

GOSPEL OF SALVATION SUBJECT OF LECTURE

Relationship of God and Man Explained in Address at Christian Science Church

Editor's note: Accompanying is an extract from a lecture on the subject, "The Gospel of Salvation," given Thursday evening, November 12, at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Wilmette. Mrs. Ritchie is a Member of the Board of Lectureship of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

BY
MRS. NELVIA RITCHIE

In the brief time allotted for this lecture it will be possible only to touch upon the vast subject of Christian Science. The purpose of this lecture is to tell you briefly and in a simple way something of the teachings of this great religion, and how it may become the gospel of salvation for you and for all mankind.

Christian people whose religion is based upon the Scriptures concede that God is Life, Truth, Love, Spirit. In the Christian Science textbook on page 465, to the question "What is God?" Mrs. Eddy answers, "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love." Words cannot define God more clearly, for as we take each term, analyze its meaning, examine it prayerfully, we find that we have a knowable, provable God, a first Cause from which must proceed all that is real and eternal.

God

Christian Science makes clear to us that God is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." It also makes clear to us the availability of this changeless God who is infinite good, this first Cause who is the maker, sustainer, and ruler of the universe, forever, the same, bestowing all good upon His perfect, spiritual creation.

Surely you will agree with me that if this first Cause or God is changeless, always the same as the Bible states, He could not be corporeal or material in the slightest degree. An

intelligent creative Cause could not proceed from or include non-intelligent matter.

God is infinite, that is, entirely complete within Himself. And Christian Science teaches that since He is within Himself divine, then He includes only that which is divine; divine strength, wisdom, health, happiness; all that is good and harmonious. He is the source of all, and this all is divine. He is self-existent and the only true Being.

Does it not follow, therefore, that the source, cause, and basis of all that really exists is God, the all-inclusive infinite, divine Mind or Principle

from which all good proceeds?

To gain the faintest understanding of God as Life, Truth and Love, and man as His perfect reflection, will give to all hope and assurance.

Man

Now the question is, How may we understand man? We need only turn to the Bible to learn the truth about man. In the first chapter of Genesis we read, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;" and that God gave man dominion over all things. Reasoning from this true basis will disclose to you, and to all who seek salvation, that everything proceeding from God must

be God-like, good, complete, and perfect.

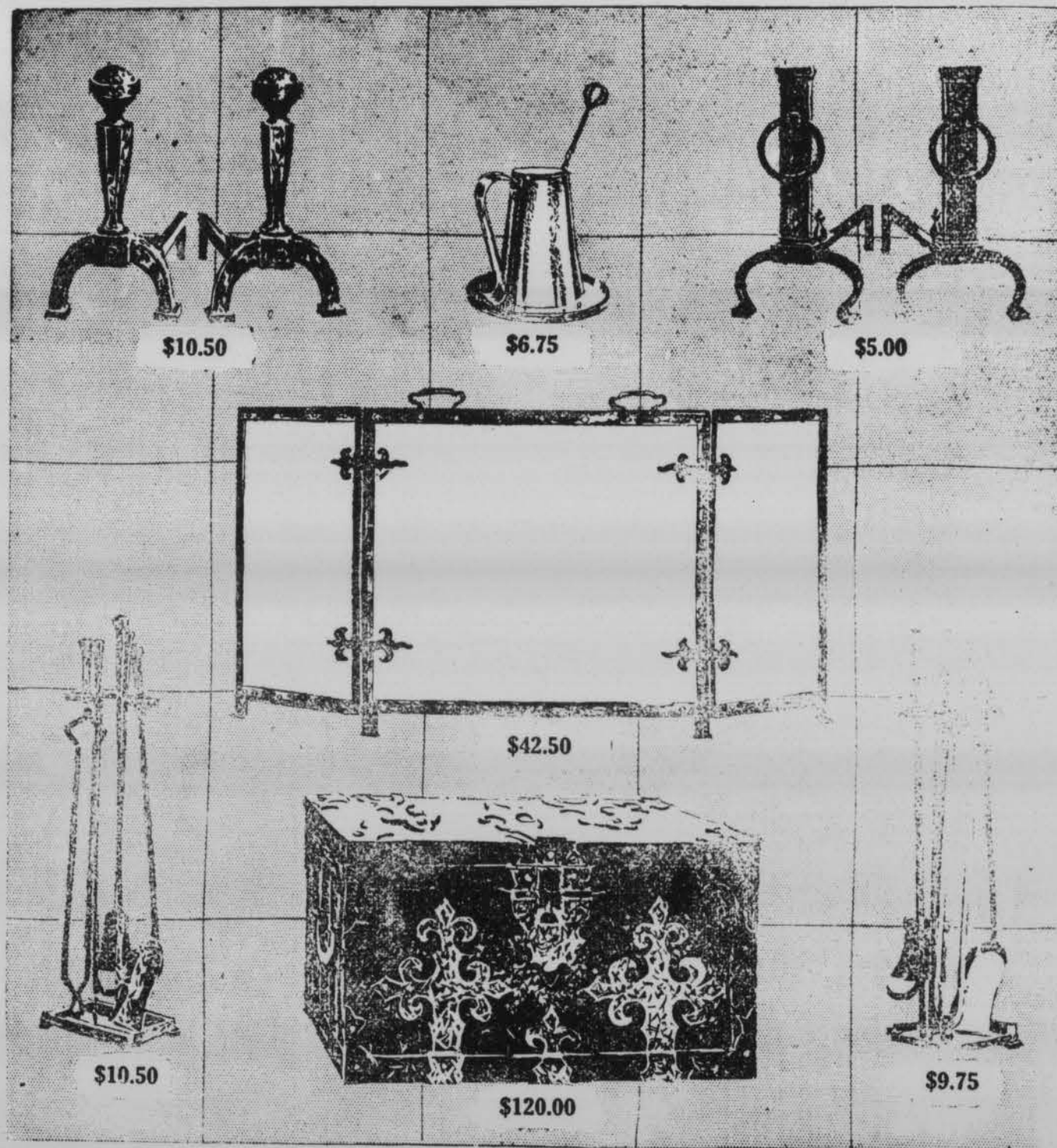
In the Christian Science textbook, on page 476, Mrs. Eddy writes: "Jesus beheld in science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick." Let us see what is the correct view of man. First of all, the bible declares that God created man in the image of Himself. Then if man is created in the image and likeness of God, he reflects all of God's qualities. God is mind, man, then, as God's idea or reflection, ex-

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