LECTURES ON "THE SONS OF GOD"

Continued from Page One.

what man is. But this is no hidden or secret knowledge, for the bible tells us in language quite unmistakable, "that God created man to life own image," to be still more emphatic that statement is repeated "In the image of God created he him." Stupendous thought, let us pause here for a moment to gain some faint perception of what this means. "The image and likeness of Spirit," why, then man must be spiritual and not material, the Image and likeness of Life, Truth and Love, the image and likeness of Mind. Does that thought lift you up to feel that what God is you must resemble, that because God is Love you are Love's reflection, again because He is Love you the beloved are His special care? Because God is you are? Yes that is the scientific intact reality of your being.

The Man Christ Jesus.

Christ Jesus exemplified this perfect manhood right here on earth, and the Gospels teach us how to attain to this fullness of the stature of Christ. Surely that was his love-crowned mission, was it not, to show us how to become conscious that we are the sons of God? Not to do this work for us, but forever to lead and show the way, until God, Spirit, Mind and His countless manifestations, shall be found to be All-in-all. Poor humanity would never have found its way to the Christ, this perfect manhood. "Forever in the bosom of the Father," and not Jesus appeared in the flesh to be the lifelink between God and man, flesh and Spirit. "To quote "Science and Health," "It was Christ's purpose to reconcile man to God, not God to man. Love and Truth are not at war with God's image and likeness." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Come into your perfect manhood, to your real self, for as the Bible says your real "life is hid with Christ in God," and be at rest. Be born again of water (purity) and the Spirit, and cast aside the old material sense of man, governed by material discordant views, and be governed by Spirit and spiritual law for "ye cannot serve God and Mammon," Spirit and matter.

Jesus and Spiritual Law.

Surely we can have no desire to be governed by so-called material laws for they are the procurers of all discord, lust, disease, hate, worry, despondency, death. It is the spiritual law that frees from what so-called material law claims to have imposed upon us. Jesus lived his life on earth in violation of material law, proving the infirmary of spiritual law. From first to last he disregarded it and annulled its decrees. Spiritual law was the law of his existence and he recognized no other. His birth was contrary to material law. Every so-called miracle was in violation of this law but in strict obedience to spiritual law. Knowing that "all is Infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation," as Mrs. Eddy declares, he changed water into wine, healed the sick, raised the dead, and setting at defiance the law of gravitation he walked on the water and transfused himself from place to place, yet in doing so he broke no law, no real law, no God-made law, for we have his own word declaring "I am come not to destroy, but to fulfill" the law, and he fulfilled it.

One Church.

He came to give us a practical Christianity governed by Principle and law, a religion that should unite all Christendom, "a consummation devoutly to be wished." The complete unity of Christendom must appear when its followers are governed by fixed Principle and law, that is, when it has been realized that Christianity is an exact or demonstrable science, and not merely a collection of human opinions and dogmatic statements. We do not look for varying views in the science of numbers nor should we in the science of being.

Human Opinions at Variance.

Conflicting human opinions, absolutely held, are as likely to amalgamate as water with oil. But under the Christly and unalterable rules of the science of Christianity there is no room for deliverance of opinion. Jesus knew that all cause and effect were mental. He knew that the whole of material existence was something in the nature of a dream, from which we are awakened by the trumpet call of Truth into the realization of the fact that existence is based on Spirit, not on matter. The ancient worthies understood these things. Do you remember the words of the Psalmist "I shall be satisfied when I awake"—and how—"In thy likeness" in the likeness of Spirit, and not matter. This awakening comes not through death, but through the understanding of Truth, and through the recognition of the eternal nature of life.

Physical Sense Testimony.

Now if material existence is in the nature of a dream, we are not going to gain anything by placing implicit reliance on the testimony of the physical senses, which are they that testify to the existence of the dream. How often has it been said "do you mean to tell me I am not to believe in the evidence of my senses." Has it never occurred to you that by far the greater part of your education is employed in the correction of the evidence of the senses. Let us investigate them for a moment, and see how much reliance may be placed in them. Supposing we stand on a railway crossing where the railroad runs straight, physical sense declares that at a certain distant point the lines meet. Your education corrects this, and assures you that there is as much space between the lines out yonder, as there is where you stand. The rising harvest moon" as we call it in England, appears to be about four times as large as usual, whereas education informs you that the size of the moon is constant. You can multiply such instances for yourself quite indefinitely. No, we do not trust our physical senses quite as much as we may think we do.

The most conclusive proof of the unreliability of the physical senses, that is seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, smelling, lies in the fact that these senses can tell us nothing whatever concerning that which is greatest and best.

We cannot see, hear, taste, touch or smell Spirit, the senses can take no cognizance of the spiritual whatever, and so long as we are being guided and governed solely by physical senses we have the door completely closed upon Spirit, and spiritual sense perception. The day will come and has already come when education of the right kind will teach the people how to correct every testimony of physical sense, this sense that tells us that the sun leaps across the heavens every 24 hours and that parallel lines meet, with the right appreciation of spiritual reality. The so-called law of heredity will be seen to be no law. "It shall no longer be said in Israel that the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." And it shall no longer be said in Israel that nature is "red in tooth and claw" for nature will be found to be Love. The physical sense, the product of that which Paul describes as the "carnal mind," the [illegible] of mortal mind as Mrs. Eddy calls it, in enmity, in opposition to divine Mind, is, the apostle declares, "enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Obviously then, if the mind which controls these senses does not come under the law of God, neither can these physical senses come under His law, and that is why they can take no cognizance of God or God of them. Now if the senses do not come under the law of God, except to be corrected by that law, He make them not, and they [illegible] no other than a dream of men. "Science of spiritual sense, that is, [illegible] of Spirit and the spiritual man just enabled Jesus to do his mighty works trampling upon the evidence of the physical senses, in the destruction of sin, disease and death.

Reflecting God.

Now that is an absolute statement with regard to sense testimony, but let no one run away with the idea that Christian Science teaches that one may suddenly jump out of this false sense of existence, into the true or spiritual. Much has to be done, and every human footstep must be taken right up to the throne of Spirit. Our first care must be to endeavor to find man to be the image or likeness of the beautiful, the good and the true. When one knows that man is the image and likeness of God, that is the image and likeness of Life, Truth and Love he must proceed to free consciousness from all that is unlike Life, Truth and Love. He must reflect God as Life, in a good life, in righteous living, in all the virtues that go to make up a good husband or father, a good citizen and a good patriot. He must reflect God as Truth by being truthful, and honest in all his dealings with himself and fellow man, an example of integrity to all in his business, in the office, in the shop, the factory, the field, the market or wherever his affairs take him amongst his fellow men. He must let his light so shine "that they may see his good works and glorify his Father." He must reflect God as Love by manifesting human affection, by love in the home, by unselfishness in his dealings with his family, by a true friendship that is not afraid to gently and lovingly tell a friend of a fault, by rejoicing with those that weep. By a charity wide enough to cover all the world, that looks not for another's faults and failings, but magnifies good and minimizes evil, that helps the lame dog over the stile, and bears himself humbly, alike to rich and poor. He who does these things is daily approaching to a realization of his sonship, he is attaining to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Christian Science Not Hypnotism.

It must not be supposed that because Christian Science healing is purely mental that it has anything whatever in common with hypnotism, mesmerism, or mental suggestive therapeutics of any sort or kind. It should be understood that Christian Science and hypnotism with its many aliases, are at the opposite poles. It will be sufficient for our purpose merely to state that Christian Science never means thought, concentrated in God, to divine Mind, for healing, whereas all other mental system are the exercise of human will power.

Healing.

The healing of disease in Christian Science, naturally enough, is what in the first instance attracts the attention of those becoming interested in the subject. Primarily however, the Christian Science objective is the healing of sin. All people are ready enough to get rid of suffering or sickness but all are not quite so ready to part from their sins. There is no pleasure in pain, for there are those who fancy there is pleasure in sin. Never was there a greater mistake, for sin claims its full award both here and hereafter. The healing of Christian Science is the healing of Truth and Love. The most pregnant sentence that perhaps Jesus ever uttered was the words "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." In that short sentence our Master epitomized the whole science of healing, not only of sickness and disease, but of sin, poverty and every mortal able discordant condition.

Now what is the truth to be known? You will find numbers of people quite prepared to declare that disease and sin are real. That is true—how then is Truth going to heal, to destroy that which is true? By "the truth" our Savior meant the absolute, the eternal, the immortal. In other words the spiritual. We have indeed to know what he knew, if we would cast out the devils of sickness, sin and lust as he cast them out. To know the spiritual fact concerning God and man, that God is spiritual perfection, and that man is His image and likeness, the image of perfection to the Truth to be known in order to cast out any and every condition that is not of the Father.

The generality of people believe that God sends sickness to some, sometimes that was to do us good. That it is sent as a punishment, or to teach us a lesson, or to draw us nearer to Himself. If this be the case what then is the attitude of the Christian world at large? If sickness is sent as a punishment, why do Christians generally try to evade the punishment by sending for a doctor or taking drugs. If sent to teach a lesson are people for ever refusing to learn the lesson by getting rid of the sickness as soon as possible? If to draw us nearer to Himself, what is the Christian about when he sets up an active resistance to that which is to draw him nearer to God. Surely, if sickness is a good thing, the sicker we are the better. But although this may be the teaching of some today, it is not the teaching of Christ Jesus, who called sickness and disease "devil" or evil and cast them out. He never said they were sent by God to do good to humanity, but he did say of the woman who was bowed together, that Satan had bound her. Not God be it understood. If by sin came death, by sin came also the forerunners and procurers of death, sickness and disease. Then how do you account," we are sometimes asked, "for the fact that some of the most saintly people are the greatest sufferers?" Ignorance of law will not save from the consequences of that ignorance. The spiritual law is there and available to all. We know it to be perfect in its operation, for Jesus has, for all time, proved it to be so. If the saintly invalid will learn the law his saintliness will remain, but his invalidism will go. Error and Truth cannot exist together.

The True Book.

How to get rid of sin, sickness and disease is fully explained in the Christian Science text book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy. The study of this little book has healed many thousands of sufferers, raised up the dying, cured the victims of the drink and drug habit and brought peace and love into households formerly distracted with quarrels, and is daily teaching man how to love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. An astounding claim you say. Perhaps it may appear so, but what I say of this book is true, as is evidenced by the ever increasing army of people it has benefited and who are now ready and able to testify of their physical, mental and moral healing when every other means had failed them.

The book "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" must be studied in conjunction with the Bible, for as the title denotes, it is a commentary explaining and elucidating its passages, giving the spiritual sense and making it an open book to point the way to man's perfect manship.

Real and Unreal.

Few appear to understand just what is implied by the terms real and unreal as applied to the science of Christianity. Christian Science boldly declares that all that is not of good, that is not of God is unreal, because God, good, made all that was made "and without Him was not anything made that was made." Mrs. Eddy teaches that reality can alone be predicated of that which is indestructible, permanent, eternal, in fact, the spiritual. In one sense, the human sense or carnal mind, sin, sickness, disease and death appear to be only too real, but if real in the sense of being God ordained, or God permitted, these evils must be unmanageable, for they must then be a part of God, and the nearer man approaches to God, the more pronounced must the evils become, leaving man without one loophole of escape, a victim to despair, helpless flotsam on a cataract of destruction. But this is not the case, for experience teaches the very reverse, it incontestibly proves that the nearer we draw to God, in good, the nearer does good draw nigh to us to the utter destruction and elimination of evil.

The young man in the parable of the prodigal son need not have left his father's house. There was nothing but good there, and Jesus declared the Father's house, or Kingdom of Heaven, to be within us. He might have remained in this house or consciousness of good, but no, he must turn deliberately from the consciousness of good that is of spiritual reality, to a false consciousness of evil, the opposite of reality, the opposite of good and mark the consequence—disaster at every step. Like a ship without a rudder, or a wanderer on a starless night, he drifts into lust, child, want, abject poverty and at length when his condition becomes so overwhelmingly bad that he feels something must be done, or he will go under, behold, he suddenly remembers that the remedy lies in his own hands and he can apply it in a moment, if he will. He has the wisdom to do so, and turning from the husks of matter and so-called material law, the source of all his trouble, in meek penitence and obedience he turns to Spirit and spiritual law, finding there his Father and his Father's home. He has awakened from the dream of life in matter with all its discordant conditions to find all true being to be based on Spirit, and governed by spiritual law. This is the true Kingdom. A condition as Jesus declared to be possible of attainment here and now, through an understanding of the law.

The Unreality of Evil.

And what is evil, and why should one fear what God has not made, for "God made all that was made, and that creation was pronounced "very good." No evil thing or condition did God ever create, permit or sanction.

Jesus Association of evil explains its nature, for the gospel of St. John tells us evil is described as that which "abideth not in the truth because there is no truth in him, and as "a liar and the father of it," the lie.

I ask can that be true that is real, that has no truth in it? If that is infinite good, there can be no place found for good's opposite, evil. To find place for evil is to deny the infinitude of good, that is of God. So we know that evil is merely a negation, a belief in the absence of good, the omnipresent. It has neither power, presence nor personality. Jesus overcame this belief in evil, and it rests with us to realize that it is destroyed, and need be neither feared nor obeyed. Evil has just as much power as we give it, and no more, and just in proportion as we magnify good in our thoughts shall we minimize evil, until evil vanishes, and is thereby proved to be unreal. We find then, that there is but one way to get rid of sin, and that way is to cease from sinning. To say there is no sin and to continue in sin, is the height of impiety. At the first evil had no history. It is recorded that God created all things and pronounced them "very good." Evil first appears on the scene as the denial of this fact. As was pointed out just now evil is a negation. The two statements in conjunction, and the following results, that the prayer of faith that saves the sick is the knowing of the truth. Mrs. Eddy says on the first page of Science and Health, "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love."

Before we approach God in prayer let us remember that He is Love, that He has already given us all good, and cannot bestow more than all, nor can He give less than good, so shall then learn how to "pray with the understanding" as the Apostle exhorted. We cannot change God by prayer. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is immutable good and can only be good and do good to His children. But we can change our own consciousness by prayer and bring it into line with the divine will, thus making it receptive of the good that forever flows from the triune God, Life, Truth and Love. Such prayer is already answered. In the revised translation of the Bible Jesus is reported as saying, "When ye pray believe that ye have received," that is know that all good is present with you now, and it rests with you through the prayer of understanding to realize this fact and the good you ask for will, must, come into experience.

The Bible.

It is sometimes asserted that Christian Scientists have constructed a Bible of their own. Well, they have a Bible of their own, and it is the same one that all of you make use of, the King James' or the authorized version. There are no people on the globe who make more use of their Bibles than do the Christian Scientists. The Bible means so much to them with the light that has been thrown upon its spiritual meaning by a careful study of Science and Health. The first religious tenet of Christian Science reads as follows:

"As adherents of Truth we take the inspired word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal life." Science and Health, p. 497.

The Bible has opened out to the Christian Scientist a full salvation, a salvation from sickness as well as sin. Does it not seem incongruous and unjust that the sinner should be given a better chance of salvation than the sick, more according to popular opinion the sinner may approach the Christ and be healed of his sins, while the sick are condemned to resort to drugs, to inanimate and unintelligent matter for their healing. The Bible has shown them that the same mental process of communion with God heals alike sin and sickness.

Truth the Healer Not Personality.

It was not Jesus, personality that healed the sick, but the truth that he taught, the principle and law of spiritual being that he lived and demonstrated. Had it been Jesus personality that healed the sick, his disciples, after his ascension, would have been unable to do the mighty works he commanded them to do, whereas, we know that through the understanding of the principle and spiritual law taught to them by the Master they not only healed the sick, but raised the dead. In this way Christ Jesus became the Way and the Wayshower to all generations. The healing Christ said, "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end," and the spiritual law by which he did his mighty work is as available to you today as it was to Jesus, Peter, John and Paul.

What is required of us on our part is sufficient humility to learn, a receptive spirit, a willingness to become as a little child. No worldly wisdom is required to find the healing Christ, no scholastic learning, no power of intellect, but that readiness and willingness to learn. I have heard people declare that Christian Science was much too difficult for children to learn, nothing of the kind. It is no more difficult for the child than for his parents. The parents have much false education to unlearn, and it is just here where the child has the advantage. Grownup people with fixed ideas are sometimes disinclined to let go of their fine old ancient beliefs, that have been held perhaps by generations upon generations of their forefathers, but antiquity will never put the seal of truth on what is not true. Truth quite recently, historically speaking, the world was supposed to be flat, and still more recently the world was held to be the central mass around which revolved the universe, ancient opinions hoary with age and supported by physical sense, but not being true, they had to go, and so also must many of our cherished ideas about God and man go the same way. "I will overturn, and overturn until He comes whose right it is," and who is he? Who but the Christ, the absolute truth about all that lives and moves and has its being in divine, infinite mind. Christ Jesus said of himself, "I am the way, the truth, the life." To know or to understand the way, the truth, the life, is to know and be able to demonstrate the healing Christ. The worship of Jesus personality has neither been commanded nor required. Mrs. Eddy describes the Christ as the divine manifestation of God, or "God made manifest to the flesh to destroy the evils of the flesh."

The Science of Right Thinking.

Christian Science is the science of right thinking. Every result ever attained was attained by thinking. How important then to learn how to think aright. A right thought has the power of the universe behind it, because supported by law. The infinite mind, being the one and only mind, is in reality the only thinker, and if consciousness comes into line with divine mind, if there is within us "that mind which was also in Christ Jesus," our thinking will be so molded and controlled by the divine activity as to produce thoughts yielding the fruit of righteousness, that is of rightness. It is a demonstrable fact that all disharmony, sin, worry, depression and consequent sickness and disease arise from wrong thinking, how necessary then that we should learn the science of right thinking to bring out harmonious results. It is generally conceded that Christian Scientists are a happy, prosperous, healthy and contended people. Whatever they possess of these good things is directly traceable to right thinking. Jesus, the greatest metaphysician the world has ever known, thought rightly all the time, with the natural result that everything he attempted was a success. Now let us be quite clear on this matter. All thoughts that come from divine mind are good thoughts, and produce good and lasting results. All thoughts that do not proceed from divine mind are nothingness, chaff scattered before the wind. Dust blinds into the eyes that blinds, but never enlightens.

The Straight and Narrow Way.

All are looking for happiness and peace, but there is no royal road, only that trodden by our Savior, the knowledge of truth. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That Christ knowledge is demonstrably Christian Science, and whether we believe in it or do not believe in it, whether we want it or do not want it, weighs not one ounce in the balance, that read all must sooner or later [illegible] later? This knowledge can only be learned through "that mind which was also in Christ Jesus." It is the Christ way, it is to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves, to live in obedience to the spirit and the letter of the ten commandments and to make the sermon on the mount the law of life. Jesus said, "Watch and pray." Do you notice that he places watching before praying? What did he mean us to watch? why, our thoughts. If this watching were done systematically and thoroughly nothing would enter our lives "that offendeth or maketh a lie." Mrs Eddy says, "Stand porter at the door of thought, admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized to bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously."

Jesus was insistent upon right thinking, declaring that nothing that enterein into the man could defile him. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murder, adulteries, fornifications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, these are the things which defile a man."

The Law of Love.

Christian Science is a religion of love. It teaches that there is no possible existence outside of the realm of love. "God is love," and since we have our being in God, as the Bible declares, we have our being in love. To live in love is to live in the law. When Christian Science has received a full recognition from the world, which from its very nature it must do, the prophecy of the angels will be fulfilled, "peace on earth, good will toward men." To know that there is but one mind and that mind is love is to know no other relationship than that of brotherhood, it is to solve every national, political and social problem, to abolish caste, to discover that "what blesses one blesses all," as Mrs Eddy says, to standardize every action of life to the golden rule.

All Interests Reconciled.

Under no other system can the conflicting interests of nations, peoples and individuals be reconciled. To put ourselves under the government of the one mind is to live in obedience to the scriptural injunction "be ye all of one mind." Here is a social system that has been prophesied thousands of years ago, and is in process of fulfillment today, a democracy without a flaw whose law and law giver is love Himself. All manner of Utopian schemes for governing the world in a social system that equalizes all rights, and compels the brotherhood of man, have been evolved in the past, and are being evolved today, but all are purely experimental, because unscientific. They every one, although starting their voyage with flying canvas and favoring breezes, split inevitably on that rock that lies in wait for them, the rock of self interest. Christian Science falls upon that rock and grinds it to powder and the ocean of love washes it away.

No account of Christian Science would be complete without some mention of the discovered and founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy. Christian Scientists the world over have the most profound respect and love for Mrs. Eddy. How could it otherwise since the great majority of them have been lifted out of suffering and wretchedness through her discovery of the science of being. We are grateful that one gentlewoman was found pure enough and good enough to receive this life-giving truth. Those who knew her personally declared that she was the most loving individual they ever met. She arrogated no power or importance to herself, and was forever striving to turn all thought from her own personality to divine principle, telling her students to follow her "just in so far as she followed Christ," and in one of her works she says of herself: "Today, though rejoicing in some progress, she still finds herself a willing disciple at the heavenly gate, waiting for the mind of Christ." Mrs Eddy's ancestors were from both Scotland and England, and her parents were sturdy New Englanders of exalted religious sentiment. Mrs. Eddy's grandmother, Mrs Marion McNeil Baker, was reared amongst the Scottish covenanters and her devotion and that of her husband to Protestant liberty drove them forth to America to seek "Freedom to worship God."

The Great Discovery.

With such a history and such a parentage, one is prepared in some measure for what was to follow. As a child, Mrs. Eddy, then Mary Baker, had certain religious experiences of an common order, making her thoughtful beyond her years.

It was not, however, until the year 1866 that the revelation of spiritual healing came to her. In that year when living in Lynn, Mass., she met with a severe accident, and her case was by her physicians pronounced hopeless. One Sunday morning her clergyman came to bid her goodbye, before conducting his morning service, as there was no probability that she would be alive at its close. During this time she suddenly became aware of a divine illumination while reading one of the healing passages in the Bible. She asked those about her to withdraw, and presently to their astonishment appeared in their midst, "and they thought that I had died and that it was my apparition," she said.

The Proof of Healing.

Mrs. Eddy now knew that the principle of divine healing was as true today, as in the days when Jesus of Nazareth preached with signs following on the shores of Galilee. But she must find the law that governed this spiritual healing that she might share it with others in unselfish love, so from 1866-68 she retired from society with no other textbook than her Bible, and at last apprehended the teaching of Jesus, and the principle and law involved in spiritual healing, and this she has given to the world in the book, "Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures," and called it Christian Science.

Spiritual Apprehension.

Mrs. Eddy learned that thought must be spiritualized before the things of spirit could be apprehended, she learned that truth and love is the healer, and that it is the pure in heart that shall see God. She learned that God was no respecter of persons, and how it was that all without class or distinction are kings and priests unto God, and that the voice today still cries aloud to all the sons and daughters of man, "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, for "with Him is the fountain of life."

A Million Times No.

There are a million reasons—all buried in mounds of now hundred and newly made graves throughout Europe—why the United States does not desire war. It is not enough to go to war at any time or for any reason, but for the United States to rush to war would be the height of folly. Our daily prayer should be, "Give us this day our daily bread and lead us not into war."—St. Louis Republic.

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