

Hon. William E. Brown, C.S.B., Lectures Here on Christian Science

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deemed nations are redeemed. It is evident that when individuals refuse to quarrel there can be no national quarreling.

When it is realized that world salvation waits upon individual salvation the importance of the Christian Science teaching is recognized. A slow way, some may say, and this is relatively so; yet when one considers it is the only way, it gives one a feeling of gratitude that even this seemingly slow way has been discovered and given to the world by Christian Science.

When one looks out over world conditions as they exist today, obviously individual delinquencies, many times multiplied, are primarily the cause of present-day troubles. In speaking of the ever-increasing mass of legislative enactments designed to establish normal harmonious relations, and their failure to accomplish the desired result, someone has said: "We have tried many kinds of rules without success. Suppose we try the Golden Rule." Again, when someone was asked the question, "Do you think that Christianity has proved a failure?" the answer came, "No one knows; it has never been tried." But, thank God, with the discovery of Christian Science it is being, and has been tried for over half a century with results which prove that it has reinstated primitive Christianity, with its healing and regenerating works.

Through spiritual understanding of the truth underlying the declaration that "one with God is a majority," individuals have been enabled to solve problems which, to the senses, seem unsolved. The Bible contains many such instances: the Shunammite woman, when death seemed to claim her child, with sublime faith turned to the man of God for help, and was enabled, with spiritually inspired calmness, to answer Gehazi, servant of the prophet, "It is well with the child." This state of receptivity, together with the spiritual confidence of the prophet, resulted in the restoration of the child.

A most helpful, encouraging, and portentous event is the demonstration of Enoch in overcoming death. The complete story of cause and effect is graphically set forth in Hebrews (11.5): "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Please note that this translation was the reward of faith. This word "faith," in its highest signification, is indicated in Hebrews (11.1): "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," and is even more graphically set forth in the Twentieth Century New Testament as follows: "Faith is the realization of things hoped for—the proof of things not seen."

I want to call your special attention to the reason given by Paul for Enoch's translation, "For before his translation he had his testimony, that he pleased God." It is recorded that Enoch was three hundred and sixty-five years old at the time of translation; so the belief of old age did not interfere with his demonstration.

Instances of the healing and redeeming power of Spirit abound in the Bible, but the ones just cited are sufficient to illustrate the vital truth I desire to impress upon you; namely, that it is possible for an individual possessed of spiritual understanding to triumph over all mortal discord, including death; that such triumph over all mortal discord, including death; that such triumph may occur at any time or place and under any and all conditions. Of this, Paul writes, "Now is the day of salvation." This method of solving human problems is not new. It is as ancient as the "Ancient of days," and was available to mortals long before the advent of Christ Jesus. It has well been said that Christianity, although established by Jesus, is not true because Jesus taught it, but rather that he taught it because it is true.

In contemplating the demonstrations made possible through an understanding of Christian Science, the student will do well to bear in mind that two things are imperatively required. He must understand both the Science and art of Christian Science; that is, he must acquire a spiritual understanding of the Science of being and then master the art of bringing it to human experience the spiritual qualities inherent in this being. In other words, he must acquire both the spirit and the letter.

Delayed demonstrations may be caused by trying to solve human problems through an intellectual perception of demonstration, which always includes spiritual thinking and living. Of this our Leader writes (Science and Health, p. 4): "The longing to be better and holier, expressed in daily watchfulness and in striving to assimilate more of the divine character, will mould and fashion us anew, until we awake in His likeness. We reach the Science of Christianity through demonstration of the divine nature." Let me repeat the last sentence, for it is a vital point in expressing the art of

Christian Science: "We reach the Science of Christianity through demonstration of the divine nature."

THE BIBLE

It is important to bear in mind at all times that Mrs. Eddy discovered the Science of Christianity through a spiritual understanding of the Scriptures, and he who would gain a demonstrable knowledge of this Science must acquire the same spiritual understanding of Scriptural teaching. As one acquires the ability to interpret the Scriptures spiritually, one is increasingly convinced of and constantly marvels at, the harmony and consistency of Scriptural teaching, as uncovered by Mrs. Eddy's discovery. Here it will be helpful to know that the original Scriptures were written without punctuation or versification, and that when translators and various writers began to punctuate and formulate verses, incorrect uses of these frequently obscured the spiritual meanings. To illustrate: take the story of the man born blind, whom Jesus healed. From the punctuated reading as given in John 9:3, 3, the inference might be gained that the man was born blind in order that Jesus might have an opportunity of healing him; which view is of course absolutely contrary to the fact recorded in Genesis 1:31, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." However, through an illumination of the spiritual facts revealed in the Bible, which Christian Science brings, it is recognized that the man was not born blind in order that the works of God should be manifest in him, but that Jesus was about to heal him, and in this healing would be manifested the works of God. Again, take the familiar Scriptural declaration given in Matthew 7:15: "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." From this reading it might be inferred that all were not to find the way of life; but the Rotherham translation puts an entirely different construction on this verse, where he says, "And few there be who are finding it." In other words, mortals were finding the "strait gate" slowly.

In this connection, I recall the experience of a patient who had turned to Christian Science for help. Among his troubles was a belief that he was spiritually lost. Through a misconception of the verse just quoted in regard to "few there be" who find the way of life, he had become obsessed with the idea that in some way he had neglected his opportunity and therefore had lost salvation. The Christian Science practitioner, to whom he appealed for help, immediately freed him from his obsession by giving him a scientific understanding of the Scriptures as follows. Said the practitioner: "You are familiar with the saying of the Master as to eternal life, 'And this is life eternal, that they might know thee?' From this it is clear that eternal life is embodied in a knowledge of God. Therefore the all-important question is, Who is to know God? The answer is to be found in Jeremiah 31:34, 'For they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest.' So this disposes of your entire trouble. Here is the definite promise that all are to know God, and since such knowledge means eternal life, then all are finally to express this life."

These illustrations serve to show the importance of understanding the Scriptures in their spiritual sense, and this understanding is one of the great blessings which Christian Science bestows upon a race in bondage to false theology.

MAN

The questions which have arisen in the human mind concerning man—as to who he is, what he is, whence his origin, whence his destination, and why he exists, have puzzled the most profound thinkers of the ages. It remained for Mary Baker Eddy to give the world-satisfying answers to all queries of this nature. As a basic statement, Christian Science declares that man made in the image and likeness of God is spiritual, not material; individual, but not personal. The analysis of the word "person" as applied to human beings is illuminating and helpful. The word comes originally from the Latin "persona," meaning "a mask," and is defined thus: "A 'person' is one who impersonates a character." The word "mask" exactly conveys the point I desire to make clear to you. Mortal personality is the mask hiding the true individuality of man. Soon after I perceived this interesting fact, I had occasion to observe a group of people assembled from various walks of life. The thought of masks recurred to me, and I realized that the various phases of mortality presented were but masks.

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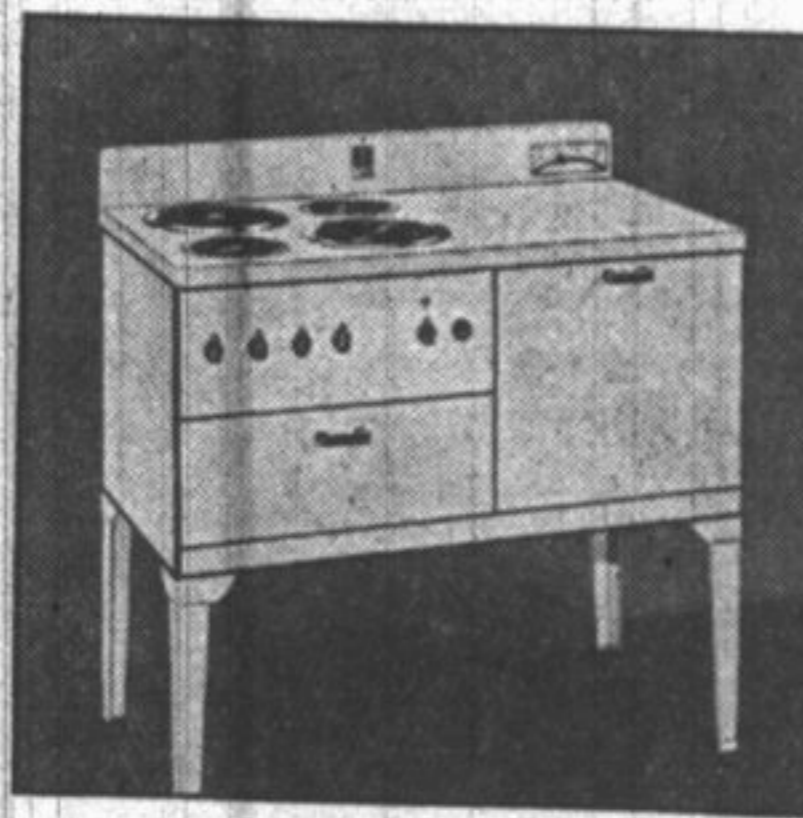
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