

A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

"The Science of True Living"

By BICKNELL YOUNG, C. S. B.

Mr. Bicknell Young of Chicago, Ill., 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, "The Science of True Living," Monday evening, January 3rd, under the auspices of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Wilmette, Ill., in the Church edifice, Central Avenue and Tenth Street.

The lecturer was introduced by Mr. Arthur B. Haven, who said:

Friends:—

Let us realize that it is a privilege to attend a lecture on Christian Science, for in so doing we may learn more of God, and good.

In extending you a cordial welcome, on behalf of the members of this church, my only desire is to assure you of the earnestness of our invitation, also the genuineness of the message you have come to hear, and of the fulness of joy that follows the understanding and right application of the truths as taught in Christian Science.

For the benefit of the stranger, let me announce that this church is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., and that the lecturer is a member of the Board of Lectureship appointed by that church, and therefore authorized to speak on the important subject.

I have the privilege and honor, of presenting to you Mr. Bicknell Young C. S. B. of Chicago, who will now address you.

Mr. Young spoke as follows:

I come here tonight to speak to you on a Science which rests upon the fundamental facts of being and which in the measure that it is understood is capable of improving, and even of transforming, the life of every man, woman and child. Because it can do this it follows that it can also reform the world, and I am prepared to show that it will do so, just as fast as you and the rest of mankind understand and adopt it.

If we are living at all (and we are), if there be any action, energy, opportunity, availability, originality or volition; if men and women exist, at all, and can think or do anything at all, then there is a science for all this,

and it is commensurate with all that may be required of it.

We have been taught to look out for our material needs, and we have been instructed in some of the sciences which are supposed to aid us in administering to those needs, but our thinking, which is the most important part about us, has had no science to govern or exalt it, but has been based upon and fostered by education which assumed and inculcated the theory that matter governs man. Christian Science reveals the fact that thought governs or misgoverns mankind, as the case may be, including the body, and that as we approach and attain a divine standard, the health and safety of the body are proportionately secure.

Such work is not less scientific than that of sciences which have to do with material phenomena. In fact, to investigate and understand thoughts and their nature and law is the highest kind of scientific research, and is the most interesting and instructive of all studies. Besides this, there are immediate results, visible and practical, to be attained by such a course. They are often acknowledged by the general public, who do not hesitate to say that Christian Scientists are generally a happy and healthy class of people. In mentioning this I am not claiming that all that can be desired in these directions has been accomplished, but at any rate, thousands of people who are alive and well today testify that they were saved from death and their health restored through Christian Science.

The apostle says, "your life is hid with Christ in God." Christendom has accepted that saying, but it was not understood and could not be until the science of it was revealed, yet the whole Christian world agrees that God, the immutable creator of the universe, originates, sustains and perpetuates His own creation.

The assumption that life is primarily in matter is not basic enough to satisfy the faculty of reason in man. It limits life and at the same time calls it infinite, and fails to explain what life is, or how, according to such theories, it ever got into such forms. The only philosophy that satisfies in

regard to life is found in Christian Science, because Christian Science is not a theory. It shows that Life is and must be the self-existent Mind, intelligence, being, which we call God. This real Life, permanent, necessarily perfect, untouched by disease, sin or death, is the only Life of man. He does not need any other and could not have any other. But beyond this and above it there is something still greater to be observed, and that is that the infinite Mind, God, which spake and all things were, expresses Himself forever in ideas. This being so, is there anything extraordinarily mysterious, or at all mysterious, in the fact that Christian Science heals the sick through revealing, by means of thoughts or ideas, the nature, the power and the presence of God?

I have asked you to follow along in this course of reasoning for a certain purpose, and that purpose I believe now begins to appear. It is that you may learn the naturalness of health and life and the unnaturalness of disease and death. Perceiving, as I believe you must have done, as we have gone on here thinking this out together, that God does not and cannot include or conceive of a single destructive element or quality, you can see that a better understanding of God will mean more of the presence of God, and will tend to remove destructive elements and incidents from our lives. Thereby health and life will not only be more general, but more permanent.

To the old way of thinking it seems incredible that materially intangible facts should have actual value and influence. Yet the founder of the Christian religion proved beyond all question that diseases even of the most fatal nature could be absolutely healed by the power of the understanding. He taught, however, that such power can only be available to men in proportion to their righteousness, their rightness in every way. He knew and declared that the power to heal is wholly from God, the divine Mind, and he said and showed by his own works that this power is natural to men and women in the proportion of their understanding or enlightenment on the true nature of God and His law.

The Bible is the original revelation of the immortal relationship of God and man. Christian Science makes this relationship understood, and in doing this it removes condemnation and establishes redemption in its stead. It shows beyond all doubt that the only final or possible sequence to a mistake is loving and complete correction. Sometimes our own shortcomings may have retarded the fruition of the desire to have this

Science universally understood, and we can only say to you that we hourly repent of them in sackcloth and ashes. But the Science itself, the Science of Christianity, discovered by Mary Baker Eddy, has no shortcomings. Its possibilities for good are immeasurable as its divine Principle, God, is, and we ourselves, though offering no excuses for our failure to be fully worthy, beg you to consider that we are moving in the right direction, that is, onward and upward. With arms extended to encompass mankind, in reverence and adoration to the God who is Love, and in devotion to His Christ, we give you this message of Life, of health, of peace, and we aim to express and make daily more practical in behalf

of ourselves and for all mankind the compassion of Him who said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

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