

2018-09-05 Politics
Wednesday
Sep 08 2018

Mary Baker Eddy once wrote:

1. My. 276:23

I am asked, "What are your politics?" I have none, in reality, other than to help support a righteous government; to love God supremely, and my neighbor as myself.

Undoubtedly, the Bible provided the foundation for her answer. So let us start there, and then see what our Christian Science textbook has to say on this matter.

Holy Bible

1. Deut. 32:3 I, 4

I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

2. II Tim. 2:19–26 the

the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

3. Rom. 14:17 (to is), 17–19 righteousness

For the kingdom of God is ... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

4. I Cor. 12:4–6, 12, 14–17, 21–23 (to :), 25–31; 13:4–8 (to :)

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. ... For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ... For the body is not one member

but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ... And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; ... That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. ... Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:

5. Deut. 10:12, 13 (to 2nd), 17–21 (to 2nd)

¶ And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, ... For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. He is thy praise, and he is thy God,

6. Ps. 67:1 (to 2nd); 2–4 (to), 5, 6

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; ... That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. ... Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

Science and Health

1. SH 325:20–24, 30–32; 326:3–4, 16–27, 29–33 and (to 2nd); 327:17–3

Paul had a clear sense of the demands of Truth upon mortals physically and spiritually, when he said: “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” ... When first spoken in any age, Truth, like the light, “shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.” ... If we wish to follow Christ, Truth, it must be in the way of God's appointing. ... The purpose and motive to live aright can be gained now. This point won, you have started as you should. You have begun at the numeration-table of Christian Science, and nothing but wrong intention can hinder your advancement. Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way. “Who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the truth?” Saul of Tarsus beheld the way — the Christ, or Truth — only when his uncertain sense of right yielded to a spiritual sense, which is always right. Then the man was changed. Thought assumed a nobler outlook, and his life became more spiritual. ... and in humility he took the new name of Paul. He beheld for the first time the true idea of Love, and learned a lesson in divine Science. Reform comes by understanding that there is no abiding pleasure in evil, and also by gaining an affection for good according to Science, which reveals the immortal fact that neither pleasure nor pain, appetite nor passion, can exist in or of matter, while divine Mind can

Consecration
required

Conversion
of Saul

and does destroy the false beliefs of pleasure, pain, or fear and all the sinful appetites of the human mind. What a pitiful sight is malice, finding pleasure in revenge! Evil is sometimes a man's highest conception of right, until his grasp on good grows stronger. Then he loses pleasure in wickedness, and it becomes his torment. The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning. There is no other way. ... To the physical senses, the strict demands of Christian Science seem peremptory; but mortals are hastening to learn that Life is God, good, and that evil has in reality neither place nor power in the human or the divine economy. Fear of punishment never made man truly honest. Moral courage is requisite to meet the wrong and to proclaim the right. But how shall we reform the man who has more animal than moral courage, and who has not the true idea of good? Through human consciousness, convince the mortal of his mistake in seeking material means for gaining happiness. Reason is the most active human faculty. Let that inform the sentiments and awaken the man's dormant sense of moral obligation, and by degrees he will learn the nothingness of the pleasures of human sense and the grandeur and bliss of a spiritual sense, which silences the material or corporeal. Then he not only will be saved, but is saved.

Image of the beast

Peremptory demands

Moral courage

2. SH 57:15–24, 28 Love

Beauty, wealth, or fame is incompetent to meet the demands of the affections, and should never weigh against the better claims of intellect, goodness, and virtue. Happiness is spiritual, born of Truth and Love. It is unselfish; therefore it cannot exist alone, but requires all mankind to share it. Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, enlarging, purifying, and elevating it. ... Love supports the struggling heart until it ceases to sigh over the world and begins to unfold its wings for heaven.

Affection's demands

3. SH 6:3–7, 17–18

Divine Love corrects and governs man. Men may pardon, but this divine Principle alone reforms the sinner. God is not separate from the wisdom He bestows. The talents He gives we must improve. ... "God is Love." More than this we cannot ask, higher we cannot look, farther we cannot go.

Pardon and amendment

4. SH 510:28–1; 511:5

Science reveals only one Mind, and this one shining by its own light and governing the universe, including man, in perfect harmony. ... The divine Mind supports the sublimity, magnitude, and infinitude of spiritual creation.

5. SH 393:16-18

Be firm in your understanding that the divine Mind governs, and that in Science man reflects God's government.

6. SH 106:7

God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love.

Proper self-government

7. SH 420:3–4

Truth not error, Love not hate, Spirit not matter, governs man.

True government of man

8. SH 480:10-12

Consciousness, as well as action, is governed by Mind, — is in God, the origin and governor of all that Science reveals.

Harmony from Spirit

9. SH 340:15–20, 23

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus xx. 3.) The First Commandment is my favorite text. It demonstrates Christian Science. It inculcates the tri-unity of God, Spirit, Mind; it signifies that man shall have no other spirit or mind but God, eternal good, and that all men shall have one Mind. ... One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the Scripture, "Love thy neighbor as thyself;" annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes,

equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man, and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.

10. SH 442:3 (only)

Our statute is spiritual, our Government is divine.

Hymns

1. Hymn. 266:1-4

Our God is Love, and all His sons / His image bear, we know; / The heart with love to God inspired, / With love to man will glow. // Teach us to love each other, Lord, / As we are loved by Thee; / None who are truly born of God / Can live in enmity. // Heirs of the same immortal bliss, / Our hopes and aims the same, / In bonds of love our hearts unite, / To praise His holy name. // So may we all with one accord / Learn how true Christians love; / And glorify our Father's grace, / And seek that grace to prove. //

2. Hymn. 409:1-4

Supreme in wisdom as in power, / The Rock of Ages stands; / Canst thou not search His word, and trace / The working of His hands? // He gives the conquest to the meek, / Supports the fainting heart; / And courage in the evil hour / His heavenly aids impart. // Mere human energy shall faint, / And youthful vigor cease; / But those who wait upon the Lord / In strength shall still increase. // They, with unwearied step, shall tread / The path of life divine; / With growing ardor onward move, / With growing brightness shine. //

3. Hymn. 180:1-3

Love the Lord thy God: / Love is staff and rod / For heart and soul and mind. / In this command forever strong, / To silence thoughts of wrong / All laws fulfillment find. // Here we rest content: / Good from God is sent / Where seeds of Love are sown. / Who as himself his neighbor loves, / By constant purpose proves / His neighbor's good his own. // They whose every thought / Still from Love is sought, / In Soul, not flesh, abide. / Love's presence gives a joy untold: / Now may we all behold / The Spirit and the bride. //

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