

**A LECTURE  
ON  
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

By **BLISS KNAPP, C. S. B.**

Mr. Bliss Knapp, C. S. B., of Brookline, Mass., 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 True Standard of Right," Tuesday evening, March 8th, 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 Mrs. Ernestine Schmidt. A synopsis of the evenings lecture follows:

An ex-mayor of New York declared not long ago that "a person who wants to be honest nowadays must be a crank on honesty." That is just a forcible way of describing the present conflict between good and evil, and the extent to which one must go to maintain his standard of right. Nations and individuals have been aroused as never before to combat a movement commonly known as Bolshevism; and while armed forces have gathered to oppose its military encroachments, its mental forces of demoralization in business and society operate apparently unhindered. But there is a remedy for such hidden evils in the promised Comforter which Jesus described, not as a person, but as the "Spirit of truth," which "will guide you into all truth."

Such child-like qualities as humility, spiritual receptivity and teachableness admit this heavenly guidance into human consciousness. So it is recognized as a Christian duty to instruct the receptive thought of the child in the saving grace of God. It was this Christian culture that Mrs. Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, received from her mother; for Mrs. Eddy was taught from her youth to look to God for deliverance in every time of trouble.

Many proofs of healing attended Mrs. Eddy's walk through life, attested God's ever presence and confirming her faith in His goodness and power. He faith was put to the severest test in 1866, when she was facing death itself. Turning for consolation to her Bible, she began to read from Matthew the healing of the palsied man. The account of the healing held her attention as never before, and she must have glimpsed the great Truth that the divine power which had restored that man in Jesus' time was still operative; for God's power can never change. The result was as immediate; for she arose from her bed perfectly well, dressed herself and startled her family by her sudden appearance. This was a most wonderful proof to her that God is the great Physician, whose healing power is changeless; and then and there she determined to search for the scientific Law which must underlie such instances of healing.

Scarcely any one listened at first to the teaching and preaching of Jesus, but multitudes thronged him for the healing. The lessons he gained from those experiences are summarized with matchless simplicity in the first and second Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Here Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who have begun to turn from matter and yearn for heaven. They respond naturally to spiritual truth wherever spoken, and that spiritual receptivity, which is born of God, opens the way to heavenly harmony.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." In the second Beatitude, Jesus considers those who have learned through suffering to turn from matter. Their suffering had prepared them for the Christ healing which brings them greater comfort than mere release from physical ills. It brings the peace and harmony of God's kingdom, making the comfort as abiding as is the kingdom itself.

These two groups of people seem to be the only ones ready for the kingdom. But Jesus is not unmindful that they are still on probation. Their blessing thus far has been partly the work of others, as when a child first begins to walk; for one group was helped along by a preacher, and the other by a healer. Now they must learn to walk alone. The only way by which they can gain the divine power for themselves is through the quality of meekness. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Dominion over all the earth is gained, not through matter or the human will, but through the divine idea of meekness.

When Mrs. Eddy established her church in 1879 she declared that its object was to "reinstale primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." The healing of sin has always been regarded as a province of the Christian church. We learn in

Christian Science that God's power is always available to heal physically as well as morally.

The divine power which can do good, but not evil, has been interpreted in Mrs. Eddy's book, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, with such clearness and simplicity, that it is a frequent occurrence with the sick and the sinning to be healed by reading this book. The last chapter of Science and Health contains one hundred pages of testimonials by those who have been healed of organic and functional diseases simply by reading and studying this book.

It is the nature of evil to claim autocratic power. This thought of autocracy seems to develop along two distinct lines; one through the autocracy of the individual, and the other through the autocracy of the masses. The autocracy of the masses is well expressed to-day in a movement known as Bolshevism. This movement is the will of the flesh, organized to war against "the fruit of the Spirit." It is an attempt to undermine the law and order which sustain the State, the church and the home. Let us suppose for the moment that such a movement were to gain its object: the result would be the reign of disorder and lawlessness, disintegrating our most cherished institutions. It would mean the reign of immorality, adultery, envy, hatred and strife, which are the works of the flesh, and which have no part in the kingdom of God. It would sow the seed of discord, disintegration, destruction and dissolution, which are really the elements of death. Bolshevism, therefore, can have no other meaning than the ravages of death in business and society.

The Christian Scientist learns through divine Love to heal the sick and the sinning and to establish a heavenly harmony here and now. The healing is demonstrated with such

regularity and consistency as to prove the presence and operation of a fundamental law. Moreover, this law is so tangible and self-evident that it can be not only understood, but taught to others. Such a demonstrable law must have a source or Principle which we call God. By the footsteps of healing, even the Bolshevik may be led to recognize the presence of law and its governing Principle. He may even experience the heavenly harmony of obedience to the law of Love. Then he will have attained the only true freedom; for "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." The liberating Truth which establishes health and harmony "on earth as it is in heaven," is indeed the promised Comforter, which Christian Science reveals and demonstrates.

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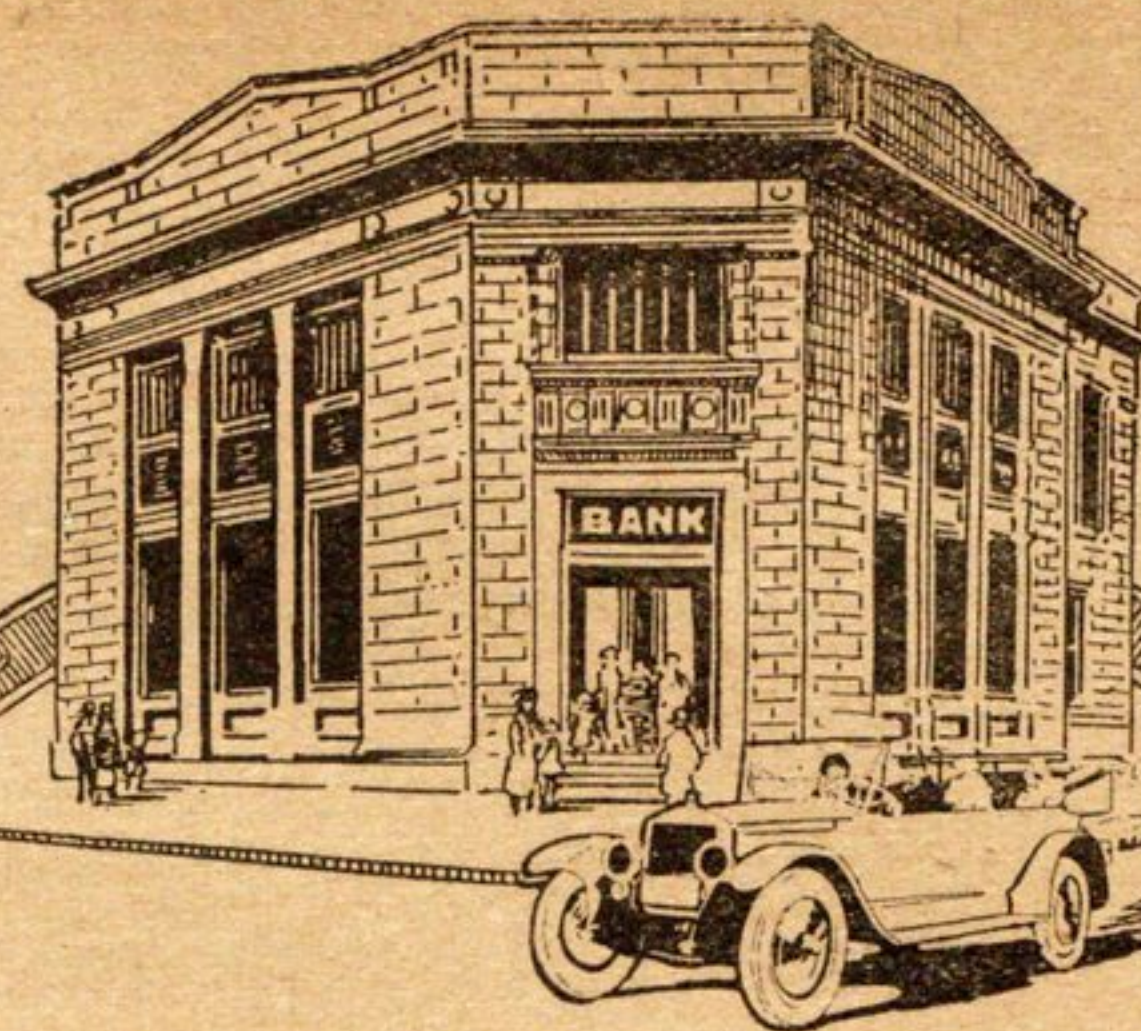
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