

Gives Lecture on Christian Science

Editor's note: The accompanying is an extract from a lecture on the subject, "Christian Science—God's Revelation of Spiritual Healing," given under auspices of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Winnetka, Sunday afternoon, June 20.

By Judge Frederick C. Hill, C. S. of Clinton, Illinois.

(Member of the Board of Lectureship of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.)

Christian Science is, as its name implies, essentially Christian, and its practice being predicated upon absolute law, it brings healing from sickness and deliverance from sin.

There is within the so-called human mind a fixed and abiding conviction that it is legitimate to be healthy and happy. This inherent conviction is evidenced per se of the fact that health and happiness is the normal state of being. This desirable end can be accomplished only through right, scientific thinking; hence it must be perfectly clear that Christian Scientists, looking toward the idealistic or spiritual, are concerned about the mental rather than the outward or material.

I have assured you that this Science is essentially Christian. This being the case, Christian Science, as a great religious movement, must be based upon a revelation of the teachings and practical truths presented in the Bible. Lest there be confusion in the thought of those who have never investigated this subject, I assure you at the outset that Christian Scientists use for their study and in all their church services one Bible authority, that of the King James Version of the Old and the New Testaments.

Christian Science as it is presented to you and to me came through the discovery by Mary Baker Eddy of the operation of absolute, fixed spiritual law.

After her discovery, Mrs. Eddy founded a church, "designed to commemorate the word and works of our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." So she states in the Manual (p. 17). That Mother Church of by her, is The Mother Church of Boston; and the Church whose hospitality you are now enjoying is an authorized branch of The Mother Church.

Christian Scientists are grateful to Mrs. Eddy for her years of devotion in reestablishing practical Christianity and its lost healing art. They love her in the true spiritual sense, but do not worship or deify her. They are engaged in perpetuating and applying her discovery to the needs of humanity. Because she loved God and because

she also loved those who apparently did not love her, Christian Scientists are earnestly striving to make practical her saying, "A Genuine Christian Scientist loves Protestant and Catholic, D. D. and M. D.—loves all who love God, good; and he loves his enemies" (Miscellany, p. 4).

It will early be discovered that Christian Science emphasizes the final destruction of sin and the healing of bodily infirmity. Some of our religious friends have offered the criticism that Christian Scientists make too much of the healing element. At no time does the human mind part with cherished beliefs or relinquish traditional claims until proof, clear and positive, has been presented showing that there is a better way. It is not surprising, therefore, that after material methods have failed and Christian Science treatment has restored health and happiness to the individual, very much should be thought and made of the healing element. In fact, all Christian Science practice is healing in character whether it is applied to bodily afflictions or to other forms of discord. The healing of bodily ailments by prayer is the "eye opener" to the sick and is positive and indisputable proof that matter is submitting to spiritual law. Likewise the false beliefs which material man calls law cease to govern and bind him in proportion to his spiritual discernment. It is natural in the consideration of this important matter that questions should come to us. I have asked myself many times: Is there an ideal, basic state of being? If so, how may I know this ideal state? How may I become conscious of the way of escape from the baneful effects of apparent disease and disaster? Rightly to understand and draw proper conclusions there must be a clear discernment between that which is absolutely real and basic and that which, to the senses, seems to be real and is believed by the human mind to be such.

In the consideration of Christian Science it is absolutely essential to understand the nature of good and evil and to be able to distinguish between that which is intrinsically good and that which presents merely the appearance of good.

Human laws have been devised for the protection of individuals as units in the commonwealth. Some of these laws are of ancient origin; so much so that mankind has no knowledge of their

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