

GIVES LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Editor's Note: Accompanying is a lecture given under auspices of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Winnetka, at the Winnetka Masonic temple, Thursday evening, October 21. The subject was, "Christian Science—The Science of Demonstrable Prayer."

BY VIOLET KER SEYMER

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Let us first of all look into the meaning of these two words, "Christian" and "Science." The words "Christian" and "Christianity" stand for the religion founded in the first century. A. D. Christian Science is based on the inspired Word of the Bible, and stands squarely in the pure teaching and the all-satisfying, redemptive, healing works of Christ Jesus, the Way-shower.

The word "science" is defined, in part, by Webster as: "knowledge of principles or facts. Profound, comprehensive knowledge made available in work, life or the search for truth."

Christian Science is, therefore, the demonstrable knowledge of God, divine Truth, brought to bear on the human problems of poverty, sin, sickness, and discord of every name and nature.

In her work "Retrospection and Introspection" (p.25), Mrs. Eddy tells us that she named this Science "Christian" because it is compassionate, helpful, and spiritual." Christian Science is born of God, divine, Love. It is, therefore, His revelation, divinely endowed with authority to reveal the true nature of God and spiritual man

in His likeness, and with power to waken mankind out of its dream of sickness and sin, fear and sorrow; and through this spiritual awakening bring about release and redemption from all that is contrary to God's will.

Mary Baker Eddy

You will naturally want to hear something about the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. Since her earliest childhood, Mary Baker Eddy loved the Bible and lived close to God, good. Up to the time of her discovery of Christian Science, she was frail, delicate. Mrs. Eddy was highly cultured and intellectually gifted, and she had a wide outlook on life. At about the age of forty-five, she met with an accident which the doctors pronounced fatal. In her extremity, this spiritually-minded woman begged the friends at her bedside to leave her alone with the Bible. As she read, in the ninth chapter of Matthew, of the instantaneous healing of the man sick of the palsy, the revelation of God's will so illumined her consciousness that she, too, rose from what was expected to be her death-bed, and walked, instantaneously healed. Awed by this miracle, and impelled by her deep love for God and humanity, she then withdrew entirely from society, and, for three years, alone with the Bible, in her modest home in the town of Lynn, Massachusetts, she studied and pondered the great facts of spiritual being and spiritual law, to which alone the marvel of her healing could be attributed. Thus, in quietude and spiritual communion with God, she discovered the Science of His perfect creation, and wrote the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

Mrs. Eddy was also led to establish the vast organization of The Mother Church and its branches, daily increasing in number, power, and influence, and forever safeguarded by the flawless wisdom of the By-laws in her Church Manual.

Uncertainty About Prayer

The particular aspect of Christian Science which has been chosen for today is: The Science of Demonstrable Prayer.

This question of prayer is one about which there is much uncertainty, much controversy, doubt, confusion, and disappointment. So much so that some discouraged persons have altogether ceased praying. Mankind is puzzled to know how to cope with its problems of poverty, sickness, sin, sorrow, and all their sad consequences, and skepticism and atheism have almost stifled humanity's best hopes. The "I don't understand" attitude, or agnosticism, is in fact held by many to-day. Yet every one still longs for, and looks for the betterment of human conditions. To understand God and the true nature of prayer is, therefore, humanity's most vital need, and the sure key to the solution of all its troubles.

God, the giver of all good, and of good alone, is unceasingly pouring forth life, holiness, health, intelligence, and joy on all His spiritual creation, and Christian Science teaches us exactly how to perceive, to receive, and to manifest these practical tokens of divine Love.

Prayer

The Christian Science textbook opens with seventeen wonderful pages in the first chapter, entitled "Prayer." Within these pages, every unbiased reader finds much to ponder, much to rejoice in, much to learn, and much that may cause him to revise his old concept of prayer.

It is the mission of prayer to silence fear, and spiritually attune the ear to the infinite harmony of God's creation, which is totally free from fear, sickness, sin, materiality, and mortality. As God is revealed, humanity is healed.

God's Will

These words, so full of blessedness, "Thy will be done," have been strangely misconstrued. By many, God has been regarded as exacting, almost cruel, and sad events have been attributed to His jurisdiction. In considering this question of God's will, the words and works of Christ Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament, shall be our guide.

All professing Christians will agree that Christ Jesus, the Way-shower, understood and obeyed the will of his heavenly Father, so that every time he healed the sick, cleansed the sinner, and raised the dead, he was obeying God's will. This being so, it is logical to admit that these evils were then—and are to-day—in every case directly contrary to God's will. They will also agree that God, whom Christian Science designates as divine Principle, has one uniform purpose, beneficent towards all, and the same in all ages.

Healing Sickness

There is a question which some of you may be asking yourselves, namely: How can prayer heal a sick body without the additional use of material means? Christian Science diagnoses disease as primarily mental, and only secondarily made apparent on the body as an image of mortal thought. To illustrate: If some object were throwing a dark shadow, would you scrub the floor? No, you would remove the object which was casting the shadow, without touching the floor; and the shadow would vanish.

So Christian Science deals directly with the fear and the mental discord expressed on the body as sickness, and as harmony is restored in the mind of the patient, the sickness, which was only a physical effect or shadow of a so-called mental cause, disappears. I say "so-called" mental cause, because God, the one perfect Mind, is the one perfect Cause; so, in absolute Truth, God, there is neither a physical nor a mental cause for sickness.

The doorway of health, God-given, unchanging health, stands wide open in front of every person in this world to-day. There is one universal health, here for all to enjoy—the "health of his countenance." Health can neither be gained through matter, nor can it be lost through matter; health is a spiritual fact, based on Spirit, and sustained by spiritual law; health is the natural fruit of spirituality, and as such, no matter how desperate the physical condition may seem to be, health is available to all, through spiritual understanding, which regenerates mind and body.

Light Blots Out Darkness

Through the study of Christian Science, fear and all the ignorant beliefs of the human mind begin to disappear as quietly and as naturally as darkness vanishes when the sunlight steals quietly in at your window at dawn. The darkness is blotted out without any struggle or conflict, for, as every child knows, darkness has neither starting-point nor abiding-place in the sunlight.

Now, this is what happens when spiritual light, the recognition of God as infinite good, omnipresent Love, begins to blot out the mortal belief in fear and evil. Christian Science makes

it plain that evil has no cause nor creator, no starting-point, and no abiding-place in God, in Truth. There is no truth in evil, and no evil in Truth; and that is why Christ Jesus said that "the truth shall make you free." Through the knowledge of Truth, health and righteousness are attained. All belief in evil is as negative as darkness, and as incapable of withstanding this influx of spiritual light—this message of Christian Science. Isaiah says of the "ransomed of the Lord." "They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Christ

And what did Jesus say as to the continuity and availability of this power of God to heal and to save mankind? He foretold the appearing of Christian Science, which is the second coming of Christ, when he said: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

This promised Comforter is come, and is with all mankind to-day: this Comforter is Christian Science,—indefinitely comforting, cleansing, healing,—proving by "signs following," by the recovery of health, peace, and spiritual individuality that the vital power of the Christ is operative in our midst now. The Psalmist rejoiced in this eternal truth which is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" when he said: "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." This dwelling is spiritual consciousness, the reflection of God, good. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Friendship Circle Chooses Gertrude Schrank as Head

Miss Gertrude Schrank was elected president of the Friendship circle of the Winnetka Community house at their regular meeting Tuesday night. The new vice-president is Miss Florence Skinner, the secretary, Miss Marie Sellung, the treasurer, Miss Minnie Priede.

Ten new members added at the meeting bring the total to twenty-nine. The girls are learning to play basketball, and their gymnasium instructor, Mrs. Dale, finds them most enthusiastic at the game.

The girls will come masked and costumed to the next meeting. A Halloween party with all the stunts and games of that occasion will be given Tuesday evening. There will be additional guests, each member bringing a friend.

The new social chairman is Miss Peggy Nord and the publicity chairman, Miss Olive Kernagkan.

Residents Protest Track Extension on C. and N. W.

A number of property owners on Foxdale avenue appeared before the Village council at its meeting Tuesday evening, protesting against the extension of a side track by the Chicago and North Western railroad, several hundred feet north, to Eldorado street.

The property owned by the Foxdale avenue residents abuts the railroad right-of-way, and it was to set forth the objections they have to the railroad company thus utilizing this section that they appeared in person to discuss the matter with the council.

The question has been referred to the public utility committee.

Mrs. Maurice Brown, sister of Mrs. Harry Lay of Edgewood lane, has returned to her home in California after spending a fortnight in Winnetka.

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