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## COMPLETE LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

BY RICHARD J. DAVIS, C. S.

Delivered at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Monday Evening; Church Was Crowded

A lecture on Christian Science was given last Monday evening at First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Highland Park. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Richard J. Davis, C. S., of Evanston. Mr. Davis spoke substantially as follows:

The perplexing problems of human life to-day, its physical suffering, its poverty, its discordant relations, its business and the home, its bondage to sin, all these are leading men to see that life without God presents a hopeless outlook. Men have come to realize that to depend upon matter in any form for salvation from these conditions is to lean indeed upon a broken reed. Under such circumstances, then, it is not surprising to find thousands of people questioning, "Is there really a God? and if so, what is His nature? Where is He and is He available? Is there a God who can help me solve the problems with which I am confronted?" In the words of that beautiful solo from Mendelssohn's oratorio of "Elijah" Christian Science declares that God is saying to us to-day, "If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." It declares that God is available here and now, right in our very midst. Therefore I shall speak this evening, during the time allotted to this lecture, of Christian Science and its teaching of God's availability in human experience.

Down through the ages the law of God has always been available but there have been few who discerned it enough of the truth to demonstrate it in human periods in history there have appeared great prophets and seers—Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, and others. These men approximated Truth sufficiently to men and lift the thought of their people, and by practical proof demonstrate to an almost aching doubting thought, an available God. Confucius, Socrates, and Plato also represent periods when men were reaching out for a clearer concept of God through philosophy, but the actual Science or law of being, the relation of God to man, they but dimly discerned. This remained to be exemplified in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The son of a virgin, he came in fulfillment of the age-old promise to save his people from their sins. He therefore was known as the Saviour or Way-shower. This way was a scientific one, being based on exact understanding of God and His law. He defined for all time the true or right way of thinking and living, the way of Life, Truth, and Love. Mrs. Eddy and all Christian Scientists regard Christ Jesus as the highest example of spiritual living the world has ever known. They revere and honor him as the Way-shower, and are un-speakably grateful for his life of self-abnegation and righteousness.

Obviously the healings of the great Teacher indicated the existence and operation of some divine power. They indicated that Jesus possessed accurate and scientific knowledge of God. If the position be taken that Christ Jesus was a wonder-worker who by some supernatural power and for some mysterious purpose set aside the rule or law of being, the whole mission of the Saviour falls to the ground—indeed he could no longer be called a savior. If his acts are to be viewed as a sporadic contravention of law his value as a redeemer is forever lost. His life and works would hold no meaning or promise for us. We would be without hope to-day. But Jesus was no violator of law. He was truly the Saviour, his whole life being devoted to carrying out the purpose and plan of man's salvation. This purpose of Christ Jesus was the fulfillment of God's will. Indeed he came as he himself declared, not to do "mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." He came, as the Bible says, the Messiah, to seek and save that which was lost. In fulfilling his mission as a savior and redeemer, Jesus recognized that the only way to save those who were lost would be a practical one which he demonstrated in healing the sick, he demonstrated in raising the dead, and delivering men from sin. He said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Truth is the same in every age, through all eternity, and we declare that the same truth which Jesus knew and which enabled him to heal the sick and cast out devils, is the understanding of God and man which to-day is made available in Christian Science, and which Mrs. Eddy discovered in her study of the Bible and the life of Jesus.

God This brings us to a discussion of God as understood in Christian Science. In fact all consideration of Christian Science must necessarily be predicated on a correct concept of Deity. But perhaps at this point someone may say, "But I do not believe in God. What Christian Science teaches regarding God does not interest me. I am an agnostic or an atheist." I know you will pardon me

if I venture to suggest that what you no doubt mean is that you do not believe in the thousand or more differing beliefs and confusing statements regarding God in which mankind has for centuries involved itself. All these you may reasonably question, and in presenting the concept of God as understood in Christian Science, I do so with the knowledge that you will accept it only so far as it accords with clear and logical reasoning. Christian Science does not ask you to believe in God. It asks you to know or understand Him. Christian Science asks you to accept nothing on the basis of belief or faith. We only ask that you will think.

You do not deny that you are conscious; that you are conscious that you exist in the present you exist in the church, and that something in the nature of intelligence brought you here. You are living, a living entity, and something makes you live and makes you think. You know that you think, that you have the power to think. Here we are, a great group of living, thinking, moving beings, and as our thought reaches out we realize that outside of us, in this city, in this country, yes, in all parts of the earth, there are billions more like ourselves, all living, thinking, moving, intelligent entities. What does it proclaim? What does it indicate? We exist, we are conscious of existence and conscious that some force has brought us into being. Did we create or evolve ourselves? Can any one or all of us claim the distinction of being the origin or creator of all, or even a part, of this conscious being? Reason enables us to recognize that we behold, even in a human way, certainly an immeasurable effect, can only proceed from a self-existent, self-perpetuating, and immeasurable cause, and leads us then logically to admit conscious existence, conscious intelligence and life infinitely extended, and back of it all one infinite, intelligent cause which we in Christian Science reverently call God.

In line with such thinking, Mrs. Eddy states in Science and Health, on page 267, "God is one." The allness of Deity is His oneness. Christian Science is monotheistic in the very highest sense. It declares that God is not only one but All and all-inclusive, a conclusion which follows logically if the one sublime cause is infinite.

Christian Science demands a correct and thoughtful appraisal of words in their proper metaphysical sense. We all realize the possibility of their careless or shallow use when applied to Deity, but Mrs. Eddy gave them their full value. When she declared in her definition of God that He is All, she meant exactly that. "God, the great I AM; the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; Intelligence." (Science and Health, p. 587.) In the same manner she employs the word "infinite" exclusively and entirely in accord with the best standard dictionaries.

Christian Science affirms logically that there cannot be more than one All, one all-inclusive, self-existent, and immeasurable God. It also follows that since the cause of all conscious being is self-existent it must also be eternal, and wholly good. Christian Science reveals, too, that since God is the one I AM, the infinite cause of the universe, including man, He is in Mother, not only Father, but also Him as the Father, and in Him as the Father, embodying all the attributes of love, gentleness, mercy, and goodness, "our Father-Mother, God" (Science and Health, p. 16).

Evil Unreal Mrs. Eddy through spiritual logic perceived that God was infinite and wholly good and that to fit in the face of everything that the material senses declare to the contrary. And now someone is thinking, "But evil, what do you say about evil? Isn't it real?" If evil is real, actual, it must be true; if true, it is a part of Truth, God-created and God-ordained. God is to be regarded as the cause and creator of evil, where does it lead us? To the inevitable and unthinkable conclusion that the intelligent creator of the universe is the originator of all sin, disease, disaster, and accident; that God deliberately makes men sinful, criminal, and sick, and then punishes them for impulses and instincts for which they are wholly irresponsible. Is that an intelligent concept of God? Does that satisfy you and make you happy? Does it inspire your respect, your veneration, your love, your devotion? Does it satisfy your reason to ascribe to God all the pain, sin, and suffering of the human family? And again, if God has made us? To the inevitable and unthinkable origin of all our trouble, how dare we attempt, through the aid of physicians or Christian Science, to escape the eternal incubus of evil that this God has put upon us? Thinking based on the false concept of the existence of both good and evil is wholly futile. And if we say there are two causes, one good and another evil, what is it but idolatry? One can see that the pagans rather naturally, but without reason, followed the testimony of their senses, which told them that there was such that was not good. But to-day shall we follow those same unreliable senses, senses which are being proved more and more untrustworthy and untrue? Can we accept the notion of a good God and a devil or evil god; or shall we follow the Mosaic command, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me?" Christ Jesus speaking of evil said, "He is a liar, and the father of it."—He is that evil is real, God-bestowed and God-created. A lie—that is, the only name he had for devil or Satan.

Creation The all-wise, the all-seeing, the all-acting, and all-loving cause could or-

iginiate and conceive of creation only as like itself, perfect, eternal, and good. Creation, then, the universe including man, is the intelligent, orderly effect of a supreme mental cause, and the infinite cause is self-existent Mind, spiritual and eternal. The activity of Mind is thinking, and the product of thinking is thoughts, and Christian Science declares that the divine Mind or God is revealed in thoughts or ideas, that these thoughts are eternal in the Mind conceiving them, and therefore that they are true of Time, indestructible and immutable. What is the nature of a true thought, or to put it another way, an idea of Truth? Is it not to enlighten, to free from ignorance or error? Jesus said that we should know the truth (true ideas) and that the true or right ideas would make us free. In other words the true idea is the savior from error or ignorance. Truth is the redeemer of consciousness, redeeming, saving us from ignorant, dark, and erroneous thinking.

Modern psychology, of course, will tell you that the brain is the seat of consciousness, that thoughts or ideas have their origin inside our heads. How inspiring! How reasonable! Consider for a moment our thinking even on a human plane since we rose this morning. What has been going on? Thoughts, thoughts, thoughts in rapid succession, so fast, so many, and so varied that we cannot begin to calculate or number them. Where do they come from? Where is their origin? A piece of gray pulpy matter inside a skull? Does spiritual Truth and inspiration originate in a cerebrum or cerebellum? And again, if true thoughts or ideas originate in one man's skull or brain what shall the remainder of us do? Shall we be deprived of our ideas? How shall we get them? Shall we not have truth too?

Science teaches that Truth or true ideas are in their very nature omnipresent and ever available, and denominated as superstition the notion that the majesty of Mind and its infinite manifestation should find its beginning in a piece of gray matter in a human brain? No one, and no one ever will, for it isn't there. Mrs. Eddy in what she has exactly termed "the scientific statement of being" says in Science and Health (p. 468), "There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance, matter, or mind in finite 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. Matter is man's error; he is spiritual."

Man spiritual—the exact and complete image of God in accordance with the first chapter of Genesis, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them; so in man declared to be in Christian Science. Let us consider this man for a moment. If God is infinite Mind, then man, His likeness, is the spiritual reflection or image of infinite Mind. God becomes immediately available to us as intelligence, wisdom, and perception, infinitely manifested. If God is cause or the Life of all being, and man is the exact image or likeness of Life, God becomes available to us as our very life and being, the energy and intelligence back of all our movements and actions. Again, since God is good or Love, then man is the complete image or reflection of infinite good or Love. God becomes available to us as substance, supply, purity, and righteousness, infinitely manifested.

What does it mean to be a son of God, a real man? Does it not mean the perception and establishment of our unity with God, a realization that we are the exact and perfect image and likeness of Life, Truth, and Love, the Father-Mother God? Christ Jesus claimed his divine sonship and the Pharisees called him a blasphemer, but he was only asserting his natural and divine heritage as a child of God. Shall we do less? As John says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." The New Testament is filled with statements indicating man's spiritual and divine sonship.

Nature of the Christ In claiming his spiritual heritage as the reflection of infinite Mind, Jesus thereby established his identity as the Christ. This is the spiritual idea of sonship to which Jesus referred when he said, "Before Abraham was, I am," and, "I and my Father are one." Christian Science distinguishes between the corporeal man Jesus and the Christ or Truth which he exemplified and lived. If Jesus had not appeared as a human being practically explaining and demonstrating in the flesh this Christ-sonship, mortals would not have appreciated or understood him. His healings were the proofs of his divine sonship, and the Bible says that he did many wonderful works in the name of God. What was it, then, that enabled him to do these works? They were concrete exhibitions of spiritual force, of intelligence. What was the power (Continued on page four)

## STATE TO INDICATE PURE WATER SOURCE FOR BENEFIT OF TOURISTS

Health Department to Examine Drinking Water Supplies On State Roads and to Label the Good

Safe water for thirsty tourists is the object of a new project undertaken last week by sanitary engineers reached in the State Department of Public Health. A systematic survey of all public and private water supplies available to tourists along the principal highways will be carried out as rapidly as possible, according to Dr. Isaac D. Rawlings, director of public health, and an official seal, indicating that the water is safe for drinking purposes will be securely fastened to the pumps and faucets at all sources found to yield water of a sanitary quality. The Pike's Peak, ocean to ocean highway which is State Route No. 10 in Illinois, is the first on the schedule of the survey. The work along the hard roads will probably occupy the attention of the engineers for several months.

To Protect Tourists "The recent enormous increase in the number of tourists and campers and the ever present danger to health from drinking polluted water," Dr. Rawlings declared, "makes imperative the application of every available safety device to help individuals protect their health." For these reasons the Department of Public Health has undertaken the project of inspecting the source and analyzing samples of public and private water supplies available to travelers along the main highway of the state. "Every source found to be satisfactory and producing water safe for drinking purposes will be conspicuously labeled with an official seal or certificate. Seals will be used on pumps and faucets while certificates will be used in case of springs. In addition to the seals it may be found practical to stencil the official stamp of approval on the base of pumps and similar places. Water supplies regarded as unsafe will not be labeled in any manner, whatever. Tourists who wish to minimize the danger from contaminated water are therefore advised to look for the safety seals when about to drink or fill their thermos bottles.

Work Begun "Work has already begun on that part of State Highway No. 10, which leads from Springfield to Danville. The inspection and analysis will take two or three weeks so that the first seals will appear along this route about the middle of August.

"While safety seals will not be a guarantee that the water concerned is absolutely safe at all times they will however indicate that conditions are favorable for producing water that is constantly safe and that the tourists can use water from these sources without undue apprehensions of unhappy consequences."

## ADVERTISING DUTY, COMMISSION HOLDS

Notable Decision in Case Made in Connecticut Advocating Publicity

Of interest to newspapers is the opinion of the State Public Utilities Commission of Connecticut which recently denied the petition of the mayor at Stamford, Conn., who objected to the advertising expense of the Stamford Gas & Electric company, being included as an operating expense of the company. The commission ruled as follows: "The experience and observation of the commission has been that frequently complaints by patrons in matters relating to utilities are due to the omission of the utility to provide intelligent information. The commission has always advocated a proper amount of publicity on the part of the utilities in order that their patrons may be informed as to operating and financial conditions. A fair and frank statement by the utility on controversial questions will assist in maintaining a relationship of good will and co-operation between the company and its patrons."

## JULY WAS COOLEST HERE SINCE 1891

Last month was the coolest July Illinois has experienced since 1891, reports Clarence J. Root, meteorologist of the federal weather bureau at Springfield, in his climatological summary for the month. The temperature was considerably below the average a greater part of the month. Rainfall varied greatly in the state, during the month, Champaign and Vermillion counties receiving less than one inch, while Hancock and McDonough counties received more than 8 inches.

## KING'S ENGLISH AS SPOKEN OVER THERE

Difference in Business Terms From Those Used in U. S. Are Indicated

Americans who went to London this summer to attend the International Advertising convention learned some new things about understanding and use of the English of the English. A glossary of business English was prepared for the use of visiting advertising men to point out the pitfalls which may be avoided in the use of trade terms.

Over there, a "chemist's shop" stands for our "drug store"—and a "warehouse" for a store of any kind. Nor is wood alcohol bought and sold—"methylated spirits" are the words on English labels. Our plain "dry goods" becomes "drapery" or "mercery" on the other side, and are sold in "drapers' shops." Grocers are known by other names—if they deal in spinach, they are "green grocers," but if they sell chickens they are "poultryers." And our "Hello" at the telephone won't do—"Are you there?" are the words in the English mapner. And so the comparisons go. "Suspenders" become "braces," and a "check" a "cheque." The English sweet tooth

is not satisfied with our "candy"—it requires the more literal "sweets." Welcome to the glossary—if it is a "glossary," for it represents a commendable effort to make the King's English safe for democracy.

## SECRETARY WILBUR MAY VISIT COUNTY

Is Expected at Great Lakes At End of This Week and to Inspect Station

Preparations are being made at the Great Lakes naval training station for the visit this month of Secretary of the Navy Wilbur. Mr. Wilbur is due in Chicago August 22 and while there he will visit the naval station in order that he may study its practical uses to the government. It will be Mr. Wilbur's first visit to the state and all preparations will be made to give him a royal welcome. The local station appears to be on the eve of a new wave of prosperity and it is believed that the navy secretary's visit augurs well for its future.

Broad arrows are no longer used to mark the clothing of British convicts, and the authorities are considering a scheme for giving the prisoners lounge suits to wear.

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