

### SYNOPSIS OF LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

By John Randall Dunn, C.S.B.  
of Boston, Mass., Given  
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"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Thus sang the prophet Isaiah over twenty-six hundred years ago; and devout men and women and children through all the centuries have turned to these words for inspiration and sustaining. Is there in our language a more beautiful, restful, and satisfying word than "comforter"? And was there ever a time in human history when mankind was more in need of true comforting than at this disturbed moment? There is no doubt but that we are living in a troublous hour. If you do not think it troublous consult the headlines of the average daily newspaper. Nothing seems worthy of notice but crime waves, scandal, unrest at home and abroad, and a seemingly endless record of discord. The human family, despite its marvelous material achievement and so-called civilization, seems plunged into a maelstrom of mental ferment. It needs help, it needs light. But where is the comforter? Is it to be found in material systems and schemes? As soon endeavor to cure a child's fear of ghosts with mud-baths as to heal the troubled heart of humanity with a man-made material program of salvation. The race is demanding that practical comforting and solving of its problems which can be found only in a system which goes to the heart and the thinking of mortals. One of the world's foremost electrical engineers, the late Charles P. Steinmetz, was asked some time ago what line of research he thought would see the greatest development during the next fifty years. After careful thought he replied: "I think the greatest discovery will be made along spiritual lines. . . . Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer, and the spiritual forces which as yet have hardly been guessed at." (From Forbes Magazine.)

#### Promise of the Comforter

Nineteen centuries ago the man of Nazareth proclaimed that his teachings would heal sick, sinning, and burdened mortals; and he demonstrated the truth of this claim in solving instantly every discordant problem presented to him. Beholding the utter materialism and skepticism of the age, however, and realizing its inability to grasp the full import and truth of his message, the Master made this significant statement: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." Then in another place he calls this Spirit of truth the Comforter, which is to abide with men forever. This word "comforter" is, in the Greek, "parakletos," meaning "one called alongside to help." So the promise of Christ Jesus was that in the fullness of time the Spirit of truth, the understanding of his mighty mission and the divine Principle which he taught, would be found at the side of sick

and sinning humanity comforting and saving.

#### The Coming of the Comforter

Have you ever experienced with a motor car what is commonly called "engine trouble" and found yourself apparently helpless in the presence thereof, because of your ignorance of the mechanism involved? In this plight, possibly you have endeavored to hail a passer-by and solicit his aid, only to find him equally as ignorant and helpless, albeit sympathetic. Another passing motorist is appealed to; but he too proves to be a sympathizer and not a helper or practical comforter. Finally there comes to your rescue one possessing a scientific knowledge of an automobile engine—one who is able instantly to place his finger on the trouble and to correct it. Here indeed is a comforter in the truest sense of the word; for the true helper will not be the sentimentalist governed by guess-work, but the man or woman possessing a workable, scientific understanding of the law involved.

By the wayside, to-day as yesterday, one sees men and women and children sitting hopelessly or help-

lessly beside their unsolved problems. A large portion of the human family, it would seem, is experiencing "engine trouble"—trouble with sick bodies, sick thoughts, sick businesses. Again and again would-be helpers appear, only to prove not practical comforters but kindly sympathizers, and at best only temporary repairers. Searching for the trouble in body instead of in the thinking, they can no more reach the basic error and overcome it than one can hope to correct an engine difficulty by examining the tires. Then comes a comforter, a practical comforter, a healing comforter; and it is called Christian Science, or the Science of Christianity, and those who have felt the Christ-like touch of its healing ministry know beyond a doubt that this is indeed that "Spirit of truth" of Biblical prophecy. And this glorious message was given to humanity—by an eminent divine? By a world-famous medical specialist? By a learned inventor, or by a material philosopher? No, it came from the pen of a hitherto unknown Christian woman.

#### Mrs. Eddy's Preparation

In the year 1866, in a little New

England town, Mary Baker Eddy lay upon what was supposed to be her deathbed, sadly in need of the Comforter. Her earthly experience had been a sorrowful one; all that a wife and mother hold dear had been swept from her; family and friends had misunderstood and forsaken her; frailty and semi-invalidism had been close companions. Yet throughout all these vicissitudes a deep spiritual sense and an earnest search for the "Spirit of truth" to comfort and save, never left her. As a child, she was known to disappear from the family fireside on a cold evening to seek out some of the young animals on the farm and "comfort" them. Again it is told of her, that when a child of twelve she became quite ill through pondering the awful doctrines, taught by the theologians of that day—doctrines of a merciless Jehovah and of an everlasting punishment. In fact, she was so ill that the family physician was summoned, and pronounced her stricken with fever. Then came the Comforter to this extraordinary child. Her mother, a beautiful Christian, a spiritually-minded woman, tenderly turned the thought of her little one (Continued on page 12)



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