

A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

"The Science of Right Living"

by

Prof. Hermann S. Hering, C.S.B.

Prof. Hermann S. Hering, C. S. B. of Concord, N. H., member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., delivered a lecture on Christian Science, under the auspices of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Wilmette, on Sunday afternoon, December 5, in the Winnetka Woman's club, corner Maple avenue and Oak street, Winnetka, Ill.

The lecturer was introduced by Mr. Hugh S. Campbell.

A synopsis of the lecture follows:

Today many thinking people are beginning to see as they have not seen before, that the healing work of the early church is yet possible, although this healing work rebukes the generally accepted supremacy of material law. They perceive that there is such a thing as spiritual law, a law apart from physics; that this divine law is and should be sovereign over so-called physical law; that it has dominion over what is termed matter; and all this in spite of the bias of materialistic thought which declares that any existence apart from the material cannot be conceived. It is encouraging that Christian peoples are beginning to awake out of their sleep and to assert their right to the freedom and harmony of the children of God.

According to the Scriptural accounts, the healing wrought by the Master and his disciples, was accomplished through mental or spiritual means alone, that is through some action of thought. Christian Science healing is brought about in the same way. In both, the healing Principle and law are mental, knowing this, we are led to examine into the nature of Mind and mind action.

Mind is evidently much more than mere human thought or limited consciousness since it includes the cause and phenomena of all existence. Christian Science teaches that Mind is the infinite consciousness which expresses itself as ideas and constitutes all being; the intelligence and creative Principle and substance of the universe; the basis of all manifestation and right thought, the absolute Truth.

We can thus distinguish between the real Mind, the infinite, spiritual, immortal consciousness which expresses itself in perfect, indestructible harmonious ideas, and the mind which includes the belief in matter, evil, limitation, disease and death. This latter therefore is not real Mind, but a false concept of mind, the Adam dream which St. Paul terms "the carnal mind which is enmity against God," in other words, God's unlikeness or opposite. Paul also writes, "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." This carnal mind Christian Science further defines as "mortal mind," since it includes all that is sick, sinning, discordant and mortal. It is the inversion or counterfeit of the immortal divine Mind, and its betraying characteristic is finity as opposed to infinity; therefore, since all that is real is infinite, all that is finite is unreal, and these unreal beliefs of the carnal mind have neither place, presence, nor power; any more than has the schoolboy's erroneous belief that two times two make five. It is simply a false concept. It has no existence.

Mrs. Eddy's supreme declaration is this, that there is one infinite Mind which is wholly good, perfect, indestructible, immortal. This infinite, absolute, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent Being is the incorporeal Father-Mother God whose true nature is revealed through Christian Science. This divine actuality is the scientific basis on which all Christian Science healing is demonstrated, the divine Principle whose everpresence is utilized in the overcoming of sin and sickness, through the available transforming power of the Christ, coming to the human consciousness.

Christian Science explains the true nature of the divinely created man, as not the man created of the dust of the ground but as the image and

likeness of God, the man whom God pronounced good and to whom He gave dominion over the earth.

The perfect nature of God and the real man was revealed to Mrs. Eddy. The Scriptures spiritually understood reveal this truth, and Mrs. Eddy first stated it in scientific and metaphysical terms which, when understood, make it possible for anyone to begin to demonstrate it. The creative Principle operates positively through divine law, it embraces and supports all real existence,—perfect God, perfect man, and perfect universe.

But if all reality is spiritual and perfect, there arises the question "What of evil, material, discordant conditions?" Here Christian Science explains that because Spirit, the absolute good, is infinite, everywhere, there can be no place for either evil or matter, and it therefore classifies all phenomena and all experiences which are unlike perfect God and perfect man as unreal, as false concepts projected by erroneous human sense, as untrue beliefs; and it sustains this contention by destroying these conditions, thus proving them untrue, for Truth is indestructible.

It should be clearly seen that although Christian Science denies matter by revealing its unreality, it does not destroy the sense of existence. The denial of matter does not produce a blank, for matter cannot be effectually denied until the substance of Spirit has been clearly apprehended. The metaphysical process involves a realization of Truth and a corresponding denial of error, a recognition of what is real and actual, and a resulting perception of the illusion of material appearance. This brings about a change in the human consciousness, and this improved quality of thought produces a more harmonious sense of existence.

Christian Science healing brings about not merely a physical change, but improves the patient morally, mentally, and spiritually. It brings a man nearer to God and changes his standpoint from a material to a spiritual basis. It uplifts thought, gives him power over evil, and improves his whole being in the degree that he can grasp its truth.

Mrs. Eddy's one objective through many years was to know God, to the infinite source of good, to understand the true nature of being, that healing might come to burden-bearing humanity. Her single-mindedness, untempted by the world, undismayed by the weakness of the flesh, undaunted by the enmity of evil, held her true to her ideal and brought her to the longed-for goal, the demonstrable working understanding of the Christ method, with unmistakable signs following.

At the fourteenth motor exhibition recently held at the Olympia, in London, more than eighty types of automobiles were listed by the British. The United States was second with forty-one cars. France has twenty-six exhibits, the Italians ten and the Belgians, Dutch and Swiss one each. America had the distinction of showing the lowest priced automobile.

Ancient Egyptians venerated the sacred ibis and preserved its remains in mummies.

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