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## A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

By Dr. Walton Hubbard, C. S. B., Member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

The explanation of God's law, and its availability to all mankind was taught and demonstrated by Jesus, the Christ, but for many centuries it has been maintained that the major portion of the reward for Christian living is to come at some future time. Christian Science furnishes the rule by which the power that Jesus used in accomplishing his wondrous works is made immediately available, and because its beneficent power can make over and bless every phase of our material existence it is the most important subject that can come to our consideration. The wisdom of this world has failed not only to heal from discord and sin but to heal from disease. And it will continue to fail in its treatment of disease until it is recognized that sickness is sick thought expressed on the body, and that sick thought is cast out through spiritual understanding.

### Material Methods Fail

Anyone who goes back into the history of material medicine is impressed by the fact that for practically every diseased condition there has been a continual succession of drugs, one following the other, and it is always claimed for the last one, with the greatest enthusiasm and positiveness that it certainly does heal the disease, and in support of this contention, there may be offered the records of many cases that have been cured. Human thought is not much given to retrospection along this line. If it were it would remember that all the drugs that have followed each other in the treatment of disease, and have been successively discarded, have had the same glowing record when they were first used. The reason for this is that it is not the drug but the belief in it which accomplishes the healing. Those who discover and bring forth a remedy are strong in their belief that it will cure, because the remedy is the outcome of a definite conviction as to how the disease should be treated; so they obtain marked results while those who prescribe the same drug later on have no such deep conviction, and because of their previous experience may be even mildly skeptical. This state of thought brings about failure.

Now the history of every material method including surgery is the same as that of drugs. The results which come are according to the belief which is entertained about them. One has only to glance through the medical journals to see that physicians themselves are condemning many of the operations and methods which the world at large has been taught to believe would heal them. Almost every one can recall operations and methods which were quite the rage a few years ago but are seldom heard of today, and it is perfectly safe to predict that the surgical procedures which seem successful today will be discarded for other tomorrow. The greatest blessing that can come to both the doctor and the world is to learn why it is that no material method is of permanent avail and that it is God who not only "forgiveth all thine iniquities" but "who healeth all thy diseases."

It is essential in undertaking the study of Christian Science that one should know something of the one to whom it was revealed, and some of the factors which led to its discovery. The revelation came to Mrs. Eddy because the particular qualities of thought which she possessed made it inevitable. She investigated every material system of healing and finally decided that all causation must be mental, yet it required twenty years of effort before she really understood that all causation was Mind, God, and a number of years more before it had unfolded with sufficient clarity to be given to the world. So Christian Science came as a result of patient, unflinching effort to know God's law, and to the one who possessed the qualities of thought which made its revelation humanly possible.

It is the common experience of those who study Christian Science that there comes to them a much larger, clearer understanding of God than they had before. In discussing the nature of God let us begin with the fact that God is Mind, because by recognizing this we are enabled to see more clearly the inseparable relationship which exists between God and man, and to see that because of this relationship man manifests the qualities of God, of Mind, and nothing else.

The Divine Mind and Divine Idea. In order that we may better understand the operation, the activity, of infinite Mind let us illustrate the divine Mind by using the ordinary conception of a human mind as an example. You say your friend has a fine mind. You say you know this because he has many fine ideas which he expresses. You have never seen his mind but you have known the expression of it in ideas. If he never moved a muscle, never spoke a word, you would rightly conclude that there was no mind there. So a mind to be called a mind must be filled with ideas and an idea by virtue of being an idea must be expressed. It is impossible to conceive of a mind filled with ideas, yet unexpressed; for a mind with no expression is not a mind but a blank. How do you know that a rock has no mind and no ideas? Why simply because it has no expression, for where there are ideas there is expression. The infinite Mind therefore, if filled with an infinite number of ideas or thoughts, which must be expressed, and the activity, the expression, the manifestation of these ideas constitutes man and the universe. God's ideas express Him in countless spiritual forms which "range from the infinitesimal to infinity, and the highest ideas are the sons and daughters of God." As God's ideas we exist in Him and because we exist in Him the Scriptures so declare that "in him we live, and move, and have our being."

There is a further quality of an idea which it will be necessary for us to consider. An idea has no ability to do anything or to be anything except as the idea of the mind in which it exists.

It cannot change itself and so becomes more, or less, or different, then mind intended it should be, because it has no volition of its own and must be necessarily express exactly what mind intends it should express. For example: If you have a thought of love for your neighbor, this idea cannot get away from you and change itself into a thought of hate. The ideas in Mind must of necessity express exactly what Mind intends they should express. Now the real man is, as we have shown, the perfect idea of infinite Mind, and has only divine volition. He has therefore no ability to choose to do evil or to be sick, nor can he ever become separated from the Mind which contains him. Man, then God's idea, God's image and likeness, has all the qualities of God, and not a single quality that is not of Him. He is therefore, healthful and holy; perfect, spiritual and immortal.

### Unreality of Matter

Because it is true that man is the idea of infinite Mind he cannot be material, and this material body will have to be accounted for in some other way. Matter seems very real to the human mind, yet the deepest material thinkers maintain that matter has no existence in and of itself. They say that it is simply a manifestation of law. They see and admit that matter is simply a manifestation of material thought, but they go on with a line of thought which maintains that these material laws proceed from the infinite Being.

Now Christian Science agrees with them in admitting that matter is simply an expression of thought but denies absolutely that this thought is of God. On the contrary it maintains that the material man and the material universe are expressions of beliefs that are counterfeits of the true ideas. The material man manifests sin, sickness and materiality, which are the direct opposites of those qualities of health, holiness and spirituality which the real and spiritual man must inevitably manifest as the image and likeness of God.

It is not maintained that we have been able fully to demonstrate that matter is unreal, but thousands have been able to annul what are thought to be unchanging material laws through the recognition of the law of Spirit.

It is inevitable that just so long as the world builds up its belief in disease that disease will be manifested. It may delude itself into thinking it is making progress by apparently checking some one disease, but the total manifestation is not lessened in the least.

Christian Science Heals. The only way to be rid of disease is to stop it at its source. The beliefs from which it proceeded must be replaced by spiritual understanding.

The reasoning of Christian Science brings divine Love close to human experience. The recognition that God is Mind and that man is His perfect idea is the basis for Christian Science healing. When we measure our thoughts by this divine standard and undertake as far as possible to entertain only that thought which we know to be of God, the thought which has made us sick or unhappy is eliminated.

Each inharmonious condition which is overcome through spiritual understanding increases one's consciousness of joy and harmony. Every effort towards spirituality and away from that which is material brings a rich reward. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

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