

A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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and foundation of all real being. Mind is that which is, that which expresses itself in ideas, which is quite a different concept from the supposed activity of the gray matter.

Material Existence Not of God.

"Christian Science further shows that material existence is not the manifestation nor creation of this divine Mind, for it is wholly unlike it. As we have already said, its phenomena are finite, dimensional, destructible, diseased, dying, whereas the ideas of the divine Mind are infinite, undimensional, indestructible, harmonious, immortal. They are exact opposites. Hence material existence must be the phenomenon of a false human sense of a mentality which rests on a finite mortal basis, namely, the Adam dream, the belief of life, intelligence and substance in matter. It is the creation recorded in the second chapter of Genesis, where the rise of the mist of materiality is described.

"Mrs. Eddy has called this sense mortal mind in order to distinguish it from its opposite, the immortal, real, divine Mind.

"It is this mortal, material, finite mind, which St. Paul calls the carnal mind, in which, and in which alone, occur and exist all the phenomena of evil,—sin, wretchedness, disaster, disease, and death.

"It is this carnal mind that needs to be put off, as St. Paul declares, in which

process the human sense is transformed and renewed by the Mind that was in Christ. Our every erroneous concept must be supplanted with divine Truth in order that we may be healed and saved.

Process of Transformation.

"How is this to be done? We know that the first step in the correction of any error is its recognition as an error. We recognize an error when we know the truth which it falsifies. Thus, by knowing what real Mind is, which Christian Science makes possible, we begin to detect and correct what is wrong in our human sense. By knowing what real existence is, we begin to detect and correct what is wrong in our sense of existence.

"Since thinking is the activity of intelligence or mind, real thinking is the activity of real Mind, namely, the activity of divine intelligence, the activity of Truth, right consciousness; hence real thinking is right knowing.

"Obviously, we can never know anything that is untrue or unreal; for example, we can never know that two times two make five, because they do not, we can only believe it; so we can never really know anything that is wrong or evil, we can only believe it. Thoughts which include sin, misery, disease, and mortality are not the activities of the divine Mind, hence they are not real thoughts, but simply concepts of the human mind, or human beliefs, and through right spiritual knowing they can be corrected, and what is wrong destroyed.

"When we think rightly of Truth, Truth is present with us in consciousness just as when we think rightly of the multiplication table, the principle of mathematics is in consciousness, is reflected there. When we think rightly of God, divine Truth, God is present with us. Having the activity of right thought, engaging in real thinking, which is true prayer, or communion with the one infinite Truth, there appears in our human consciousness the Mind that was in Christ. Thus our spiritual illumination and transformation begins, and this must be continued day after day, in fulfillment of the Scriptural injunction to pray without ceasing."

Salvation Begun.

"There is not a true Christian Scientist on earth to-day who does not joyfully and gratefully admit that the world is already a very different one to him from what it formerly was, and if this can be, with so slight an understanding of Christian Science, as we have as yet, what will the world be when we all consciously reflect the Mind that was in Christ and live according thereto?"

"It is well to ponder this question, for so it must eventually be, even as the Bible declares. It is only with the mind of Christ that we can ever see God and dwell with Him. Jesus said: 'The kingdom of God is within you.' Thus it is not a place, but a state of mind or consciousness, which is to be awakened, developed, attained.

"Christian Science shows that this transformation of consciousness does not and cannot take place suddenly, but that it is the result of spiritual unfoldment, the spiritualization of thought, character, and life, and Christian Science makes it possible for us all to begin this work here and now, and thus begin to experience some of the blessings which are the inevitable accompaniment of an enlightened spiritual consciousness.

Need of Differentiation.

"As the working out of our own salvation is thus a mental process, it is of vital importance that we distinguish clearly between the divine Mind and its activities and the human mind and its beliefs, for the Bible teaches that it is only through the Christ Mind that our salvation can be obtained.

"The human mind is so filled with concepts of limitation, materiality, mortality, personality, that it is not a safe influence to use either upon ourselves or upon others, for it is too liable to be wrong.

"Mental suggestion, hypnotism, will power, the endeavor of one human mind to influence or control itself or another, these are all the activities of the human mind, and subject to its limitations and evils; indeed, they are constantly being used for evil purposes. The Bible declares that we cannot obtain both sweet waters and bitter from the same fountain. Since mental suggestion, hypnotism, will power are used for evil purposes and actually cause evil continually, they must be wholly evil, for they cannot be both good and evil. Any seeming good that may at times result from them must be superficial, illusory, and dangerous. They do not express the activity of the Christ Mind, and hence they cannot be divinely authorized remedial agents.

Healing Methods Contrasted.

"It may be well to illustrate briefly the difference between the attempt to heal through mental suggestion or hypnotism and the healing in Christian Science with the divine Mind, for Christian Science healing has been much misunderstood respecting this matter, while it very much deserves and asks only to be correctly understood.

"When one person tries to heal or help another through mental suggestion or hypnotism, his endeavor is to change that person's belief from a belief in sickness to a belief in health. This is done through mental manipulation, by securing control of the patient's mentality, dominating it, causing it to be obedient to the will of the operator, and thus making him believe what the operator wants him, wills him, or suggests to him to believe, be it good or evil.

"The operator himself believes in the reality of matter and evil; he believes he has a sick man there to treat, and yet he tries to make that man believe that he is not sick. Obviously this method does not get at the root of the difficulty. It does not get at the cause of the sin or disease and destroy it; its effect is simply to produce a change of belief; it is superficial and injurious. The indulgence of the counterfeit of the divine Mind as a substitute for that Mind is a serious evil. There is neither God nor Christ in this process, no uplifting nor spiritualization of thought, no elevation to a higher plane of consciousness; the entire action is on the plane of the mortal, carnal mind, hence its danger.

Christian Science Healing.

"In Christian Science healing, the Christian Scientist stands on the spiritual foundation that God is Spirit and His universe, including man, spiritual, all being included in the divine Mind and its perfect manifestation, the divine Life and its immortal activity, the divine Love and its forever reflection. He understands the present and eternal perfection of God's creation, which the Bible declares was finished and pronounced good 'in the beginning.'

"He also understands the nature and character of material existence, and that the discordant conditions on earth are but the erroneous concepts, the mesmeric beliefs, the illusory phenomena of the mortal, carnal mind from which men can be and must be awakened.

"He further understands the unreality of matter and evil, just as the astronomer understands that the sun does not really move and the earth is not really stationary and flat, even though it so appears. Thus the Christian Scientist knows that in reality there is no sick man to treat, and he knows this in exactly the same way that a mathematician knows that two times two do not make five, though it is written on a slate where he can see it. He knows that it makes four, regardless of appearance; and it is his business to know that; he would not be any kind of a mathematician if he did not know it.

Truth the Healing Power.

"The Christian Scientist proceeds not on the basis of appearance, for Jesus said: 'Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.' He proceeds on the basis of spiritual Truth, the actuality of spiritual being, to correct the erroneous concepts in the discordant, sinning mind of the patient through the right knowing of Truth, and harmony is thus established on a spiritual and scientific basis. It is not the thought or will of the practitioner that does the healing in Christian Science, but Truth operating through a human channel. To illustrate:—

"Suppose you get a bill that is wrong through an error in computation. You do not endeavor to hypnotize the bill to change it through will power, or mental suggestion, neither do you endeavor to hypnotize yourself through auto-suggestion to believe the bill to be different from what it is. You know that there is something wrong, and you proceed to correct it on the basis of mathematical truth, or you get some one to help you who can rectify the mistake.

"The power that corrects such a mistake is not the thought or will of the mathematician. The power is inherent solely in the truth itself, the mathematical principle involved. The mathematician simply does the knowing through his cultivated mathematical understanding, and the truth which is reflected by that knowing, is the power that corrects. If the mathematician had the power, he could just as well make two times two make five, seven, or anything he pleases, just as mental suggestion tries to do with the affairs of human life, anything it pleases.

"In Christian Science the healing power is not the thought or will of the Christian Scientist. It is inherent solely in Truth itself, the divine Principle. The Christian Scientist simply does the knowing through his cultivated spiritual understanding, and the truth that is reflected by this knowing is the power which corrects and heals; in accordance with Jesus' statement, 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.'

"This is a cardinal feature of Christian Science healing which distinguishes it from all other methods of mental therapeutics, namely, that it is the divine Mind and not the human mind which heals. Those who know only of the human mind sometimes believe that Christian Science healing results from the action of this mind, as in mental suggestion, hypnotism, or will power, and so they confuse it with those methods. But when we know the divine Mind, then we can see that Christian Science healing is Truth healing, wherein divine Truth and Love correct human error, and wherein human will and mental suggestion have no place any more than they have in mathematics.

Healing a Change of Consciousness.

"In Christian Science healing it is the Christ Mind alone that affects the patient's consciousness; it alone illumines and transforms apprehension, corrects the erroneous concepts, establishes harmony in consciousness, and then externalizes this harmony in health of body. This effect frequently takes place as a result of the reading of Mrs. Eddy's explanation of Scripture teaching in 'Science and Health.' There have been hundreds of cases of organic and functional diseases which have been healed through the reading of this book, and, being a physician's son, I know of what I am talking; I have personally inquired into too many such cases to be mistaken.

"Such healing illustrates the fact that when spiritual Truth enters the receptive consciousness it brings about a change in consciousness and externalizes that change in a well body. This is a totally different method from that of any other system of healing, and it is quite impossible to obtain such results from the use of non-intelligent drugs.

True Basis of Healing.

"There is no other basis on which we can understand the healing recorded in the Bible, the healing work that has been done and is being done through Christian Science, save this, that all reality is the divine Mind and its infinite manifestation, and that discordant, material existence is but an erroneous concept.

"On the basis of matter as a substantive actually, it is impossible to understand this, much less to demonstrate it. But when we can see matter for what it really is, but the projected concept of the mortal mind, then we can see how spiritual Truth, the divine Mind, entering consciousness can bring about a change in consciousness and externalize that change in harmonious phenomena and right living. The effect of the divine Mind upon the human mind is always to bring about harmony, supplying what is right and needed, removing what is wrong and not needed.

"Indeed, this belief in matter is the veil of the flesh that hides the Spirit, and much must be understood and overcome before spiritual consciousness and salvation can possibly be attained. Christian Science makes it possible for us all to begin to make substantial progress in this direction here and now.

Mrs. Eddy Loved and Honored.

"It is not to be wondered at, indeed it is inevitable, that Christian Scientists should love the founder of this movement for having brought to the world this Science of Salvation, this demonstrable knowledge which affords deliverance from evil, this spiritual understanding of the Bible which reveals the true nature of God and the power of His Christ. There are thousands upon thousands of people in all the world who are to-day experiencing great blessings as a result of Mrs. Eddy's teachings, and who are demonstrating that 'saving faith' which alone leads to heaven.

"She is loved not only for the revelation of the demonstrable Christ Truth which is contained in her wonderful book, 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,' and her other writings, but for her consecration and devotion to the welfare of mankind. She remained steadfastly at her post of duty, and continued to instruct, guide, advise, and admonish her followers, and to lead on her great Cause in its stately progress.

"Those of us who have known her personally and who have had the great privilege of being under her instruction realize in some degree what an extraordinary woman she was.

"Her spirituality, her deep love for God, her desire to know and do only His will, and to be a faithful, consecrated follower of the Wayshower, Christ Jesus, these are the characteristics which made her such a great leader.

Preparedness for Mission.

"That Mrs. Eddy became the discoverer of Christian Science is unquestionably explained by the fact that she was so earnest and faithful in her truth-seeking, and so responsive to the over-riding touch of divine Love that she was found fitted to become the channel of this great revelation.

"Important discoveries in the world's development have always been made, not by accident and not by miraculous intervention, but by those who were morally and mentally equipped thereby, for whom aspiration made it possible for them to perceive the truth.

"The belief that a personal God personally selected Mrs. Eddy is simply absurd. It was Mrs. Eddy's mental alertness, spiritual attainment, and earnest truth-seeking which made it possible for her to discern the spiritual idea and establish the stately goings of the Christian Science movement.

Great Achievements.

"She did not simply state her discovery to the world; she first demonstrated it, and then offered it as a demonstrable Science for all mankind to profit by, and the great strength of her teachings lies in the fact that any one can prove their truth for himself. One of Mrs. Eddy's greatest achievements is this: that she proved the Bible to be true, and that its teachings are applicable today.

Salvation Progressive.

"Christian Scientists are not surprised nor discouraged if they cannot at once demonstrate the fullness of this great truth, cannot immediately witness its full fruition, as some of its opponents seem to demand as a test. They realize probably more than do others the immense work that has to be accomplished before the belief in materiality, the indulgence in evil, and the effect of the world's hatred of spiritual truth are wholly overcome and spiritual consciousness fully attained. But they know from the great blessings which have already come into their lives, that by working, watching, and praying, faithfully, constantly, patiently, for that Mind to be in them which was also in Christ Jesus, that spiritual attainments will follow with them, as with others, in the degree that they know God, and demonstrate that knowing in their daily lives.

Closing Appeal.

"Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts! Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of human hope and faith, and through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible attainment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love. ('Science and Health,' page 45.)

"The stone of material sense has been rolled away, and the possible attainment with Truth and Love has been demonstrated. The truth about God and man and the universe has been revealed to the human understanding, and the healing Christ is at the door of every consciousness.

"No longer need we be deceived by erroneous physical sense testimony respecting sin and disease, for the possibility of intelligently and practically differentiating between what is real and what is unreal has been bestowed upon humanity.

"A measure of this true understanding has already been attained by many in all lands, and when we 'enter into the closet' (or Spirit) and 'shut the door' (of matter), as Jesus said, thinking rightly about God and His reflection, realizing the spiritual fact and denying the material falsity, we shall gradually purify and spiritualize our consciousness, obtain clearer, truer, and safer views of existence, experience greater freedom and harmony, better health, improved morals, until we shall finally attain that pure consciousness which Jesus called the kingdom of heaven.

"In closing, let me read to you Mrs. Eddy's scientific statement of being, which epitomizes the Science of Salvation, and which when understood will enable any one to begin to work it out:—

"There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is Infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.' ('Science and Health,' page 463.)"

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