me today at first as the truth about ourselves. You cannot begin to help the other fellow until you begin to understand that the eternal fact of the Christ, forever being translated from ideal to idea, makes you the son of God, and that as the idea of God you are indestructible, immortal, and eternal. Jesus said, “And I, If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” It is only as you yourself understand the Christ that you can use the Mind of Christ, and thus help the other fellow.

“I have declared and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God... Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert... I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins”—Love alone is that which blots out all our transgressions. “For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring; and they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses” (Isa 43:12,19,25 44:3,4)

Mrs. Eddy has given exactly the same sense in this passage: "Love, redolent with unselfishness, bathes all in beauty and light. The grass beneath our feet silently exclaims, 'The meek shall inherit the earth.' The modest arbutus sends her sweet breath to heaven. The great rock gives shadow and shelter. The sunlight glints from the church-dome, glances into the prison-cell, glides into the sick-chamber, brightens the flower, beautifies the landscape, blesses the earth. Man, made in His likeness, possesses and reflects God's dominion over all the earth. Man and woman as coexistent and eternal with God forever reflect, in glorified quality, the infinite Father-Mother God"

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: 'Whome 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 on 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.