

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURE  
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many times, and it is claimed for Christian Science that it is the re-appearance in our own generation of the understanding of the same spiritual law that was known and understood in part by Moses and the prophets, and which was perfectly understood and demonstrated by Jesus, and by him taught to his disciples, and the results produced by it, and the results produced by Christian Science are the results which have always followed, and must certainly follow, from the apprehension and demonstration of spiritual truth. Christian Science is nothing more nor less than a return to primitive Christianity, and every one who turns to it fairly and honestly will find in it that which will satisfy his spiritual aspirations and meet his human needs.

MRS. EDDY'S DISCOVERY OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Mrs. Eddy is acknowledged to be the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and many people ask what it is that she has discovered. In reply it can be said that she discovered the Law of Spirit which is Spiritual Truth.

In the material realm many material laws have been discovered. Sir Isaac Newton, for instance, observed the movements of material bodies, and conceived the idea that such movements were governed by a law which he afterwards discovered and named the law of gravitation.

This law cannot be seen with the physical eyes, but its existence can be proved in other ways. Likewise, Marconi gained the idea that another law existed, and he said that if he could discover it he would be able to transmit messages by its agency from one part of the earth to another without any material wires. The law has always existed and has always operated, but it was not until it was discovered that it became available for human use. It cannot be seen by the human eye, but anyone may now learn how to utilize it.

In much the same way there was born in the consciousness of Mrs. Eddy the idea that there exists a law of spirit. She had observed that sometimes great suffering and distress were produced by material laws, and that even whole communities were devastated and destroyed by their operation, hence she came to the conclusion that a God who possesses infinite wisdom and goodness could not operate through laws that produce both good and evil. She, therefore, came to the conclusion that God is governing His children and His universe through spiritual laws and not through material laws.

Mrs. Eddy also studied the miracles in the Old and New Testaments, and came to the inevitable conclusion that all of those transactions were correlated by means of an underlying spiritual law that had been known and understood by the men who wrought them, and she said that if she could discover the law it would be found to operate in the same manner now as in Bible times; that it would be a healing law, and would now heal people of sickness and sin and every evil human condition the same as then.

This idea grew and expanded in her consciousness until it became the impelling motive of her entire life. In the year 1866 she discovered the law of spirit, and named it Christian Science. After waiting nine years, during which time she subjected the Principle that she had discovered to the broadest practical tests in healing sickness and other forms of human discord, she published a statement of Christian Science in a book which she entitled "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." This book is now everywhere recognized as the only text-book of Christian Science.

A great religious movement has formed around its teachings, which in one generation has girdled the earth with its churches. The spread of Christian Science has been phenomenal, and in every case its growth has resulted from the healing of the sick. Every adherent of Christian Science has actually been healed of some sickness, disease or sinful appetite, and most of them have been healed of many such conditions. These facts are easily verified, and are worthy of serious consideration.

SPIRITUAL LAW

Mrs. Eddy discovered the law of Spirit as truly as Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravitation, and this fact should be thoroughly understood. Just as Newton discovered that the movements of material bodies were regulated and governed by this material law, so Mrs. Eddy discovered the Principle that governs the universe, including every detail in the lives of men. That supreme, creative, governing, omnipresent Mind or Principle, is God, the only Cause, the only Creator, the only ruler of man and the universe.

When we watch water flowing over the land we see that without hesitation or delay it always selects the low places. All fresh water is continually striving to reach the sea, where it will be at rest. In choosing its course it measures the topography of the ground more accurately and more quickly than the engineer could do with instruments. No embodied mind is present to tell it where to go, but there is an unerring, invisible law, ever and always directing it in the true course.

If such perfect law lets it go, the water by its movement to reach the sea, how many more certain it is that equally perfect spiritual law exists to guide the footsteps of the discouraged human beings out of the wilderness of sickness, failure and sin into the kingdom of peace.

The Bible tells us that such a law exists and is operating for our benefit. In Psalm xxxvii, 23 we read, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Again, in Romans viii, 28, "All things work together for good to them that love God," and in Romans, viii, 2, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ

Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

What a sense of security comes to one when he realizes that there is really a law of good operating that will guide his footsteps as truly as the law of gravitation guides the water. And what a sense of peace comes from the assurance that there is an infinite, overruling mind that governs everything in the universe from the least to the greatest and causes "all things to work together for good."

In each case, however, a condition is attached. One must desire to be a good man, and must love God, otherwise the law of good does not operate for him. To attain goodness, one must think and live as nearly as he can in accordance with spiritual truth; one's motives and aims must be honest, and his desires unselfish. In this way the connection is established between his consciousness and the law, and then the law operates through him and in his behalf. If he is an evil man, that is, if he thinks and lives erroneously, such wrong thinking and living separate his consciousness from the law of good, so that the law cannot then guide his footsteps or make everything work together for good for him.

WHAT BRINGS GOOD OR EVIL INTO HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Outside of Christian Science very few people have ever reasoned out the question to their own satisfaction as to where good and evil come from, and still fewer have even a satisfactory theory as to how good may be secured or evil avoided in actual human experience.

All through the centuries there has been a widespread belief that good and evil come as the result of luck or chance, but this belief is necessarily incorrect.

Among all polytheists, or those who believe in many gods, there is the belief that some of the gods send good and that others send evil, and they seek to propitiate the latter by sacrifices and rites, believing that in this way alone they can escape from evil.

Among monotheists, or those who believe there is but one God, there is the belief that the one God creates and sends both good and evil. This belief, however, involves so many impossible contradictions that it has led actually to the belief in the existence of an evil being called "devil," who is supposed to create and send evil. Thus to escape the belief that God sends both good and evil, those who call themselves monotheists are really polytheists, for they actually believe in a God of good, and in an evil power, or devil. This in turn makes it necessary for them to determine in belief the sphere of activity and the relative power of each. Since the Bible declares, however, that God is omnipotent, that is, that He has all power, monotheists have come generally to believe that such power as the devil is supposed to possess has been conferred upon him by God, and that God permits the devil to send evil in the form of sickness, sorrow, sin, and death, to afflict and destroy human beings.

Without going further into the matter than merely to state the case, it will thus be seen that there is much confusion of belief among Christians and other monotheists concerning the nature and origin of both good and evil in human experience, and until this is corrected by positive knowledge it will be impossible to deal with the subject intelligently, or to think about it accurately.

Christian Science shows that all good comes to man from God through the operation of His laws, and that evil originates in the human carnal mind which is "enmity against God." Evil is not an entity. It has no kingdom and no king. It has no mind, no presence, and no laws. The only power it can ever exercise is what it derives from human belief in it, and human acceptance of it.

Since God is infinite good He has knowledge of good and of nothing else. He could not possibly have knowledge of evil, for evil does not exist in the spiritual universe, and it only exists in the carnal mind. It has been well said that if every one would quit sinning there would be no more sin. As human consciousness is evangelized by truth and love, sin disappears.

There is no such thing as an angry God waiting to smite you for sin, for God has no knowledge of sin in any form. Hence it follows that people are not punished for sin—they are punished by sin, and when the sin is destroyed and put away out of the human mind, the punishment stops, but as long as the sin remains it will whip and punish the sinner.

Thus the forgiveness of sin, consists in the destruction of sin, and the sin exists nowhere but in the carnal human mind. The belief that God pardons sin merely because you ask Him to do so, without turning from the sin yourself and putting it away from you, is foolish self-deception.

People ask how God can destroy sin when He knows nothing of sin and does not even know that it exists. The answer is plain. He destroys it just as the sun destroys the darkness which it never sees, when the light appears the darkness disappears. Good and evil cannot mingle any more than light and darkness can mingle. One vanishes before the other.

ATONEMENT

A yoking of the subject of atonement necessarily involves investigation of the subject of the atonement, in order to find out how the atonement operates to deliver the individual from the consequences of sin.

All that we have been taught the "lesser" of the fall of man. It was declared that, after the creation, God's children had wandered off into sin, and had gone astray. Because of their transgression it was declared that God punished them in that they were afflicted, and that after they died they went to hell, where they must suffer the endless torments of the underworld, and where they are eternally.

In order to rescue humanity from this awful condition it was pointed out that some extraordinary thing must be done. In this behalf it was

declared that God had one Son who had never transgressed, or committed any wrong, and that the only thing that would propitiate God would be for this one perfect Son to be subjected to every humiliation, every suffering, and finally to be put to death, and that after he had thus suffered and died, God would be satisfied and that thereafter His attitude towards His erring children would change.

Therefore, humanity has been taught for many centuries that it was the function of the atonement to reconcile God to man.

Christian Science finds it impossible to take this view of the atonement. The Bible declares that God is unchanging. In Malachi III, 6 we read, "I am the Lord I change not." The atonement, therefore, could not change the attitude of God towards His children. That infinite love which He had for them in the beginning has remained always the same. He was not incensed or offended at them in the beginning, and since He has never changed, it follows that He has never been incensed or offended at them.

Christian Science shows that it could not possibly be the function of the atonement to reconcile God to man, for God does not need to be reconciled, and cannot be changed, but that it is the true function of the atonement to reconcile man to God.

If one will approach the study of the atonement from this viewpoint it will unfold in his consciousness as a practical and helpful thing. God cannot change, but man needs to change. He needs to learn how to get out of the wilderness of sickness, failure, and sin, and how to find his way to God. Jesus came as the great way-shower, to teach human beings how to do this. There was nothing mystical about his ministry or his purpose. It was entirely practical. He came to teach people how to get rid of sin, disease, and death, and how to find God. He did not come to help God to do his work, nor to show God how to be kind and loving.

Jesus came as the way-shower there, it therefore follows that there is something for us to do in order to make the atonement operative in our behalf. It is not alone sufficient for us to say that we believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and that he suffered and died on the cross. Something more than this is necessary. We must follow the way that he has shown; we must learn the truth that he taught, and must demonstrate it to meet our human needs, as he demonstrated it and commanded his followers to do; we must incorporate his life in ours, by exemplifying the love that he manifested. In this way alone can the atonement become operative for us. Through our continuing efforts to follow in his way needed changes take place in us. We get rid of superstition and sin, our consciousness is evangelized by truth and love, and we are thus brought to at-one-ment with God who all the while remains unchanging good.

The belief that the atonement changes God and makes it possible for Him to save man loses sight of the changes that man must make in himself before he is fit to be saved. It is not the material blood of Jesus shed on the cross that saves us from the consequences of sin, but living the life that he lived, and demonstrating the truth that he taught, does save us, not only from sin, but also from sickness and from every kind of human discord.

THE MAN JESUS

In Christian Science we are taught to differentiate between Jesus and Christ. Jesus was the human man, born of Mary; Christ was the Divine Man, the Son of God. It is only as this difference becomes clear to us that we can begin to understand the life and works of the man Jesus. In John VIII 56-59 we may read what throws much light in this subject. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

When Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am," he referred to his real self—the Christ. Had he meant that the material flesh and blood man which they there saw with their physical eyes had existed before Abraham, his statement could not have been true, for that material body was actually less than fifty years old. His statement was a solemn declaration of the divinity and eternality of the Christ, the real man—who is and must be the Son of God. The Jews did not understand him. Because of their materiality they had no comprehension of the spiritual man made in the image and likeness of God. The only kind of man they could comprehend was the material man—the Adam-man—who is not and never can be the Son of God.

In Christian Science we learn that Jesus was human, but Christ was divine. We worship the invisible, spiritual Christ as the Son of God, and we love and reverence Jesus as the man who taught the Christ Truth, and who revealed the spiritual man by his life and his love.

The following quotation from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" will be most helpful: "Jesus was the highest human concept of the perfect man," page 452, line 19. "Jesus was born of Mary, Christ is the true Plea voicing good. Christ is the true Plea voicing good, speaking of human consciousness," page 332, lines 9 to 11. "Jesus demonstrated the divine life of God—the Christ, the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the Divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth," page 332, lines 19 to 22.

Christian Scientists, therefore, are not looking for the second coming of the man Jesus. His work was finished when he ascended so high into the realm of the Spirit that the people could no longer see him as a material man. The Christ Truth, however, is here now and always, continually knocking at the door of every human consciousness, seeking to comfort those who are in distress, to supply the needs of those who are

in want, to heal those who are sick, to lift the burdens from those who are heavy laden, and thus to perform the office of mediator, by bringing mankind into relationship with God. This Evangelist is the Christ, the eternal, ever present Comforter.

John said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." (John I, 1, 2.) The Word is the eternal Christ Truth, and not a material personality.

All who believe that flesh and blood are divine, should read what the Bible says, "Now this I say, brethren, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Cor. XV 50.)

MAN  
Sooner or later every one must learn the truth about man. When one asks himself, who is man? what is he? where does he come from? is he spiritual, or is he material? many channels for thought are opened. Upon the correct answer to these questions will depend the solution of every human problem.

Every one has read the two differing accounts of the creation in the Bible. In the first chapter of Genesis we are told that God created man in His own image, and after His own likeness, and He made him good. In the second chapter of Genesis, however, we find the allegorical account of how God came to this earth and made man out of the dust of the ground. Then follows the story of Adam and Eve, and the garden of Eden. We also read that Adam slept and was awakened by the serpent, and that he and his wife ate of the forbidden fruit, and thus became mortal, and that time would pass, and that man would die, and that man would be made of dust again, and that he would have to work for his bread, and that he would have to sweat for it.

In view of all of this it becomes naturally important that we find out the truth about the man. Was man made in the image and likeness of God, and hence created a spiritual being, or was he made out of the dust of the ground as a material being?

Christian Science accepts the first account of the creation as true, and insists that man is spiritual, and not material. This makes it necessary for Christian Science to explain the matter, and to make plain how it is possible for man to be wholly spiritual when we seem to see him as flesh and blood with our actual physical eyes. Christian Science does this, and makes the matter perfectly clear by showing that the material man is nothing more or less than the carnal mind's false concept of man.

The carnal human mind is entirely material, hence it is enmity against God, because God is Spirit and Spirit and matter are opposites. The carnal mind is composed of the aggregated beliefs founded upon the testimony of the five physical senses, which senses are wholly material, hence the carnal mind being material cannot comprehend nor estimate the things of Spirit.

It is these material elements composing the human mind that cause it to see everything as material. Being material it thinks in terms of matter, and is incapable of thinking in terms of Spirit. By an inevitable process it reduces everything to the level of matter in order to comprehend it.

It is due to this materiality that the human mind is incapable of thinking of God wholly as Spirit, and therefore, in its material belief, it reverses the nature and character of God, and converts Him into a material throne upon the sky. Likewise, because of this same material element of the human mind is incapable of thinking of the kingdom of God as a spiritual state of consciousness, which Jesus declared "is within you," which transforms it by belief into a material place, somewhere in the sky, with trappings of material splendor such as one would expect to find in the palaces of men.

Since the human mind is prevented by its own materiality from even comprehending God as Spirit and the kingdom of Heaven as a spiritual state of consciousness, it is equally incapable of thinking of man as a spiritual being. By reason of this same materiality, and hence sees him as such.

But no matter how sincerely people may believe that God is a material man, seated upon a material throne, and having a material habitation in a material place called Heaven, such belief does not make it true. God is Spirit, and His universe is wholly spiritual. There is not one material element in Him nor in anything that He created. He did not create matter in any form, nor did He create a material man. God created every thing spiritually, and not materially, and the only kind of man created by Him was the perfect spiritual man, made in His own image and likeness precisely as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

The Adam-man is not the image of God, and it is nowhere stated in the second account of the creation that the Adam-man was made in the image and likeness of God. The statements are to be found in the first chapter, and are in relation to the real man, but in spite of this people have gone on believing that the Bible taught that Adam was made in God's image.

Christian Science is the only system of teaching that I know anything about that even makes an attempt to explain the difference between man and the Adam-man, and it does explain it and makes it perfectly plain by pointing out, as has already been said, that the Adam-man is merely the false, material image-concept of man. It is the only one worth looking to, and you will find that as long as you do not believe that Adam was made in God's image, you will be free to see the truth.

It is precisely the same way the material universe and material man are created. The material universe is created by the material mind, and material man is created by the material mind. Continued on page 7

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