

HEAR LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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But, one may say, "How does this truth free one from the beliefs of materiality, the illusions of the senses?" This is clearly illustrated by a rubber ball. Suppose a ball were to be held so tightly in a hand that it would be distorted until it hardly resembled a ball. Now, how could this be corrected? The answer is simple: Release the fingers one by one until the ball resumes its true form. The ball had been all right all the time, but it did need to be freed from pressure in order to express normality. The same is true of mortal man held in bondage by evil beliefs of sickness, sorrow, discouragement, and fear. He needs to be freed from the pressure of the cruel bands of materiality. Christian Science teaches how these false, material beliefs are destroyed one by one through a correct understanding of man made in the image and likeness of God. Through this understanding, all evil, which is but a seeming, is destroyed, disappears even as a belief, and man is released, set free to claim and enjoy his birthright as a child of God. By teaching and practice, Jesus fully proved and illustrated man's freedom and perfection. Of Lazarus he said, "Loose him, and let him go." Jesus taught universal freedom and Christianity, and through the teachings of Christian Science the world will understand this Science of Christianity, the truth which Jesus said to know made free.

SALVATION

Mankind is really longing to know the truth and to be saved from all the ills of the flesh. Christian Science teaches that salvation comes through transformation of thought; that only in right thinking lies the remedy for all the ills which beset humanity. Then how to think correctly is a most important factor in working out one's salvation.

But one may ask, "How can one escape from the bondage of wrong thinking? How can one distinguish good thoughts from bad, in order to overcome the false?" Christian Science answers that all good thoughts are from God and have their origin in infinite Mind. Since God knows only good, therefore only good and perfect thoughts can emanate from this Mind. The study of Christian Science shows clearly that man reflects divine Mind, which is infinite intelligence. He is thereby endowed with the ability to think correctly, to know and to understand the truth taught by Jesus. Progress has always been accomplished by those whose thoughts have been governed by divine intelligence. Sometimes to human sense progress seems slow and we have to struggle to reach the God-crowned summit of spiritual understanding. Sometimes we seem to be in the valley of despair and sense testimony argues that we have made little or no progress, but this is not true if we have been faithful each day in utilizing the understanding we have gained. The lesson we learn in mountain climbing is very helpful. As we scale a mountain we find the valleys up along the mountain side are really higher than the peaks which we have left behind. While we pass through the depressions, however, we may lose sight of the progress we have made, but if we keep climbing on and up with a courageous heart, we shall soon find ourselves upon another peak, and from this outlook we are able to see the progress we have made; and, too, we find the time spent in the valley has been profitable, and has given the opportunity to gain strength for the next climb upward.

In working or thinking out our salvation, in taking our steps heavenward, it is mortal sense alone which argues discouragement or fear, for to spiritual sense, divine intelligence, the way is always more beautiful and glorious than words can describe. The mission of Christ Jesus was to show the way of salvation, to save the world from all evil, to overcome and abolish the belief in sin and death. It was the divine intelligence that he expressed which enabled him to be the Way-shower. Christian Science teaches that the Mind which was in Christ Jesus, the Mind which he reflected, is the divine Mind, God, and we reflect this same Mind, and are thereby endowed with the ability to understand the teachings of Jesus and to work out our salvation in the way that Jesus taught.

Christian Science is a religion of works, a religion of fulfillment. The human heart longs for freedom and joy now. A promise of happiness and peace after death has never really satisfied humanity and has kept countless numbers from desiring or seeking salvation. Of what comfort would it be to tell a man who was starving that he could have food in abundance week after next? Christian Science declares that now is the time in which to have the human longing for health, happiness, and dominion satisfied. Did not Paul explain in a graphic way that salvation is a present possibility, pay a necessity, and that each day is the day of fulfillment? Each day we must save ourselves from the habit of wrong thinking and living, from dependence upon, and belief in, things material. One great belief of mortal mind from which we need to be freed is the belief that old age is accompanied by inactivity and impairment. When we advance sufficiently in right

thinking to overcome this belief we shall have made great progress. Sorrow. One subtle way in which error is trying to prevent us from making this demonstration over advancing age is the observance of birthdays. This celebration may seem to bring great joy to children, but it is the entering wedge of a harmful habit and a conspiracy against health and happiness, and therefore should not be indulged.

Recently I was told of a little girl who, when asked her age, replied: "Mother has only known me three years, but God has known me all ways." This little girl had caught a glimpse of immortality, of the continuity of being, the fact that man reflects God. However, we shall not make this demonstration so long as we permit ourselves to think we are growing old, as mortal mind counts age. The accumulation of years should bring into our experience a greater abundance of joy, health, and freedom. Christian Science is proving that this demonstration comes only with a better understanding of God, and when mortals apply this understanding to their individual problems they go forward, gaining in strength, usefulness, and dominion.

CHRIST JESUS

Christ Jesus was successful in demonstrating man's oneness with the Father. Through his understanding of the continuity of being, the truth that man is the emanation of God, he destroyed the manifold discordant beliefs of the flesh, manifest as evil, sickness, and death. He proved the falsity of the belief in death by raising himself from death and the grave. The virgin birth of Jesus enabled him to be the mediator between the flesh and the true, and to be the mediator between Spirit and the flesh. In the Bible we read, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Christian Science teaches that Christ Jesus came as the Son of God, showing the way of salvation, and that there is no other way through which mortals may be delivered from the ills of the flesh. Being born of a human mother, he knew the needs of humanity. Christ Jesus expressed both the divine and the human; therefore he was able to explain the nature of God and man's relation to God in a way humanity could understand.

In the Christian Science textbook (p. 589) Mrs. Eddy gives this definition of Jesus: "The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality." In the same book (p. 583), Mrs. Eddy defines Christ as "the divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error." It was this manifestation of God that enabled Jesus to heal the sick and do his mighty works. Christian Science teaches and clearly proves through its redemptive healing work that Christ as the divine idea, or manifestation of God, is ever present and operative. It declares that the Christ power so wonderfully expressed and proved by Jesus is available to mankind throughout all time.

Mortal man, dependent upon matter, is prone to rely upon sense-testimony, upon his own ability in working out the problems of life. Through Christian Science he is learning how to rely upon God, how to separate the false from the real. He is learning how to repudiate sense-testimony, how to turn to God through prayer for his protection and help; and this reliance upon God makes his own efforts for salvation effective. Through the divine nature of Jesus and his teaching, humanity has been able to apprehend the Christ. Jesus proved his teaching by his works.

Through the careful study of the Bible and Science and Health, we learn how to pray aright, and how to make the most practical use of the teachings of Christ Jesus. Countless numbers of men, women, and children are ready to testify that through this understanding they have been healed. They have been able to drop their burdens of human woe, and have found peace, health, happiness, and rest beside the "still waters" of spiritual understanding. Christian Science declares that these blessings may be secured through prayer.

PRAYER

It teaches that right desire is prayer. Does not this make prayer an ever available, practical help in working out the problems of life? For it is possible to desire good every waking moment. It is obvious that we are expected to pray constantly, for Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing." Paul's admonition troubled me as a child. My concept of prayer was supplication to God on bended knee. I would often wonder how the affairs of the world could be cared for if we followed the counsel of Paul literally and remained unceasingly on our knees. Christian Science teaches that it is not necessary to plead with God on bended knee for what is deemed essential in life, but rather is true prayer the affirmation and realization that, as God is good and man is His image and likeness, all good is available now. It declares that God's work is finished, as the Bible states, and that God has already given all good, success, health, and happiness to His children. This perfection is manifested in our lives in the degree that we desire holiness,—to live in obedience to God. Thousands can testify that through this correct understanding of prayer they have been healed, they have received protection, their lives have been regenerated and made new.

But one may ask, "How is it possible to keep one's thought filled with good, always to be loving and kind, when one seems to be surrounded by discordant conditions?" Christian Science answers that the way to escape from sick, miserable thoughts, which produce all human woe and suffering, is to know that because they are not of God, they are not real and neither power nor dominion over man, for man is the reflection of God, and can reflect only what God is. Therefore, man in reality can only think pure, holy, and wholesome thoughts. Sick thoughts cause sick bodies.

To bring about healing, our prayers must be pure and unselfish. We must express patience, love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and purity. These pure, unselfish desires will enable us to strive without ceasing, with our whole heart, for inspiration, for enlightenment, that we may radiate and express God's spiritual creation. We shall willingly and with great joy leave the old for the new, leave the old landmarks of sin, sickness, sorrow, and failure, that we may reflect His glory. We shall willingly pray for spiritual discernment and ability to impart and share this glory with others, to know that God does reveal to us here and now His infinite, holy purpose.

HEALING

Christian Science teaches that God is almighty; that He is infinite, all-inclusive good, the sole Creator of the universe; that God, who is infinite good, could plan nothing less than perfection for His creation. It also teaches that man is the reflection of God, good, and in order for him to fulfill the purpose or plan of God, he must express the nature of God, the activity of good; he must think pure, holy thoughts. To-day, thousands are rejoicing that through the teaching and practice of Christian Science they have gained a demonstrable understanding of the commandment of Jesus: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

However, there must first be a desire for perfection before mortals are willing to do the necessary work to bring it into human experience. The time required before mortals will perceive and maintain in thought the perfect likeness of God will depend upon the amount of darkness, wrong thinking, to be overcome, and their faithfulness in striving to overcome it. It will require constant prayer, work, and watchfulness to overcome, eliminate, and obliterate from human consciousness all that is unlike good.

But one may ask, "How can I ever gain perfection. I seem to express so little of right thinking?" We know that just as the faintest light will penetrate darkness, so a grain of spiritual light expressed as right understanding will destroy something of the darkness of materiality. To grow in understanding it would be helpful to take an inventory of our mental storehouse and discard from it all impure thoughts. Mortal mind may try to tempt us to store away in some nook or corner a few choice remnants of materiality, but if we desire peace we shall willingly and quickly clear out and destroy all erroneous thoughts based upon sense-testimony, replacing them with pure, holy thoughts. The process is simple and the results assured. When we realize the joy, health, and freedom that comes from right mental activity, we shall eagerly bar our mental door from all sick, wicked, impure thoughts. For only in spiritual, right thinking lies the remedy for all the ills of the flesh.

Christian Science is bringing to mankind an awakened and enlarged sense of true existence. It teaches that healing the sick and sinning, binding up the broken-hearted, and lifting the burden of fear, is an essential part of Christianity. Humanity down through the ages has been struggling to be freed from the bondage of fear. To-day, Christian Science is lovingly and effectually removing fear, and without condemnation is letting the healing thought come to the awakened consciousness. Christian Science declares that in order to master fear, prove its nothingness and cast it out, we must see that it has its seeming origin in the darkness of ignorance, superstition, and mortality. The Bible gives us an exact and unerring remedy for fear. John said, "Perfect love casteth our fear."

What is perfect love? Christian Science teaches that God is Love. Therefore fear, which is the fruit of the carnal mind does not and cannot originate in Love. With a correct understanding and application of man's God-given dominion over the whole earth, one may overcome all fear and successfully accomplish whatever is right for one to do. Christian Science is the panacea for all fear and discord, in the home, social, and business life. Fear is a foe to the business man, for it argues doubt, failure, and limitation. For example: Suppose a business man should be burdened by fear,—afraid of sickness, loss, failure, or competition; afraid that he might not have the judgment to make correct decisions about business matters; or, should he be employed, afraid he might not receive merited promotion, or be fearful of losing his position. All of this fear and erroneous thinking is effectually removed through the study of Christian Science, which teaches that God is omnipotent and omniscient; that He is to be trusted at all times; and that divine intelligence is directing all right activity and supplying all good. Therefore, man cannot express failure or lack of any sort, for man reflects all that Mind, God, has to bestow. Christian Science teaches that in God's perfect plan all His ideas have their rightful place and activity; therefore, they cannot be displaced or lack rightful employment, nor be deprived of just reward for work well done.

However, genuine success in life lies not in what we are getting, but in the faithful service we are giving. The business man who depends upon Christian Science for his help and success finds fear, anxiety, and discouragement overcome and replaced by confidence, joy, and peace. Christian Science teaches how to think rightly about our business and our fellow-men. It demands the highest possible standard of morality; it demands honesty, purity, integrity in home, social, and business life.

On page 128 of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy writes, "Business men and cultured scholars have found that Christian Science enhances their endurance and mental powers, enlarges their perception of character, gives them acuteness and comprehensiveness and an ability to exceed their ordinary capacity." Farther down on the same page Mrs. Eddy states, "A knowledge of the Science of being develops the latent abilities and possibilities of man. It extends the atmosphere of thought, giving mortals access to broader and higher realms."

Multitudes of people are rejoicing that daily they are perceiving more clearly how to prove the truth of the statements just quoted.

Christian Science teaches, however, that one must express alertness and activity to experience and enjoy the blessings bestowed upon him by his heavenly Father, for these cannot be received while manifesting indifference or neutrality, for real life means activity, not stagnation. Man must express divine energy, for God is omnipotent, that is, all action. The purpose of all true existence is to express divine activity, to prove man's oneness with the Father, and reflect Him in daily living.

Christian Science teaches that God, Spirit, is the only Cause and Creator, and that He is infinite, all-inclusive good. Also it teaches that spiritual man is the expression of God's infinite perfection, and reflects only that which is pure and holy. It would, therefore, be just as impossible to alter the perfect likeness of God as it would be to change the nature or infinitude of God. This is illustrated by placing a beautiful, perfect rose in a room lined with mirrors. The reflections will be countless, yet each reflection maintains and manifests its individuality, beauty, and perfection in color, form, and outline. "Can these reflections be changed? Can one tiny petal or leaf be touched, bruised, or destroyed?" No, not without first destroying the source from which they emanate. Just so it is impossible to touch, change, or destroy man, God's perfect reflection. Neither can man ever lose his perfect, spiritual nature, identity, and individuality. Therefore to be God's reflection and fulfill His holy purpose we must actively manifest the glory of infinite, divine Love. In no other way can the goodness and love of God be manifest to the world other than through the lives of His faithful, consecrated witnesses.

In the words of a favorite hymn (Hymnal, p. 201):

"Then, brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother!
For where love dwells, the peace of God is there:
To worship rightly is to love each other;
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

"Follow, with reverent steps, the great example
Of him whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude."

New York City now has six million inhabitants and we wonder how many of 'em know that milk comes from cows?

The advertising slogan "like mother used to make" is going to give way some of the days to one which will read "like mother used to smoke."

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