

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 selections this week correspond to section two of the Lesson. The first is from —Talks given by John Doorly on THE SCIENCE OF THE BIBLE-VOLUME ONE.

The second is from an editorial in the Christian Science Journal — Vol.9, Issue 12, March 1892.

September 3rd — Subject Man

TALK No. 9 (December 9th, 1947)

THE FALSE RECORD OF CREATION-III

The Handling of Evil The Counterfeit of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Days of Creation

The True Tones Destroy the False Tones

I believe that Mrs. Eddy meant us to take the definite facts of metaphysics, —the ideas of God, man, and the universe, —intelligently, consecratedly, and scientifically, and use them to handle the claims of animal magnetism through analysis, uncovering, and annihilation. That is, she meant us to use metaphysics as we would use any other science, —both in its purity and in its application to the human. There is no doubt whatever but that the great Hebrew writers and thinkers did exactly that: they first of all showed exactly how to lay hold on the ideas of God, as you lay hold on the ideas of mathematics or music, but more definitely, and then they used the story of Adam to show how to analyze, uncover, and annihilate the dream of mortality. Whether the writers of the Jahweh document, who first introduced the Adam story, used it for that purpose, or whether they really thought that it was a true record of creation, is not known. I don't see how they could have intended it as a true account of material creation, for they were writing in about the time of Hosea, and Hosea was certainly a most spiritually-minded prophet. But the Priestly writers in about 550 bc. took that Adam story and regarded it wholly as a symbol showing how the dream of mortality arose, how it developed, what it is, and how you can analyze it and deal with it.

If we can get the tones of the first record of creation, if we can learn them and welcome them and love them and understand intelligently how they operate, then we can take those tones and use them to destroy the false tones of mortality, as given in the second record, and we shall get somewhere. We shall do what humanity must do, if it is to survive. Humanity is eating, and eating its fill, of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It believes in Spirit and matter, in the power of good and the power of evil. There have been only two great teachers who have taught that there is only one reality, —Spirit, —and those teachers are Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy. Many have shown the effect of Spirit on matter, but these two alone said, “There is no matter: there is only Spirit, and as you understand Spirit, matter disappears.”

How would you deal with a mistake in music? By learning the facts of music. How would you deal with a mistake in mathematics? By learning the facts of mathematics. Well, that is the only way you can deal with the human problem — by learning the facts of Spirit. The theories of hundreds of millions of years are climaxing before our eyes on a so-called materially scientific basis. Nothing can deal with them but spiritual Science, the system of which is symbolized in the first chapter of Genesis. The record of materiality and all that it means is given in the second, third, and fourth chapters of Genesis. It was put there by those inspired writers in the prophetic age so that men could learn from it how to deal with materiality.

Weekly lesson citations courtesy of the Mary Baker Eddy Institute (www.mbeinstitute.org)

A Summary of the Opposites of Mind and Spirit

Let's go quickly over what we have done of the false record. The counterfeit of Mind as Mind was "But there went up a mist from the earth" (Gen. 2: 6). The counterfeit of Mind as Spirit was that this mist "watered", —it diluted. The counterfeit of Mind as Soul was that it watered "the whole face of the ground", —the whole of human history. The lie is that this mist went up from the earth, the spiritual idea. This ignorance goes up all the time —it is manifested in materiality, hate, envy, malice, jealousy, chaos, greed, selfishness, self-seeking, suspicion, and so forth. That mist which watered the whole face of the ground is doing it right now. It makes you hate, or be sick, or poor, or discouraged. This mist is the belief of a power opposed to God, the belief in a false creator and a false creation and it is going up all the time.

Then you get the counterfeit of Spirit as Mind: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground" (Gen. 2: 7). The Lord God Jehovah was a god of war and of vengeance. I was reading today that the true sense of God, even as Jehovah, was never established in Israel until the time of Amos. In the time of Elijah and Elisha and Ahab the worship of false gods was rampant, and it was only in the time of Amos that the sense of God as Jehovah — the only God — was really established.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2: 7). This is a false sense of God and man. Animal magnetism, or the carnal mind, believes in itself. It says that there is a false God and a false man and a false universe, and it believes in it. The Bible describes this mythology as a "bottomless pit" (Rev. 9), which is an impossibility, and as a "liar, and the father of it" (John 8: 44), and as that which "was, and is not" (Rev. 17: 8). It is like $2+2=5$: it is a mistake.

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden" — "Eden" means "pleasure" (see S. & H. 526: 29-30); — "and there he put the man whom he had formed" (Gen. 2: 8). There you get the false sense of man as existing in a body.

Now comes the counterfeit of Spirit as Spirit: "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2: 9). Then you get: "And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads" (Gen. 2:10). You will remember that the river is one of the bright spots of the picture, because it gives some sense of the way humanity can be saved. The picture is darkening, but there is still a certain amount of light, —for instance, there is the tree of life, —although there is also the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, symbolizing the mingling of Spirit and matter.

It is Spirit as Soul which actually names the four rivers. They tell you of the way that humanity can be saved — through Pison, the "love of the good and beautiful" (S. & H. 593:1), then through Gihon, the woman sense (see S. & H. 587: 3-4) which conceives of that love, then through Hiddekel, "Divine Science understood and acknowledged" (S. & H. 588: 5-6), and lastly through that state of thought symbolized by Euphrates, "Divine Science encompassing the universe and man" (see S. & H. 585: 16-22).

The Opposites of Soul as Mind and as Spirit

Now we come to the counterfeit of the third day of creation, and it begins like this: "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2: 15). False thinking says that there is a false God called the Lord God and that He makes man live in a body; it believes that in no other way can man find expression. That is the counterfeit of Soul as Mind.

Now you have the counterfeit of Soul as Spirit: And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16, 17).

We are at that stage today: we can't get along to any great extent without the physical senses (we "eat" of "every tree of the garden"), so we have to do as best we can with them. But the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a very different proposition: it is the belief of the carnal mind which says that there is reality in both good and evil, both Spirit and matter. You and I have to live to a certain extent by the physical senses because we don't know any better, and if we are doing the best we can, then that is all right. But if you wallow in evil and let those physical senses become debased, then you are eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. More and more is it your business to demonstrate the reality of spiritual sense.

The Opposites of Soul as Mind and as Spirit (cont.)

At the point of Soul as Spirit the Word in its own aspect ceases. Just think of the story so far: a false sense of God and man, a man with physical senses, a man who believes that the Lord God takes him and puts him into a physical body, a man who believes in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. See how the whole picture is built up. Then that man associates himself or identifies himself with animal qualities, and as soon as he does that, he says, "I need something more. I need sex. I'm not complete." And so out of his own hypnotism, —lust, —he evolves sex and calls it a female. Then the female proceeds to help him to make himself a sinner, and the outcome is desolation. This is the scientific and spiritual analysis which we see in the false record of creation.

Understanding Brings Healing

If you can get these tones balanced in your thinking, you can use them. Begin to get familiar with the tones of good, and then you can begin to analyze, uncover, and annihilate the so-called tones of evil, and soon you will begin to use the tones of good spontaneously for that purpose.

...But remember, this is just a crude beginning. When you begin to know what Mind is and how it annihilates its opposite, and what Spirit is, and so on, you are practising your scales, and after a while you get familiar with them, but you go on practising them, because you love them. When a complicated situation faces you, with all sorts of combinations of evil, you know your divine tones and how they combine and so you can analyze, uncover, and annihilate the evil. That is what we call healing —in character, in the body, in business, in the home, in politics, in national affairs, in morals, in everything. That is what we call healing or health, the tone of the sixth day.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WILL not some brother or sister Scientist give experience in acquiring a knowledge of SCIENCE AND HEALTH and the BIBLE? Is there not some systematic course one could pursue to advantage in the study of Christian Science without a teacher?

W. M. B.

There is a simple and effective way to study SCIENCE AND HEALTH, and through understanding of this, our textbook, a way to study the BIBLE.

Christian Science is SCIENCE. Science has always its technical terminology. In Christian Science there are between fifty and sixty technical terms which have been chosen with wisdom and judgment that the world — if it understood — would call inspiration. The meaning of these terms may be found by a careful, impartial study of their root-meaning, and the habits and custom of the times and peoples that gave them birth. The need that gives any word birth is the life of that word. Words that have lost their original meaning through accretion, misuse, or ignorance are dead; but are raised from the dead when their life is again brought to light. Jesus said of the words of Christian Science (his words) "They are Spirit and are Life."

The technical terminology of Christian Science is a living language, resurrected to be sure; but because resurrected, it has Life more abundantly. A careful but simple defining of the basic terms of Christian Science gives such a perception of what SCIENCE AND HEALTH so plainly states, that the ignorance of the educated becomes astounding to themselves. The wise in the wisdom of this world stand abashed before the Living Word which is ever the Word of God. Every ordinarily intelligent person either knows, or should have sufficient energy to find out, the meaning of these few basic words: Being, Principle, Mind, Soul, Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, Substance, Intelligence, as well as of their cognate-terms.

These terms are the synonyms of the word God; yet each one, if rightly defined, adds something to our understanding of what that one word means, for which there are no wholly synonymous words in any language. Scientific, unemotional, impersonal teaching or study of Science is always systematic, and never deals in speculations, I-think-so's, or vagaries of any kind. While we are running here and there to "get thoughts," or to learn Mr. P's or Mrs. Q's ideas of this point or that, we have not yet entered upon the true study of Science as Science; no matter whether the study be of music, mathematics, or the all-inclusive Science of Sciences, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

** (note — Mrs. Eddy in her final work confined the list to the seven we are all familiar with: Mind-Spirit-Soul-Principle-Life-Truth-Love.)