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Large Attendance At Lecture Monday On Christian Science

A lecture on Christian Science was presented Monday evening at the Elm Place School by Louise Knight Wheatley Cook, C. S. B. of Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Cook who is a member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Mass., spoke as follows:

The Bible had been for a lifetime the beloved daily companion of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, who discerned within its pages the great truth of man's relationship to God, and embodied it, with other fundamental facts of being, in her book "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." It is not hard to understand this book, which so lovingly explains man's true status and identity as the son of God. If Christian Science today, however, sometimes seems to meet with opposition from those who do not understand it, what must have been the situation seventy years ago when a woman quietly walked out from among the green hills of New England, and laid down a challenge to the world? Accepted theories of science, theology, and medicine, with their time-honored codes and customs, had no power to deter Mrs. Eddy. God had shown her a more excellent way, and she did not hesitate to say so. Her own quick release by prayer alone from a serious physical difficulty of long standing, as well as the healing later on of countless others through her own efforts, rendered her conviction certain that she had laid hold of a system whose logic was incontrovertible. Yet the bitter opposition to which her discovery was subjected seems almost incredible to us today. On one occasion she received anonymous letters containing threats to blow up the hall where she was to speak; but she never informed the police, nor sought any human protection. She wrote in one of her Messages to her Church (Message for 1902, p. 15), "I leaned on God, and was safe." Those were the days when to be a Christian Scientist was to become the object of general wonderment, of ridicule and persecution. But times have changed, and in most communities Christian Science now stands upon an assured basis of tolerance and respect. In the very city where in those first difficult years she labored so long and lovingly to present her great discovery, there now stands a beautiful edifice, capable of seating five thousand persons, at times crowded to capacity. The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, while its many branches extend to all parts of the civilized world.

God

The Bible says, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is." That, then, is the first step—to believe in God; but the next and equally important step is to know God. Our textbook (p. 587) defines Deity as "Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence." God is incorporeal, eternal, infinite, changeless, without beginning and without end. Since God is ever present, He is

forever guiding, guarding, and protecting His spiritual creation, man and the universe. He is the one primal cause, the one supreme power, the one presence, the one Life, reflected in multitudinous spiritual ideas. He is impartial, having no favorites, and is not moved by the breath of praise, nor of pleading, to do more for one child than for another, since He loves all alike, and bestows upon all alike His boundless blessings.

Treatment

Turning to Spirit to supply our needs, no matter what the false material evidence of the difficulty may be, is really a very simple definition of what is called a Christian Science treatment. It is the prayer of grateful acknowledgment of God's perfection, and the realization that man, in God's image and likeness, is not advancing toward this point of perfection, nor has he the freedom and capacity to fall short of it, but he is at this point now. The harmony of his being was never interfered with, impeded, nor impaired. In thinking of this, those uninstructed in Christian Science may sometimes confuse the terms "man" and "mortal man," but they are not synonymous. Man is wholly spiritual, made in the image and likeness of Spirit. Adam, the Bible affirms, is a product of the dust of the ground, the objectified expression of all that is not God's image and likeness, a material mind calling itself "a mortal." And when one considers all the harrowing experiences through which this mortal is supposed to pass in his earthly pilgrimage, it is surely plain that an all-wise and all-loving creator could never be held responsible for so obvious a failure. He is indeed "born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Throughout the whole brief span of what he calls his life, he is pushed about, buffeted, bullied, brow-beaten, intimidated, tormented, tossed to and fro by circumstances, a helpless wanderer in a weary land.

Let us refuse to accept mortal mind's concept of itself, as divided into so many human personalities, with human frailties and characteristics, men and women, old and young, rich and poor, good and bad, sick and well, high and low, happy and miserable. Let us refuse to allow mortal mind to classify us after its own fancy, like specimens in a museum. Spirit knows but one classification: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God." God knows us as we really are, not as we seem to be. Many a mortal has had his whole lifework blighted because he allowed himself to be labeled by human opinion. Many a talent has lain dormant because its possessor did not know that it was a gift straight from God. Our God is Love, and would it be like Love to give something to His dear child, and then refuse him the ability and the opportunity to use it? Let us enter our protest against all such unjust decrees, either for ourselves or for our brother. Banish the belief that God ever made a limited and circumscribed mortal, fettered by an unrighteous verdict. Refuse to give it power or presence. Look away from every false and entangling material evidence into the spiritual

realm where man ever lives, moves, and has his being.

It is my deep desire that each one of you may go to his rest tonight with a clearer sense than ever before of the truth of Jesus' words, "I and my Father are one."

Salvation through Right Thinking

Each man and woman in the world expresses his own thinking. Each one, humanly speaking, presents the composite picture of what the passing years have brought him, for good or ill. A human countenance is not seamed and lined and drawn and aged and hardened and sharpened by the emotions of just one day. The picture we present may be the accumulated evidence of all that the one possessing it believes that he has experienced. And if our faces bear the stamp of these things, why should not other parts of the body bear them as well, causing resultant physical difficulties? The face is not the only thing upon which the marks of fear and anger, hate, stinginess, dishonesty, or cruelty may leave their lasting impress, as every Christian Science practitioner knows. Nor is the face the only part of the body which becomes changed and softened and made fresh and beautiful, as human consciousness rises higher, and responds to the transforming touch of Truth.

Christian Science and Business

Since you, as man, possess by reflection every attribute and quality of God, these must necessarily be as eternal as the Mind from which they emanate; so you can never lose them. You can never lose anything. You cannot lose a position, nor get back a position. You eternally have it; for it is the place you occupy in divine Mind. Hence it can never be subject to chance, change, business depression, human will, personal animosity, rivalry, jealousy, whim, injustice, competition, nor to that distressing thing called the world situation. Even an impending war cannot displace you from your position, for it is in God, hence invulnerable, unassailable, unalterable, safe, and sure.

An old business does not have to go to the wall if the owner knows enough of his oneness with God to prevent it; and a new business may be safely launched, even in these so-called trying and uncertain times, if the owner knows enough of his oneness with God to protect it. If he works under divine direction his business cannot come down under the almost universally accepted belief of insecurity, uncertainty, or lack of opportunity. His business cannot be defeated, depleted, nor demoralized. Since it is really God's business, his own part in it is to keep so close to God in every thought and act, motive and desire, hope and aspiration, that he will almost feel it is as if he just stood aside and watched divine Principle carry it on. The less he is in the picture, the more there will be of God.

Man exists at the standpoint of conscious realization that he is the inevitable and unalterable effect of a perfect cause. Hence his real individuality contains no destructive element, no disintegrating factor, no element of disruption, weakness, nor vulnerability. He is a complete unit, complete manifestation,