

2020-03-18 Charity



First Hymn

1. Hymn. 178

Love is life's true crown and glory, / Love the splendor of the light, / Truly is God's counsel gentle, / Truly all His ways are bright; / Jesus knew the law of kindness, / Healing mind and heart of blindness; / And in heavenly wisdom taught / Holy works of love he wrought. /

Love, the Golden Rule of living, / Showeth forth the perfect Mind; / Love, our debt to God who gives it, / All compassion is, and kind; / Charity the law fulfilleth, / Mid the nations rancor stilleth; / Loving hearts in friendship blend, / One in Him, our heavenly Friend.



The readings, from our Pastor: The Holy Bible and the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures", by Mary Baker Eddy:

I Cor. 13:1

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.



The Holy Bible

1. Deut. 6:4-6

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:

2. Matt. 4:23; 5:1-9

¶ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. ...

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

3. Acts 9:36–42

¶ Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

4. Ps. 82:1, 3–5

God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. ...

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

5. Matt. 5:13, 14 (to 1st .), 16

¶ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. ...

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

6. James 1:2–8, 13–27

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any

thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. ...

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

7. I Cor. 13:8–10

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.



Science and Health

1. SH 270:23–24

Meekness and charity have divine authority.

2. SH 64:2–16, 27–29, 30–2; 65:11

Our forefathers exercised their faith in the direction taught by the Apostle James, when he said: “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father, is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Pride, envy, or jealousy seems on most occasions to be the master of ceremonies, ruling out primitive Christianity. When a man lends a helping hand to some noble woman, struggling alone with adversity, his wife should not say, “It is never well to interfere with your neighbor's business.” A wife is sometimes debarred by a covetous domestic tyrant from giving the ready aid her

Benevolence
hindered

sympathy and charity would afford. ...

... Let not mortals permit a disregard of law which might lead to a worse state of society than now exists. ... Spirit will ultimately claim its own, — all that really is, — and the voices of physical sense will be forever hushed.

Experience should be the school of virtue, and human happiness should proceed from man's highest nature. ...

... To gain Christian Science and its harmony, life should be more metaphysically regarded.

3. SH 98:31–9; 99:14

The way through which immortality and life are learned is not ecclesiastical but Christian, not human but divine, not physical but metaphysical, not material but scientifically spiritual. Human philosophy, ethics, and superstition afford no demonstrable divine Principle by which mortals can escape from sin; yet to escape from sin, is what the Bible demands. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” says the apostle, and he straightway adds: “for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians ii. 12, 13). ... Christian Science teaches only that which is spiritual and divine, and not human. Christian Science is unerring and Divine; the human sense of things errs because it is human.

Key to the
kingdom

4. SH x:3–4, 11–13, 15–32; xi:9

The first edition of SCIENCE AND HEALTH was published in 1875. ...

The author has not compromised conscience to suit the general drift of thought, but has bluntly and honestly given the text of Truth. ... By thousands of well-authenticated cases of healing, she and her students have proved the worth of her teachings. These cases for the most part have been abandoned as hopeless by regular medical attendants. Few invalids will turn to God till all physical supports have failed, because there is so little faith in His disposition and power to heal disease.

The divine Principle of healing is proved in the personal experience of any sincere seeker of Truth. Its purpose is good, and its practice is safer and more potent than that of any other sanitary method. The unbiased Christian thought is soonest touched by Truth, and convinced of it. Only those quarrel with her method who do not understand her meaning, or discerning the truth, come not to the light lest their works be reproved. No intellectual proficiency is requisite in the learner, but sound morals are most desirable. ...

The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus' time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation. Now, as then, these mighty works are not supernatural, but supremely natural. They are the sign of Immanuel, or “God with us,” — a divine influence ever present in human consciousness and repeating itself, coming now as

was promised aforetime, // To preach deliverance to the captives [of sense], / And recovering of sight to the blind, / To set at liberty them that are bruised. /

5. SH 436:11–12, 13

Giving a cup of cold water in Christ's name, is a Christian service. ... Such acts bear their own justification, and are under the protection of the Most High.

6. SH 387:27

The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.

Christian
history

7. SH 76:18–6

Suffering, sinning, dying beliefs are unreal. When divine Science is universally understood, they will have no power over man, for man is immortal and lives by divine authority.

The sinless joy, — the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, possessing unlimited divine beauty and goodness without a single bodily pleasure or pain, — constitutes the only veritable, indestructible man, whose being is spiritual. This state of existence is scientific and intact, — a perfection discernible only by those who have the final understanding of Christ in divine Science. Death can never hasten this state of existence, for death must be overcome, not submitted to, before immortality appears.

Immaterial
pleasure

The recognition of Spirit and of infinity comes not suddenly here or hereafter. The pious Polycarp said: "I cannot turn at once from good to evil." Neither do other mortals accomplish the change from error to truth at a single bound.

Existence continues to be a belief of corporeal sense until the Science of being is reached.

8. SH 381:20–24, 27–8

Think less of the enactments of mortal mind, and you will sooner grasp man's God-given dominion. You must understand your way out of human theories relating to health, or you will never believe that you are quite free from some ailment. ... Let us banish sickness as an outlaw, and abide by the rule of perpetual harmony, — God's law. It is man's moral right to annul an unjust sentence, a sentence never inflicted by divine authority.

God-given
dominion

Christ Jesus overruled the error which would impose penalties for transgressions of the physical laws of health; he annulled supposed laws of matter, opposed to the harmonies of Spirit, lacking divine authority and having only human approval for their sanction.

Begin
rightly

If half the attention given to hygiene were given to the study of Christian Science and to the spiritualization of thought, this alone would usher in the millennium.

Hygiene
excessive

9. SH 570:14–18

Millions of unprejudiced minds — simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert — are waiting and watching for rest and drink. Give them a cup of cold water in Christ's name, and never fear the consequences.

Receptive
hearts



Second and Third Hymn

2. Hymn. 217

O, he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken, / That holier worship, which God deigns to bless, / Restores the lost, and heals the spirit broken, / And feeds the widow and the fatherless. /

Then, brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother, / For where love dwells, the peace of God is there: / To worship rightly is to love each other; / Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer. /

Follow with reverent steps the great example / Of him whose holy work was doing good; / So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple, / Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

3. Hymn. 597

Where charity and love abide, / We know that God is there, / And Christ has gathered us as one / To love the living God. /

Where charity and love abide, / Christ's love lives in our hearts, / And we, through works and words sincere, / Love all as he loved us. /

Where charity and love abide, / We faithfully keep watch / That strife, confusion, may not hide / Our unity in Christ. /

Where charity and love abide, / We find our life through Christ, / And know a joy immense and good, / Forever one with God.