

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

A Lecture on Christian Science

Entitled
Christian Science:
Its Reforming and Healing
Mission

by
Neil H. Bowles, C. S. B.
of Atlanta, Georgia

Member of the Board of Lectureship of
The Mother Church, The First Church of
Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts

The lecturer spoke substantially as follows:

Well, we have come here this evening to discuss a happyfying subject, one of great importance to everyone—how to gain health and retain it. Now Christian Science is not an appeal to the emotions. It asks you to think and to reason. It makes thinkers of all who study it. It is simple, still it's profound, for it reveals the very law of Life itself. It is modern-day religion; modern, still its truths are as old as God, for it's the discovery of the Science of God. It is science, theology, and medicine in their spiritual signification.

In the Preface of the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," its author, Mary Baker Eddy, far in advance of her time, wrote in 1875 (p. vii), "The time for thinkers has come. . . Ignorance of God is no longer the stepping-stone to faith." Here was a challenge to the world to

think and demonstrate its way out of sickness, poverty, strife, and mortality. How? Through a scientific understanding of God as Mind or Spirit, the one and only substance and governing intelligence of the universe.

The introduction of Christian Science, teaching that Mind or Spirit is the origin and ultimate of all life, was the forerunner of a great change in concepts coming to the fields of physical research, theology, and medicine. The physicist has seen the elements of the physical universe become less objectified. Some branches of medicine have become more mental, although not divinely so, and theology has tended to become more benign and less proscriptive. Today, we hear a frantic clamor for more thinkers in the fields of physical research. But who would deny that the world's greatest need is for spiritual thinkers? Were the world as advanced in the Science of God as it seems to be in technological achievements, the vast sums now being spent on instruments of destruction could be devoted to constructive uses for the betterment of mankind.

Let us start our discussion of God as substance with the ministry of Christ Jesus, because it was Jesus who first revealed God. Of course, the teachings of Christian Science are based on both the Old and New Testaments. Indeed, Mrs. Eddy declared the Bible was her only textbook.

In the Gospel of John we read (1:17), "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Grace means spiritual understanding, and truth always refers to that which is actual and real. Jesus came to show mankind the true substance of Life through a spiritual understanding of it. He said to the people (John 6:63), "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." He was clearly telling them that real

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

substance is Spirit. But so solid was the conviction that flesh and blood were the actual substances of life, that only a few understood in the least his teachings. Only what they beheld with the physical senses was substance to most of his hearers, while Spirit seemed vague and indefinable.

Humankind has always instinctively believed in a power and presence above and beyond itself. Yet, it has resisted the concept of that power as being above its own limited physical sense of life, in other words, as being spiritual. So Jesus showed the people proofs of his teachings by healing the sick, sinning, and dying, and raising the dead. He did all this through his understanding of Spirit. He turned the water into wine, stilled the tempest, and walked on the waves in defiance of the humanly conceived laws of nature, that he might convince them of the supremacy of spiritual law. Still they didn't understand.

On another occasion, he said to a man named Nicodemus (John 3:3), "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "How can a man be born when he is old?" asked Nicodemus (John 3:4). Jesus answered (John 3:5), "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jesus may have been telling Nicodemus that he had to accomplish a mental cleansing, a cleansing from the fleshly concepts of life through acquaintance with the spiritual. Here again he was pointing to Spirit as the only true substance. And he plainly said that only those who were cleansed from their fleshly beliefs could enter the kingdom of God, or eternal Life.

These teachings so incensed the materialists that they plotted to crucify him. He knew of the plot and who would betray him, but this didn't deter him from

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

his God-appointed mission. He continued to preach, to the end of his ministry, the unreality of life in the flesh and the eternity of life in Spirit.

Shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus comforted his disciples with this reassuring promise (John 14:16, 17): "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him." "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). This was Jesus' prophecy that the world would be brought to understand the facts of Spirit's substantiality and the insubstantiality of life in the flesh.

That spirit of Truth did come, and Mary Baker Eddy was the one who, through spiritual discernment, did discover these facts and proclaimed this gospel to the world. She had to proclaim it because it came to her, as the very Word of God with its own irresistible impulsion, revealing itself to her spiritually prepared and waiting consciousness. She saw also that the healing works of Jesus were based on an absolute Principle. Indeed, it was the law of Life mankind had always sought. She named her discovery Christian Science. She then tested and proved it in the only way the human consciousness could be convinced. She healed fleshly ills with her knowledge of Spirit's all-power and substance, just as Jesus did. Thus Jesus' promise to his disciples of the coming of the Comforter was fulfilled.

Christian Science repeats Jesus' Christly message and says to those who are discontented with the profitlessness of life in the flesh, "Life's true meaning is found through spiritual reasoning and revelation, not in the unscientific materialistic doctrines

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

of the past." Yes, Christian Science is bringing the good news of Spirit's all-power and substance, reforming human consciousness and saving mankind from the sufferings of the flesh.

The Nature of God

Now let's consider for a moment the difference between the words "observation" and "reason." Observation informs us that if a seed is planted a flower grows, it matures, and it dies. As far as the physical senses are concerned, there's no human reasoning involved in this observation. It's just something we behold. But through reason, we learn that two and two make four, and here no physical process is involved, but the truth revealed is imperishable. By this we recognize that everything we observe through the physical senses is perishable, whereas, what is learned through reason is imperishable, because it's truth. Now our purpose this evening is to learn through spiritual reasoning of the enduring substance of Spirit and the unreal nature of material existence and its sufferings.

Jesus said (John 4:23), "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Plain language, isn't it? It logically follows that for the Father to be worshiped in Spirit, we must reason spiritually, for obviously the physical senses can't comprehend Spirit. Neither is God to be comprehended through human imagination. The old belief that God, in the likeness of a mortal, is sitting on the throne of heaven waiting for our arrival through the portal of death, either to commend or condemn us, is what came of trying to picture God through the physical senses, through human imagination. For that reason God has seemed far off and unknowable.

Awakened to the Christly con-

cept of God, Paul declared to the Athenians (Acts 17:22, 23): "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." And then he explained to them that God, who had made the world and all things in it, couldn't be contained in a material temple made with men's hands, because He was Lord of all and the giver of all Life; and that we have our life in Him. Wasn't he trying to lead the people to think and reason? Wasn't he trying to show them that the great creative power that made all things could not be contained in a finite form; that God, Himself, is the Life of all being, and that all creation is contained in Him? God cannot be interpreted from a physical sense of life. And human resistance to the spiritual sense of God must give way to scientific reasoning about Him.

So, let's reason together now on the meaning of God, and we'll begin to see the truth about His nature and substance. We'll see, that for order and harmony to be supreme in man and the universe, there can be but one all-pervading substance, one omniscient intelligence.

In describing God, Mrs. Eddy declared that He is incorporeal, not contained in a physical body; that He is divine, above the human; that He is supreme, all-powerful, power which cannot be overruled; that He is infinite, without beginning or ending. Then Mrs. Eddy uses seven terms with which to explain His unchanging substance and nature. They are Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. As you think and reason on these terms, you'll realize that they also describe the elements of existence. For you who are hearing these terms for the first

time, you should know that they, or their corresponding terms, are used as names for God.

Now each of God's names reveals a distinctive aspect of His nature. Yet, each name in itself imports God's supremacy. Being infinite Mind, He is supreme intelligence. Being all-pervading Spirit, He is supreme substance. Being omnipresent Soul, He is supreme consciousness. Being omnipotent Principle, He is supreme creative and governing law. Being all-inclusive Life, He is the only Life. Being omniscient Truth, He is the only Truth. Being omniscient Love, He is the only good.

Now you have seen how each of these seven synonymous terms reveals some aspect of God's nature and substance. Yet, each name of itself includes the meaning of each of the other names. Together, they reveal the ever-unfolding wonder of His all-presence, power, and substance. They reveal the supreme oneness and allness of His nature. There is no other God. Thus with scientific reasoning, we see the all-inclusiveness of God, and the spiritual, mental nature of all His aspects. So God, being all-inclusive substance, is the substance and intelligence of man and the universe.

Now this scientific explanation of God takes nothing from the sense we should have of Him as tender, loving Father, being wholly good, and knowing only good, who watchfully cares for and protects His children. Mrs. Eddy often refers to Him as Father-Mother God and says (Science and Health, p. 517), "In divine Science, we have not as much authority for considering God masculine, as we have for considering Him feminine, for Love imparts the clearest idea of Deity." Do not the terms Mind and divine Principle, as we have just seen them, include the motherhood of God? Don't you begin to see how Christian Sci-

ence employs these synonyms interchangeably when referring to God? My friends, search and study these terms. Never did the understanding of so few words reveal so much, for they reveal the meaning of Life itself.

Spirit's Allness Denies Matter

Since Spirit, or God, whom we have seen to be omnipresent Mind, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love, is All-in-all, what then is matter?

Christian Science describes matter as mortal error, the error of believing that anything in the universe of infinite Spirit could be finite or destructible, the error of believing God, divine Principle, who is the great First Cause, capable of creating a material universe. God made only one universe, and He made it spiritual, because He made it wholly good. The Bible says so. Here's what it says: "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. . . . Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (Gen. 1:31; 2:1). There is no record of His ever having made a second universe of matter out of the first universe of Spirit. What was there in omnipresent Truth out of which to create error? It is on the fact of Spirit's all-substance that Christian Science shows with scientific reasoning that no other substance can exist to oppose Spirit. Hence, the ever-present spirituality of all things real is the only fact of the universe.

Someone may say: "Well, that's interesting reasoning, but what is the stuff we call matter, with its hardness and its softness, with its weight and its dimensions? How shall we explain the things of the physical universe that appear to us as solid and real?" This is what Christian Science declares (Science and Health, p. 311): "The objects cognized by the physical senses have not the reality of substance. They are

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

only what mortal belief calls them."

Matter is what we believe we behold through the physical senses. Now we have already seen this evening that everything the physical senses behold is perishable. Consequently, matter, being perishable, is the opposite of eternal reality, or infinite Spirit. Matter, therefore, has no real life, no intelligence, no substance, no consciousness, no law, no truth, and no love, for these are the elements of Life, God, and they are imperishable.

Matter's only claim to substance is a false supposition based on the testimony of the physical senses, which are deceptive and testify falsely. Physical sense testimony can be likened to false education. So long as a falsity is believed, it is solid conviction to the believer, and he is governed by it. Change the false belief that matter is substantive to the fact of Spirit's all-substance and presence, and man and the universe will appear in their true light.

Is there such a thing as a mirage? The physical senses say yes, but reason tells us no. What is it then but an illusion? And that is exactly what Christian Science declares the whole of matter to be, illusion, a mistaken sense of real substance.

Dr. Edmond W. Sinnott, eminent physical scientist of Yale University, has said, "Matter in the old sense indeed has ceased to be, and is replaced by a fantastic system of electrical charges, quanta, and space stresses which are literally inconceivable and open to analysis only by mathematic subtleties." What does that mean? It means that, through mechanical and chemical processes followed by mathematical deductions, matter stuff has been subdivided into a quantity so infinitesimally small that it can only be described as an electrical charge. Sir James

J Jeans, the much-quoted English physicist, said years ago, "The universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine." But Christian Science must add—more like a great material thought. And as for electrical charges, they are no less material because they seem to be without dimension or objectification. Let me read again from Science and Health (p. 293), "Electricity is the sharp surplus of materiality which counterfeits the true essence of spirituality or truth,—the great difference being that electricity is not intelligent, while spiritual truth is Mind." So we see that matter, regardless of its form, is but a counterfeit sense of Spirit.

Let me illustrate again. The physical sense of sight hasn't the capacity to penetrate a fog. The objects that do appear faintly through the mist seem grotesque and misshapen. But reason convinces us that they are not misshapen. Yet here is reason at variance with the testimony of the physical senses. The one is true. The other is false. Now the objects obscured by the fog remain unchanged. Then as the mist disperses, they appear in their original form. From this we can see that the material, unenlightened belief in a power, presence, and substance opposed to Spirit is all there is to the mental fog, which makes our universe and man appear as material and destructible. No, matter is not a second substance opposing Spirit. It is a mistake about Spirit, an error of belief only. Through spiritual education, based on divine reasoning and revelation, the truth about real substance will be understood. Then the finite sense of substance called matter will cease to be even an illusion, and Spirit, in all its glory and wonder, will be seen as the sum total of reality.

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Man

Now let's consider man, his nature and substance, with the same scientific reasoning with which we considered God. Christian Science declares that the substance of man is Spirit, not matter; that his component elements are not brain, blood, and bones. Taken at face value, this statement seems like a foolish denial of what is manifestly true to the physical senses. But we have learned this evening that whatever is cognized by the physical senses is but a distorted sense of divine reality, of spiritual substance. So this statement is in scientific accord with the account of man's creation in the first chapter of Genesis, wherein it says that God made man in His own image and likeness. He made man like Himself, of His own substance. Therefore, man is not separate from the life God gives him. God is Himself the very substance and Life of man.

So man being the likeness of Spirit, the likeness of Mind, how can he be material or physical? How can he be made of brain, blood, and bones? How can he be made out of two substances, Spirit and matter? To believe that man was made of matter is to deny that God made man like Himself. In truth, man is neither material nor physical. But his true being, his substance, and his everlasting identity are mental and spiritual. So right where we are, in what seems to be a material and destructible existence, is the true fact of our spiritual and indestructible existence. That's what the Apostle John saw when he wrote (I John 3:2), "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Through the revelation of Christian Science, we can comprehend that the physical senses are presenting an abnormal state of con-

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

God and man, made comprehensible to the human consciousness.

Then how did Jesus receive this message? In the only way God reveals Himself. The spirit of Truth enlightened Jesus because he was spiritually prepared to receive it. And what was Jesus' Christly message? You have heard it many times this evening. It is this. Spirit is the only reality of being. Life is not and never has been material. And man is not a sick and sinful mortal, but the blessed child of God, and perfect in Him. This divine message understood is the saving Christ, the Comforter, always at hand to free us from every form of human want and suffering. The comforting Christ has ever been here, and Jesus came to show the world how to utilize it. Yes, how to utilize it. Jesus presented the Christly message and demonstrated its truth for us, but it remains for us to utilize it in demonstration of spiritual power. Jesus said (Matt. 11:29): "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls." What was Jesus' yoke? It was his work of demonstrating the Christ, Truth. And he said his yoke was easy and his burden light. Of course, demonstrating the Christ, Truth, is not a burden. It is joy-bestowing. It is the most happy activity in the human experience. So it is our understanding of the Christ, Truth, ever with us, that is our comfort, guard, and guide in every human need.

Healing

Why have we discussed in such detail the nature of God as Spirit and the unreality of matter? Because all human suffering has its origin in the belief that life is material. Infinite Spirit doesn't suffer, neither does Spirit's offspring.

To be healed in Christian Science, one must replace in his

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

own consciousness the false and mistaken sense of man as material with the true idea of man as wholly spiritual, as revealed in Christian Science. The man God created manifests only such attributes and qualities as are Godlike. He expresses intelligence and wisdom. He is pure and sinless. His only consciousness is spiritual reality. The fleshly sense of man is fearful, sinning, and ignorant. These conditions of thought are what produce sickness. They restrict the normal functioning of the human system, and only the adoption of spiritual thinking can truly restore health.

Jesus reformed the thinking of those he healed. He said to one man (John 5:14), "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Some form of erroneous thinking always gave way to the spiritualizing influence present in Jesus' healings.

One day a man I know walked into a practitioner's office and announced that he had been informed by a specialist that he was suffering from cancer. After some reassuring and comforting statements about man's perfection as the son of God and his exemption from disease were made to this man, the practitioner was led to ask, "Whom and what are you hating?" The man seemed surprised, and replied, "I'm not hating anyone." The practitioner then asked, "Are you sure?" This time the denial came rather sharply. It was evident the patient was irritated by the question. After further discussion, during which the patient repeatedly denied holding animosity toward anyone, he finally asked, "Could this have anything to do with my trouble?"

Then he related how a business associate had defrauded him of a considerable sum of money, and how the relationship between them was bitter. "It might

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

have something to do with it," replied the practitioner, "but only incidentally." The patient was then asked if he had always met his problems with bitterness. This he vigorously denied.

But some time later, after Christian Science treatment had been taken up for him, he wrote a letter to the practitioner, and this is what he said: "I have been thinking about our recent conversation, and have been having some searching self-examination. Now I must confess. All my life, when someone has opposed me, he has gotten himself in for a thorough hating. I didn't realize it before, but I do now. I want to be healed of this characteristic."

Again the practitioner turned his thought to God in prayer. He affirmed God's allness and man's perfect spiritual selfhood in God. He affirmed the fatherhood of divine Love as the only true and perfect Cause. He denied the false claim that man was born under material laws of heredity. He declared man's true nature to be loving, like God's, and denied that man could inherit an unloving nature. Then the patient was shown that he had something to do, and he did it. By rejecting hate and adopting Love; by rejecting self-righteousness and adopting the Mind that is God; by rejecting revenge and adopting forgiveness; by rejecting impatience and adopting patience, this man was completely and permanently healed. And there remained no scar, because no corrosion remained in his thinking.

Jesus taught the necessity of loving our enemies. Was that just a pleasant oriental philosophy? Certainly not! Jesus knew that hatred is corrosive to the human system and that divine Love alone could heal the effects of hatred. Hatred actually changes the secretions of the body, interfering with the normal activity of the system. Doc-

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

tors will tell you that. They preach and write about emotional tensions producing serious illness. Mrs. Eddy saw it almost a hundred years ago. She later wrote (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 12), "Hate no one; for hatred is a plague-spot that spreads its virus and kills at last."

Why do we worry, fear, and hate? Because we believe there's not enough of good for all. But when we see infinite Spirit as substance, then material limitations fade, and so do worry, and rivalry, and fear, and hate, et cetera. Yes, Christian Science is the true panacea. It gives positive proofs that divine Love, destroying fear and hate, brings human consciousness into accord with the law of God and thereby restores the human system to normal action. That's healing.

Now I don't wish to give the impression that hatred produces a certain type of disease, fear another type, and so on. Such is not the teaching of Christian Science. There are various modes of human thought productive of sickness and disease. Mrs. Eddy says (Science and Health, p. 411): "The procuring cause and foundation of all sickness is fear, ignorance, or sin. Disease is always induced by a false sense mentally entertained, not destroyed. Disease is an image of thought externalized. The mental state is called a material state. Whatever is cherished in mortal mind as the physical condition is imaged forth on the body."

So you see how important it is for us to be consciously aware of what sort of thinking we're doing. But many times we don't know when we're thinking erroneously, because our fears and false habits of thought seem so much a part of us. But Christian Science uncovers these latent sickness-producing concepts and helps us to replace them with spiritual thinking, thereby bringing healing.

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

The following experience is another example of the reforming nature of Christian Science healing. A man I know suffered from early childhood with nervousness, sick headaches, severe stomach trouble, and eye difficulty. This man had always been timid. Being self-conscious in the company of others, he never felt he adequately expressed himself. Throughout his youth, and into early manhood, he was plagued by a sense of self-depreciation. This kept him constantly miserable. Unkind or critical comments cut deeply into an exaggerated sense of pride. Because he was frequently stirred by resentment over his frustrations, he was nervous and tense much of the time. Finally, he became very ill, and only painfully able to be about.

Then, one day as he was studying Science and Health, he saw he had never truly regarded himself as the son of God. He realized that he had always thought of himself as inferior and as having limited abilities. But he had always wanted very much to have others think well of him and was deeply hurt when he thought they didn't. Naturally, others saw in this man what he saw in himself. Many times he had wondered why he had not been healed of his physical difficulties. Now he was led to see that he had been trying to rid himself of the sickness without correcting the fearful and limited sense of himself. He saw that this constant self-depreciation was depressing to his system and caused abnormal organic functioning.

When he began to think scientifically about his sonship with God, renewed spiritual vision began to unfold for him. He saw that his nature was the reflection of God's nature, rather than something he possessed separate from God. He saw in the scientific relationship of perfect God and perfect man that no man

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

was unimportant. He saw that each one was indispensable to the full and complete expression of God, just as each ray of the sun is indispensable to the full reflection of the sun.

From then on, he constantly claimed he was indispensable to God, because he saw it was a scientific fact. Soon, he gained an inward peace and an outward calm, a sense of dominion. He no longer wished he were like other people, because he recognized that his individual expression was indispensable to God. He saw that he was the expression of illimitable Mind. This gave him the sense of being an original thinker. And, finally, he gained a feeling of being wanted and needed and loved.

By this time, you must have concluded that he was healed of all the physical complaints enumerated. Indeed, he was, and permanently. In addition, great good began to flow to him. And he rejoiced to find that others were appreciating his abilities and qualities. They were thinking well of him, because he was thinking well of himself.

God never made a sick, unhappy, deformed, or inferior man. If some seem naturally happier than others, better equipped than others, and better formed than others, don't be tempted to blame God for that. Those human inequalities are but false views of God's perfect creative nature and His ability to create only beauty, loveliness, and perfection. It accomplishes no good to ask the why of seeming human inequalities. But we do know that seemingly great odds have been overcome by steadfastly holding to the perfection of man in God's likeness, with joyous expectancy of good, no matter how loudly error argues its claim.

Shakespeare, said, "Assume a virtue, if you have it not." And why not? If you don't feel joyous, act joyously, because it's

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Godlike to do so. If you don't feel happy, act happily, because happiness is a recognition that good alone is real. Gloom is a belief in good's absence, really a denial of God's presence. Mrs. Eddy says (Science and Health, p. 261), "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts."

Reforming Prayer

The prayer of Christian Science has been called the prayer of affirmation and denial, and so it is. It affirms God's glory and man's perfect sonship in God. But it is not a vain repetition of words, for words of themselves do not heal. Prayer is an attitude and an argument. Its attitude is an honest desire to know the truth with a willingness to follow it. It is knocking at the door of divine Mind and listening for thoughts of wisdom and understanding, that we may discern between good and evil, with a willingness to choose good. It is seeking the unerring law of God with a willingness to obey it. It is kneeling at the altar of Soul with an honest desire to be cleansed from sinful sense. It is the desire to behold our sonship in God and a willingness to behold it in Christlike love for our fellow man. It is a search for enduring substance in Spirit with a willingness to surrender materiality. It is a search for life's true meaning and a willingness to find it in serving God and man.

This is the Christian Scientist's attitude of prayer, and from it he affirms and argues and maintains the glory of God, or good. He prays it for himself, for those who come to him for healing, and for all mankind. He affirms God's infinite goodness. He affirms the all-substance of Spirit, the all-intelligence of Mind, the eternality of Life, the perfection and

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

purity of Soul, the omniscience of divine Principle, the omnipresence of Truth, and the omnipotence of divine Love. He declares man's oneness with God and his spiritual sonship in Him.

This spiritual knowing, this identifying of man with God, lifts human consciousness high on the mount of spiritual understanding, from which he who prays intelligently reasons and argues the unreality of mortal error in all its forms. Such treatment or prayer operates as a divine influence, spiritualizing and harmonizing the human consciousness. Then the diseased body, the sick business, the unhappy home, or the strained relationships yield to what is governing human consciousness, and healing results. Thus "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Need for Study

Those of you who wish to learn more about Christian Science may do so through study of the King James Version of the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." These are the two textbooks of Christian Science. These books, and other writings of Mrs. Eddy, may be read, borrowed, or purchased at any Christian Science Reading Room, where all visitors are lovingly welcomed. And Science and Health may be borrowed from most public libraries. It may also be purchased at most book and department stores or direct from the Publishers' Agent in Boston, Massachusetts. You will also find great aid and encouragement by attending the Sunday services of Churches of Christ, Scientist, and their Wednesday evening testimony meetings, where testimonies are given by those who have been healed through the practice of this religion. All are lovingly welcomed.

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

The Leader of Christian Science

To have revealed these sublime views of the saving Christ, the truth about Spirit's allness, Mrs. Eddy had to be a thinker and seer of deepest spiritual perception. This she was indeed. But, in addition, she was a great unselfed humanitarian with an all-embracing love for God and her fellow man. Her lifework gives glowing testimony to this. It was through many years of tireless research in the Bible, and by withdrawing herself completely from worldly pursuits, that she was spiritually prepared and inspired of God to discover this divine Science or law of Life.

After she had proved her discovery by healing others as Jesus did, she devoted herself to the establishment of her writings and her Church, that posterity might be blessed. From study of her writings, anyone can learn to heal himself and others through spiritual means alone. Her followers lovingly call her Leader. By example, as well as precept, she has shown the way of salvation—salvation beginning here and now—through a demonstrable understanding of God. For this, she is beloved by her followers, yet their love for her does not deify her. This deeply religious and cultured woman was alert to see the danger of gratitude turning into personal worship, and she quickly rebuked it. One who comes to understand the purity of her teachings regarding the oneness and allness of Deity could never believe her capable of accepting personal worship. But anyone who is healed by her teachings would surely come to love and revere her for the Christliness of her thought that enabled her to give this reforming and saving truth to mankind.

NOTE—Please follow capitalization as you find it.

Summary

Now what have we seen this evening? We have seen that ignorance of God and of man's true nature as His beloved son is the cause of the world's ills. We have seen that the mission of Jesus was to present the true idea of God and man and to demonstrate the all-power of infinite Spirit, thus proving unreal the sufferings of the flesh. We have seen that the mission of Christian Science is reformatory, redeeming mankind from bondage to the belief in materiality and revealing anew the all-substance of Spirit. We have seen that this reforming process restores health and leads the way to the understanding of Life's true meaning and substance.

That, my friends, is the happy message of Christian Science.

Note—Please follow capitalization as you find it.