

September 16, 2002—Subject: Matter

**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— **MARY BAKER EDDY GOD'S GREAT SCIENTIST VOLIII** —  
By Helen Wright. Please [click here](#) for information on Mrs. Wright.

### HOW DID EVIL ORIGINATE?

When the unseen silent forces of God are standing sentinel over us, over me, and mine and all, silencing, destroying, and annihilating the unseen, silent arguments of the serpent, material sense, from where do discordant pictures come? In a recorded statement Mrs. Eddy declared:

**The origin of evil is the problem of the ages; it confronts each generation anew; it confronts Christian Science; the question is often asked, if God created only the good, whence cometh the evil? To this question Christian Science replies: evil never did exist as an entity; it is but a belief that there is an opposite intelligence to God.**

**This belief is a species of idolatry. The admission of the reality of evil perpetuates faith in evil and the Scriptures declare that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are. This leading self-evident proposition of Christian Science that good being real its opposite is necessarily unreal, needs to be grasped in all its divine requirements. (DCC 219).**

Christian Science teaches that the opposite of Truth is the false testimony of false material sense, of mind in matter; that this false sense—which is the result of thousands of years of believing in a selfhood apart from God—”evolves, in belief, a subjective state of mortal mind which this same so-called mind names matter” (1910 ed. 108:27).

We can't remove a discordant picture. Why? Because, like the stone wall von Scholtz encountered in the cave, it isn't there (for more about Mr von Scholtz see the article on [The Psychologist and the Magician](#) on this web site). Trying to remove it only makes it seem more real. The only solution is spiritual education. Allow spiritual education to arouse the dormant understanding from material beliefs, from the illusion, to the apprehension of spiritual ideas.

### HOW MATERIAL SENSE IS CONQUERED

The first edition (p.77) teaches: “We shall be found Love, Life and Truth [when] we understand them.” Science, the Christ, teaches humanity how to become aware of its present perfection that has always been the divine fact. The Christ Science shows all material or corporeal existence, (even a healthy body) to be hypnotic suggestion—belief in a selfhood apart from God.

Humanity's true selfhood in God has been buried under the rubbish of countless centuries. False education, illusions accepted as facts, have obscured man's true identity. These illusions have tried to bury the world in grief and despair and put man's oneness with God irrevocably out of sight.

Christian Science, dispelling illusions, brings to light man's divinity, wholeness, and harmony. After unmasking evil and error as illusion we must "cling steadfastly to God," permitting nothing else to enter our consciousness. Since God, Mind, is All, this Mind or Truth—the kingdom of God within your individual, spiritual, infinite consciousness—alone acts. Therefore, "*trust in Truth, and have no other trusts.*" (*My.* 171:1. The emphasis is Mrs. Eddy's.)

An early Carpenter Foundation "Collectania," p.142, contains the following deeply spiritual article, *The Kingdom of Heaven Within You*, by Mrs. Eddy. Note it carefully. It would be hard to find more sacred, more sublime teaching:

**As a metaphysician you are never dealing with person, place, or thing. You are dealing with a suppositional mind, which includes within itself all there is to material sense, to the sick, sinning, or dying mortal.**

**That which seems to confront you as a person, place, or thing is merely the form in which the supposition appears to you. If you attempt to deal with person as person, and attempt to heal it or correct it as such, you are in a hopeless situation, for you have no possible way of correcting that which does not appear to operate as your own thinking.**

**The kingdom of God is within you—not afar off—but right within that which you accept as mind, as consciousness, and this includes all that you call person, place, or thing, all that appears as a book, a church, or a remedy.**

**The command to enter into your closet and shut the door, when you pray, would have been foolish, unless in the seclusion within you is that Mind [God] which includes within itself all Truth. In your communion with it you find the reality of all being.**

**No discord is outside of that which comes to you as your own consciousness, and because of this very fact, and because you are alone with your own being in your closet, you have supreme power to handle all that presents itself to you.**

**Science and Health says to you (253:9-17), "I hope, dear reader, I am leading you into the understanding of your divine rights, your heaven-bestowed harmony,—that, as you read, you see there is no cause (outside of erring, mortal material sense which is not power) able to make you sick or sinful; and I hope you are conquering this false sense. Knowing the falsity of so-called material sense, you can assert your prerogative to overcome the belief in sin, disease, or death." Would Jesus have been correct in his statement, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me," unless he had meant exactly the same thing? He was dealing with persons, but he was alone with what he accepted as mind.**

**When you say, "What Jesus means," remember it is equivalent to saying, "What I mean," because it comes to you as your own I, (the I that is the heavenly Father-Mother God within your consciousness).**

**Then does not this statement really mean, ("And I, if I be lifted up from the earth") I, what I accept as I, as consciousness? Then, because this consciousness is all the consciousness there is, I cannot help seeing all from the basis of that which I am accepting as "I." In other words, the whole of that which constitutes being to me, must rise as I rise, and must be drawn into that altitude of mind that I accept as mind.**

If any claim of a discordant condition, etc., were apart from what you are accepting as consciousness, in other words, were something “over there,” remote from you, how could you be over there to correct it? *I* is always right *here*, so *here* is all there is to *there*. It is always consciousness *here*, and this *here* includes all that appears to be over *there*.

Christian Science draws us back to the kingdom of God already within our consciousness. When, through spiritual education, Truth becomes our consciousness, we will never again fear a negative appearance—whether it has to do with our body, our work, supply, home, family, or any relationship.

The Mind that is Love is the source and condition of all existence. Matter cannot act because it has no consciousness or Ego. Regardless of how real it seems, its conditions are illusions. In overcoming illusions and hypnotic suggestion, “reason is the most active *human* faculty” (1910 ed. 327:29). Reason helps us gain the needed spiritual understanding. As we “put off the old man”—that which judges according to mortal appearance—we develop the “pure Mind” which does not have to reason but instantly reveals or presents reality.

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