

FREE LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

JUDGE FREDERICK C. HILL

Held Sunday Afternoon at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Highland Park

A lecture on Christian Science was given under the auspices of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in the church edifice, Highland Park, Illinois, Sunday, October 23, by Judge Frederick C. Hill, C. S., of Clinton, Illinois, member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

The subject of the lecture was "Christian Science: The Revelation of Man's Inalienable Rights." Judge Hill spoke substantially as follows:

There is a substantial conviction in the thoughts of normal individuals that they should be healthy and to be happy; and human endeavor is very largely directed toward the attainment of these desirable ends.

The basic foundation upon which government rests, is the fact that mankind is endowed with the "right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These fundamentals have been designated and named, "Man's Inalienable Rights"; and civil law has decreed that the enjoyment of these rights shall not be limited, abridged, nor denied, without "due process of law."

A survey of the conditions surrounding mankind will disclose the fact that many individuals are sick and unhappy; others are struggling with poverty and lack; large numbers are not enjoying liberty of mind nor body. It will be discovered that great masses are not successfully engaged in the pursuit of happiness. The amazing fact is the discovery that these individuals have not been deprived of their natural, sacred rights through "due process of law." These distressing penalties are self-imposed through erroneous thinking; and they have utterly failed to discover that obedience to the fundamental order of right thinking will establish and insure the enjoyment of these rights.

An Illustration
No doubt it has been observed that many people are continually looking for and expecting to find the unpleasant things in human experience. Being accustomed to finding these conditions, the obstacles seem apparently insurmountable, and these individuals conclude that there is no available remedy, hence they endure them.

Some months ago I was a passenger on a railway train enroute to a large city. As we approached the terminal station the train very suddenly and unexpectedly stopped. Upon investigation it was discovered that a large truck was disabled directly in front of our train and was standing across the track. After some little time the passengers alighted from the train and began to examine the truck. The majority of them formulated opinions as to the best method to be employed in its removal; and they were quite willing to give these opinions and their advice to those engaged in the task of its removal. After all the time spent in examining the truck, and discussing the methods of removal, you may be assured that the obstacle was still there. At this time a little newsboy with a large bundle of evening papers appeared. As he approached the truck one of the men observing his interest in it said: "Well, I suppose you can tell us just how to remove this truck." He smiled, and at once replied, "Let me think a minute. May be I can tell you how to move it." The man looked at him in amazement and replied: "Think. What does your thinking have to do with removing that big truck?" The little newsboy had observed that the motor within the truck was silent. He turned his attention away from the obstacle and began to look about. While thus engaged he discovered a large switch engine on an adjacent track about three hundred yards away. In an instant he exclaimed: "Yes, I can tell you how to move it. Back that big engine up to the rear of the truck and hook on those two big chains, and she will pull the truck out of your way in a jiffy." His recommendation was adopted; the engine and chains were attached to the truck, and in ten minutes we were on our way into the terminal station.

The engine was there. It had been there all the time. Not one individual had looked away from the truck; and consequently no one had discovered the remedy at hand. Did the thinking of that little newsboy have any thing to do with the removal of the truck? Had it not been for the thinking of some individual the truck would have been on the track at this very moment. Hence, there is but one reply—the thinking of that little boy was the prime factor in removing that obstacle.

There are many distressing human experiences impeding progress and preventing the enjoyment of man's natural rights, just as the truck impeded the normal progress of the train into the terminal station. Just as the truck could be removed through right thinking, so it has been discovered that all through the ages there has been, and now is, an efficient and effective remedy for every human need. To this age, that remedy has been restored and presented through the revelation of Christian Science as the fulfillment of the basic laws of life, liberty and happiness.

The Bible. The Textbook.
I am quite sure it will be agreed that if Christian Science is a revelation, then, of necessity, it must have its foundation grounded and established in Bible authority. Hence, as a requisite to the understanding and practice of Christian Science, it must be recognized and accepted, that its teachings are based fundamentally upon the Bible; and that the King

James version of the New and of the Old Testaments is recognized and used in all Christian Science services. Through the study of this version of the Bible, Mary Baker Eddy received her inspired revelation. She gave to the world her discovery, and founded and established the Christian Science movement.

There are many intelligent people who have never investigated the subject of Christian Science; and at times one hears this expression: "Christian Scientists talk a great deal about a Discoverer and Founder. Who is that Discoverer? What was discovered? What was founded?"

The answer to all of these queries is simple. An intelligent, devout, Christian woman, Mary Baker Eddy, is the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. Early in childhood she became deeply religious and was an efficient and progressive student of the Bible. Through an earnest study and research of the Scriptures she proved that perfect trust and confidence in God's laws are followed by fixed and absolute results. She furthermore proved that God governs His universe, including man, through infinite intelligence; and that infinite intelligence constitutes and embraces absolute law. She likewise proved that absolute law is immutable, (unchangeable), and that it can be understood and intelligently applied; and when understood and accordingly applied, absolute law sets aside and nullifies the false beliefs oft designated and termed, "natural" or "human" law.

During her investigation and research, an injury caused by an accident led her to apply these absolute, immutable laws to her then apparently helpless condition; and through her understanding and the intelligent application of these laws she was healed. Through this experience she had proved for herself that God's laws are immutable, available and operative. She discovered the "Divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love," (Science and Health, p. 107) and she named that discovery Christian Science.

After her discovery and healing she wrote and published a book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," and designated this book the "Christian Science Text Book." Many people believe that Christian Scientists regard this book as the Bible; and that they substitute it for the Bible. This belief is unfounded and untrue. The Christian Science text-book is not the Bible nor a substitute for it. It is merely that which its name implies: A "Key," a spiritual interpretation of God's unchangeable laws set forth in the Bible.

In due time this New England woman established a church;—"The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts"; and throughout the world there have been established many legitimate and authorized branches of this church.

Christian Scientists love this Christian woman and they are deeply grateful for the years of loyal devotion given by her in establishing this cause. As a testimony of their loyalty, devotion and gratitude, they are striving to preserve, protect, and make available, her discovery. They are striving to apply it to the needs of humanity. And they are earnestly striving to live up to her high standard of a genuine Christian Scientist thus defined:—"Christian Scientists abide by the laws of God and the laws of the land; and following the command of the Master, they go into all the world, preaching the gospel and healing the sick." (Miscellany, p. 128.) "Moreover, they love their enemies, even those that hate them. This we all must do to be Christian Scientists in spirit and in truth." (Pulpit and Press, p. 21.)

Christian Healing. Its Authority.
In the investigation of Christian Science it will be discovered that its mission is not merely to relieve physical discomfort and heal disease, but that its ultimate purpose is the elimination and destruction, (forgiveness), of all sin.

Some of our religious friends have raised the objection that we make entirely too much out of the healing element. We frankly admit that we make a great deal out of the healing element. However, it should be clearly understood that we are not establishing a monopoly nor seeking to limit or confine the practice of Christian healing within the ranks of one single religious denomination. The field is a large one, and we are content to let Christian Science be judged by the joy, happiness, and intrinsic good that it brings into human experience through the healing of the sick and the reforming of the sinner.

The element of Christian healing seems to have been very largely eliminated from the thoughts of Christian people generally, and consequently has gradually disappeared as an essential, vital activity of the Christian churches of to-day.

To, "Reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing," (Manual, p. 17) was the prime motive in the establishment of the Christian Science movement by Mary Baker Eddy.

Some time ago, a friendly physician said some very kind and helpful things regarding his observation of this movement and its mission. He related the circumstances of a visit to a distant city; and of his attendance at Sunday morning service in one of the Christian Science churches of that city. He frankly admitted a deep interest and enjoyment in the services, and said that it bore evidence of a genuine, consecrated Christian service. He then said, "However, I want to give your people just a little free advice. You confine your efforts to preaching the gospel; keep your hands entirely off that healing element. Leave that part to the physician and surgeon; he will attend to that and it will relieve you of a vast amount of responsibility."

The comments of this physician were made after due reflection and were expressions of his good faith. We deeply appreciate the recognition that our services have a place in the work of evangelizing the world, and the frank admission that they are Christian in character. It is plain to be seen that

he entertained a very limited vision of the mission of the Christian religion; and that he had made the common mistake made by many good Christian people. His assertions would indicate that the entire mission of the Christian religion was, as he put it, "preaching the gospel." His understanding of the taking of a text from the Bible and proclaiming from some public place a theological discourse or oration on that text. That was the full meaning of his understanding of "preaching the gospel." Now, many people entertain the same limited understanding. This narrow vision of the mission of the Christian religion will be gloriously illuminated by reading the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; also the Acts of the Apostles.

A systematic study of the Bible will reveal that Jesus and his disciples devoted very little time to that kind of preaching. It will become apparent to the thoughtful student that the major portion of their ministry was devoted to the healing of the sick; establishing comfort and good cheer among those who were sorrowful and distressed; and furthermore, to uplifting the sinner and restoring the dead to life.

It will be observed that Christ Jesus left a positive command or commission to be observed by his disciples, (students) and followers. He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15.) And again: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils." (Matthew 10:7-8.)

It is universally recognized that every positive fact is based and founded upon an absolute principle. Jesus announced a positive fact when he said: "And these signs shall follow." (Mark 16:17.) The sick shall be healed, the deaf shall hear, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk, and devils or demons shall be cast out. Why these signs? These signs enumerated by him as recorded in the gospels are the absolute and affirmative evidence that the gospel preached and practiced by him is established and grounded upon divine Principle. Hence, when understood and intelligently applied that principle is evidenced through the operation of immutable (unchangeable) law.

Christian Science Healing.—Foundation.

At this time our attention should be directed to the basis or foundation upon which Christian Science healing rests. I submit the following statement of fact from the Chapter on "Prayer," the first Chapter in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy. "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God,—a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love." (S. & H. p. 1, 1-4.)

Accepting the facts herein stated as a foundation there is but one conclusion; viz., Christian Science healing is based upon divine Principle. It is the evidence of immutable law. Hence, the "signs following."

It would be quite reasonable to assume that some individuals will take issue with the statement of fact heretofore made; and that they will conclude that such statement is not supported by daily observation and experience. In support of the issue thus raised they may cite as evidence that

some Christian Scientists are sick; others are struggling with sorrow, poverty and adverse conditions. They may point to some who have made failures in business transactions, and to instances of those who have passed through the human experience of death. The issue very promptly raises these questions:—"Why these conditions? Why have these individuals not been healed?"

In replying to the queries it would seem quite sufficient merely to call attention to the fact that we have not asserted that all human discord, embracing sin, sickness, poverty, failures, and death have been eliminated from human consciousness nor from human experience. Furthermore it is not asserted nor claimed by enlightened Christian Scientists that at this time we have scaled the heights of proof and demonstration that exclude all of the evidences of failure. The principle remains just the same. These evidences of failure do not in the least change nor affect the principle; they do not in the least nullify the operation of the law of healing. These evidences are affirmative proof that in some way the principle has not been completely understood, and consequently the immutable laws of good have not been fully and completely applied.

Amplification
At this time let me present an experience amplifying the point under consideration. Some years ago a problem in advanced algebra was submitted for solution. It appeared quite simple and in due time the necessary steps were taken to solve it. There was a firm conviction that a final result would be reached in a short time. But after several hours of hard labor the problem remained unsolved. The hours accumulated into days, weeks and months. After more than four months of hard, earnest work the problem was unsolved. Apparently every rule and mathematical law had been applied. The conclusion was reached that this problem would not yield to the usual mathematical procedure and could not be solved. It was proposed to enter this conclusion at the foot of the manuscript containing the evidence of the four months labor and submit all as the best proof in justification of the conclusion reached.

However, before taking that step, and upon reflection it was discovered that every remedy had not been exhausted. A systematic and orderly review of the steps and stages necessary to its solution had not been made. This was an arduous and laborious task, but as there seemed no other course to follow, in due time it

was done.
This review revealed the fact that early in the solution in attempting to apply a very simple mathematical law the statement was made, five times naught equals five. There was the cause of the failure. Five times naught was not five. It never was five; and it never will be five. Naught is the sign or symbol representing nothing; and I submit this fact:—"Five times nothing is nothing." That fact can never be changed.

The success in solving that problem was dependent upon knowing the mathematical principle involved and strict obedience to it. Obedience was paramount; and without it all efforts were futile and resulted in failure. There was nothing wrong with the mathematical principle. It was full and complete. It was operative; and as a fact, remains for every one to know, understand and apply. There was nothing wrong with the principle nor with the operation of its law. The failure was due to the erroneous conclusion that "nothing" could have a value, and to the assignment of a value to it. Through the failure to observe and follow the mathematical principle a self-imposed penalty of working four months erroneously had been experienced.
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