

## SYNOPSIS OF LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Large Audience Hear Judge S. W. Greene, C.S.B., at Elm Place School, Friday

On Friday evening a large audience greeted Judge Samuel W. Greene, C.S.B. of Chicago, Ill., when he delivered his lecture at the Elm Place grammar school on Christian Science. Following is the lecture in part:

Christian Science is that presentation of the truth about God and man which is enabling men and women to find joy in the understanding of God's presence here and now. Many of us have been accustomed to think of religion as being dull, burdensome, and depressing. Christian Science is demonstrating that there is hope, joy, and gladness in religion. When we read the Psalmist's words, and realize what joy he found in the service of God, and in the house of his Maker, it seems strange that religion has not these compensating graces. Surely the difficulty is that religion has largely failed to correctly interpret God.

### THE DISCOVERER

The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, is one of those world figures, whose words and works are convincing proofs that she saw the joyful vision. Her system of teaching and her expounded theology may not have been in accord with the accepted orthodoxy of her day, but what would have been the fate of other great leaders had they been rated by the world as by their contemporary theologians? What of Jesus or Paul or Luther? Mrs. Eddy's revelation came to her in an hour of great human need. When all else had failed to bring her health, peace, and joy, she turned to God's Word for comfort and for healing. As she studied the words and works of Jesus of Nazareth, there came to her the understanding that Jesus had come to teach the world anew the great lesson of God's ever-presence and omnipotence. She saw how Jesus' work supplemented and made perfect the great vision of God's allness as it had been interpreted by earlier students, such as Moses, Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha. She saw how Paul had been able to reconcile the revelation of the Christ with the teaching and practice of these earlier prophets and wise men. Then there came the conviction of the practical nature of Jesus' teaching, and how little the religionists of her time were so regarding it. Filled with the joy of the knowledge of the ever present availability of God's power, she turned her thought absolutely to God, and away from all material means, and presently her first healing experience came. It was not a final deliverance from all her ills, nor was it the full understanding of Christian Science as she later learned it. In her improved physical condition there came gradually the consciousness that she had discovered and had put into actual practice the same truth or law which governed Jesus and enabled him to be the healer of sin, disease, and death. As she studied, she saw more clearly the import of Jesus' words, "The

Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise;" also, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also."

That Mrs. Eddy did grasp this understanding in its fullest import is proved by her works. Once she satisfied herself that a certain line of work was correct, that is, in accord with God's plan, nothing ever daunted or dismayed her. Neither was success withheld from her in any of her great enterprises. In addition to numbers too numerous to mention that were healed under her treatment, she was enabled, in the face of great and constant opposition, to build The Mother Church, became the author of various books, the teacher of thousands of students, and the founder of three successful periodicals. Stronger than any words of praise of Mrs. Eddy's faith and understanding are these living testimonials that bear witness constantly that her good works do follow her.

### THE TEXTBOOK

Perhaps the work of Mrs. Eddy's that is more generally known to the world than any other is the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." This book was her effort to give the vision, or revelation, to the world so that all who would might know the practical value of an understanding of God, as He is revealed in the teaching of Jesus and of the prophets and apostles. The study of the Christian Science textbook instead of lessening one's interest in the Bible increases it. Instead of destroying one's respect for the Bible, it creates a new and genuine love for it. Its spiritual interpretation of the Bible is not a distortion of the text to suit the teachings of Christian Science. It is the discovering and revealing of sacred and usable truths. It is spiritual apprehension, even as indicated by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

A careful reading of the textbook usually opens one's consciousness to a welcome reception of the revealed truth; and in this improved understanding he frequently finds himself healed. There are many interesting instances of such healing on record in the files of The Christian Science Publishing Society, and dozens of such healings are given in testimonies printed in the back of the Christian Science textbook in the chapter called "Fruitage."

No adequate or comprehensive estimate of the textbook will be attempted in the time allotted here, but it is fair to state that during its circulation of fifty years, it has been widely read and studied, and has undoubtedly been a leavening influence in many lines of human thinking.

### GOD

A serious study of the Bible, with its spiritual interpretation as given in the textbook, reveals to the student that there is available for all seekers a concept of God that is

understandable, lovable, believable, and usable. Surely, this is the answer to the unending prayer of the weary wanderer athirst in the desert of material existence, crying out for rest and drink.

Jesus, the master Christian, must have had this practical knowledge of God in mind when he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

In the study of Christian Science one learns that God is Love, Life, Truth, Soul, Mind, Spirit, divine Principle. It teaches that these truths concerning what God is must be discerned spiritually before one can demonstrate them in his daily life. This is, of course, exactly as Jesus taught. "God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." This spiritual elucidation of the terms used for God in Christian Science is revealed and made practical to the student in the constant study of the Bible with the textbook. A plan of daily Bible study is afforded by a use of the Christian Science Bible Lessons. In addition one can profitably read the various other writings of Mrs. Eddy and the Christian Science periodicals, established by her and published in Boston under the direction of The Mother Church government.

### MAN

One of the most satisfying results of one's spiritual understanding of God as taught in Christian Science is the equally important knowledge of what man is. In our generally accepted human concept of man, he has been regarded as material, therefore as temporal, and subject to sickness, sin, and death. In the spiritual interpretation of the Bible one learns that man is spiritual and partakes of the spiritual qualities of God, who is Spirit. This teaching, any Bible student will recognize as being based on the first chapter of Genesis where it is said: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

The hostile critic of Christian Science may vehemently protest that one cannot so construe the quoted passage of Genesis, while there remains the so-called material creation of man in the second chapter of Genesis. A complete answer to that, one will find in the textbook, in the chapter called Genesis, which is a part of the "Key to the Scriptures." For the purposes of this lecture it can be briefly said that on the undisputed authority of Jesus, God is Spirit. To be logical and sensible in determining what man would resemble if made in God's image it would seem necessary to say he must be like Spirit, or spiritual, and not material. This teaching is fortified by Paul's apparent effort in his writings to bring to man's understanding his spiritual nature, as is instanced in the following quotations: "For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal;" "There is therefor now no condemna-

tion to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

### HEALING

Every man is interested in healing, directly or indirectly, because of his own personal need, or because of the need of someone closely related to him. In the earlier years of Christian Science, a great majority of its adherents became interested through the desire for healing. Even now it is a subject of large interest to all people.

Christian Science does not, as some have believed, lay greatest stress upon physical healing. It teaches, even as Jesus taught, that through the understanding and acceptance of the Christ is salvation—full and perfect. This means not only as the orthodox church teaches salvation from sin, but salvation from sickness, sorrow, and all human discord.

The healing of physical disease, so called, in Christian Science comes about through spiritual processes. In the many recorded healings done by Jesus, the ultra materialist would scarcely contend that material remedies were used.

In the study of healing in Christian Science it is well to know from the beginning that healing does not come as a result of pleading with God, and begging His mercy or His favor, according to the accustomed forms of prayer in the orthodox churches. Prayer in Christian Sci-

## SCIENCE

AND

## HEALTH

With Key to  
the Scriptures

by

MARY BAKER EDDY

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