

2019-02-13 Valentine message

Wednesday



The readings you are about to hear consist of citations from the Holy Bible, followed by correlative passages from the Christian Science textbook. Today's subject is from the first epistle to the Corinthians: "Love never faileth".



The Holy Bible
New King James Version



(Note: The text below is from the King James Version (KJV), which is very similar in wording to the New King James Version. However, in the Bible citation 9 below, from I Cor 13, the New KJV uses the term "love", where the original KJV uses "charity".)

1. Lev. 19:1, 2, 15, 17, 18

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy. ...

... ¶ Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour. ...

... ¶ Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. ¶ Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD.

2. Deut. 6:3-6

¶ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do *it*; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

3. Deut. 7:6–8

For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

4. Deut. 7:12–14 (to :)

¶ Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: ...

5. Prov. 8:17

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

6. Matt. 4:16, 17

The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. ¶ From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

7. Matt. 5:43–48

¶ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

8. Matt. 22:37–40 Thou

... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

9. I Cor. 13:1–8 (to :)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of*

prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 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: ...

10. I John 4:7–12, 16, 17, 19

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. ...

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ...

We love him, because he first loved us.



Science and Health

1. SH 6:17–18

“God is Love.” More than this we cannot ask, higher we cannot look, farther we cannot go.

2. SH 42:1

Jesus' life proved, divinely and scientifically, that God is Love, whereas priest and rabbi affirmed God to be a mighty potentate, who loves and hates. The Jewish theology gave no hint of the unchanging love of God.

3. SH 536:30–538:10

Genesis iii. 22–24. And the Lord God [Jehovah] said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever; therefore the Lord God [Jehovah] sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man: and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

A knowledge of evil was never the essence of divinity or manhood. In the first chapter of Genesis, evil has no local habitation nor name. Creation is there represented as spiritual, entire, and good. “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Error excludes itself from harmony. Sin is its own punishment. Truth guards the gateway to harmony. Error tills its own barren soil and buries itself in the ground, since ground and dust stand for nothingness.

Justice and recompense

No one can reasonably doubt that the purpose of this allegory — this second account in Genesis — is to depict the falsity of error and the effects of error.

Subsequent Bible revelation is coordinate with the Science of creation recorded in the first chapter of Genesis. Inspired writers interpret the Word spiritually, while the ordinary historian interprets it literally. Literally taken, the text is made to appear contradictory in some places, and divine Love, which blessed the earth and gave it to man for a possession, is represented as changeable. The literal meaning would imply that God withheld from man the opportunity to reform, lest man should improve it and become better; but this is not the nature of God, who is Love always, — Love infinitely wise and altogether lovely, who “seeketh not her own.”

Inspired interpretation

Truth should, and does, drive error out of all selfhood. Truth is a two-edged sword, guarding and guiding. Truth places the cherub wisdom at the gate of understanding to note the proper guests. Radiant with mercy and justice, the sword of Truth gleams afar and indicates the infinite distance between Truth and error, between the material and spiritual, — the unreal and the real.

Spiritual gateway

4. SH 502:22–5

Genesis i. 1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The infinite has no beginning. This word *beginning* is employed to signify *the only*, — that is, the eternal verity and unity of God and man, including the universe. The creative Principle — Life, Truth, and Love — is God. The universe reflects God. There is but one creator and one creation. This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected. These ideas range from the infinitesimal to infinity, and the highest ideas are the sons and daughters of God.

Ideas and identities

5. SH 503:18–2

Genesis i. 3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Immortal and divine Mind presents the idea of God: *first*, in light; *second*, in reflection; *third*, in spiritual and immortal forms of beauty and goodness. But this Mind creates no element nor symbol of discord and decay. God creates neither erring thought, mortal life, mutable truth, nor variable love.

Mind's idea faultless

Genesis i. 4. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

God, Spirit, dwelling in infinite light and harmony from which emanates the true idea, is never reflected by aught but the good.

6. SH 469:25–5

We lose the high signification of omnipotence, when after admitting that God, or good, is omnipresent and has all-power, we still believe there is another power, named *evil*. This belief that there is more than one mind is as pernicious to divine theology as are ancient mythology and pagan idolatry. With one Father, even God, the whole family of man would be brethren; and with one Mind and that God, or good, the brotherhood of man would consist of Love and Truth, and have unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science.

The sole
governor

7. SH 302:25

God is Love. He is therefore the divine, infinite Principle, called Person or God. Man's true consciousness is in the mental, not in any bodily or personal likeness to Spirit. Indeed, the body presents no proper likeness of divinity, though mortal sense would fain have us so believe.

8. SH 280:25

Rightly understood, instead of possessing a sentient material form, man has a sensationless body; and God, the Soul of man and of all existence, being perpetual in His own individuality, harmony, and immortality, imparts and perpetuates these qualities in man, — through Mind, not matter. The only excuse for entertaining human opinions and rejecting the Science of being is our mortal ignorance of Spirit, — ignorance which yields only to the understanding of divine Science, the understanding by which we enter into the kingdom of Truth on earth and learn that Spirit is infinite and supreme. Spirit and matter no more commingle than light and darkness. When one appears, the other disappears.

Sensationless
body

9. SH 91:5

Let us rid ourselves of the belief that man is separated from God, and obey only the divine Principle, Life and Love. Here is the great point of departure for all true spiritual growth.

10. SH 569:6–14

The Scripture, “Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many,” is literally fulfilled, when we are conscious of the supremacy of Truth, by which the nothingness of error is seen; and we know that the nothingness of error is in proportion to its wickedness. He that touches the hem of Christ's robe and masters his mortal beliefs, animality, and hate, rejoices in the proof of healing, — in a sweet and certain sense that God is Love.

The robe
of Science

11. SH 2:23 (only, to .)

God is Love.



Hymns

1. Hymn. 175:1-2

Lo, He sent His Word and healed them, / Still that Word of God is here. / Still its tender healing message / Speaks to every listening ear. / Truth divine, that overcometh / All the ills that seem to be, / In our hearts Thy Word abiding, / We may know Thee and be free. /

Love divine, that faileth never, / Still Thy presence and Thy power / Mighty are to save and heal us, / Guard and guide us every hour. / Life divine, Thy Word proclaimeth / All true being one with Thee. / Sinless, fearless, whole, rejoicing, / Now and through eternity.

2. Hymn. 79:1-3

God is Love; His mercy brightens / All the path in which we rove; / Bliss He wakes and woe He lightens; / God is wisdom, God is Love. /

E'en the hour that darkest seemeth, / Will His changeless goodness prove; / Through the mist His brightness streameth; / God is wisdom, God is Love. /

He with earthly cares entwineth / Hope and comfort from above; / Everywhere His glory shineth; / God is wisdom, God is Love.

3. Hymn. 133:1-3

I cannot always trace the way / Where Thou, Almighty One, dost move; / But I can always, always say / That God is Love, that God is Love. /

When mystery clouds my darkened path, / I conquer dread and doubts reprove; / In this my heart sweet comfort hath, / That God is Love, that God is Love. /

Yes, God is Love: a thought like this / Can every gloomy thought remove, / And turn all tears, all woes, to bliss, / For God is Love, for God is Love.