

# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: The Conquest Over Wrong Thinking

## Thinking Along Spiritual Lines Is Need of The World

The Teachings of Christ Jesus Appeal to the Thinker—John Randall Dunn Delivers Lecture to Saint John Audience.

DEEP PRAYERFUL thinking, and last but not least, thinking along spiritual lines are the great needs of the world today. This was the sentiment expressed by John Randall Dunn, C.S.B., of Boston, Mass., member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, who addressed a large meeting in the Capitol Theatre, Saint John on the afternoon of Sunday, June 16. The text of his address was as follows:

There never was a moment in the world's history when thinking was more necessary than today—deep, prayerful thinking; constructive thinking, and last but not least, thinking along spiritual lines.

The teachings of Christ Jesus appeal to the thinker. Two of his cardinal precepts are, "Know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" and "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." Here is a statement of law—that freedom and eternal life can be experienced as one knows the truth about God and His reflection. Notice that a stronger word than thinking is used here. The Master did not promise deliverance and freedom to the one who merely thought about the truth, but to the one who knew the truth. Here really is the point of distinction between Mary Baker Eddy and the philosophers and thinkers who preceded and followed her. They may have glimpsed the spirit of the metaphysical aspects of being; but she perceived, that is, knew, the truth, and demonstrated that she knew it by solving both for herself and others all manner of human problems. She healed sickness, sin, appetite, lack, unhappiness, and human anguish as they have not been healed since the days of the Master and his apostles. To aver that the healing which Mrs. Eddy taught and practiced is just a form of mental suggestion that she learned from a magnetic doctor and therefore that she is not the genuine author of Christian Science, is as vain as would be the assertion that Columbus was not the discoverer of the West Indies, because, perchance, someone once told him that there must be land beyond the horizon!

### Christly Knowing or Christian Science

From early childhood Mrs. Eddy, in the atmosphere of a Christian home, had been searching for this truth, this spiritual knowing. She writes (Science and Health, p. 359): "From Puritan parents, the discoverer of Christian Science early received her religious education. In childhood, she often listened with joy to these words, falling from the lips of her saintly mother, 'God is able to raise you up from sickness;' and she pondered the meaning of that Scripture she so often quotes: 'And these signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'" So when, in later years, she was able to heal the sick, through Christian knowing, she demonstrated beyond cavil that thinking as Christ Jesus thought, solves all manner of human problems, and reinstates primitive Christianity. When one considers that the words "Christian Science" can mean only Christly or spiritual knowing, one sees that Mrs. Eddy could not have found a more felicitous term for her discovery. Truly was Mrs. Eddy a Christian Scientist, a knower and demonstrator of the Master's teachings. I once asked an acquaint-

ance of Mrs. Eddy's what his impressions were the first time he saw her. He replied: "I seemed to lose sight of a material personality altogether. In fact, instead of thinking of the woman before me at all I found myself saying over and over again, 'I want to be good!'" This Christian woman's thought was such a clear, clean windowpane, such a transparency for spiritual good, that instead of dazzling one with a brilliant human personality and intellect, she awakened a yearning to partake of the Christliness she reflected. Loyalty to Mrs. Eddy's teachings, therefore, means loyalty and obedience to the pure metaphysics of Christ Jesus.

### The Mind Which Was In Christ Jesus

If one could put in one single phrase mankind's greatest need at the moment, such phrase might well be: to have that "mind . . . which was also in Christ Jesus." If we knew what Jesus knew we should be able to solve every human problem. We should be able to heal sickness, manifest abundance, and exercise dominion over every untoward circumstance. Ah, says the materialist, but that's the difficulty! To know what Jesus knew! Was not his understanding supernatural, divine, beyond the reach of mortals today? What says the Master to this? "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me [in other words, he who understands the Principle and law I teach], the works that I do shall he do also." Again, he declared that he did not the mighty works by himself—to use his words it was "the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works;" and the Apostle Paul evidently believed that it was possible for the same Father, the same power, to dwell with all mankind when he said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

### God as Mind, Spirit

Answering the question, "What is God?" Mrs. Eddy tells us in the textbook (p. 465) that "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love." It will be noted here that the first definitions are Mind and Spirit; Mind, the all-knowing intelligence, and Spirit, omnipresent, omnipotent good. Would any thinking person in the world assert that there is no God if God were understood to be the all-knowing intelligence and ever present good and Love? Whenever one says "I know," or "I want to be good or do some good," or "I love," he admits that God is, for is he not at that moment expressing intelligence and good and Love? When a Russian communist tells you that he does not believe in God and that he hates God you may know that he is referring only to a false conception of God, for no thinking being can disbelieve in the existence of intelligence and good, of Truth and Love and Principle.

Can one look at the wonder of the simplest bud or blossom and fail to see therein a hint of some mighty law of life or Mind?

### How Can Mind Heal the Sick?

Now since there is a mighty Principle, or cause, underlying man and the universe and this great cause is divine Mind, or Spirit, in what way can this power be invoked for the healing of disease or the solving of problems? By learning of the real man's eternal connection with this Mind. The Apostle Paul very definitely indicates that there seems to be to our sense of things two men—one the carnal, fleshly man, or the "old man," which is to be put off, and the other characterized as the "new man," or the real, spiritual man of God's creating, which is to be put on. Clearly does Paul draw the distinction between the two: "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Here Christian Science makes to the human family a very revolutionary and startling statement. It tells us that this material sense of things that we see with our eyes is not the real man, not God's man, and that we must gain a new conception of man; in other words, we must first learn that the real man is the image, or expression of Mind, if we would heal the sick and solve earth's problems on a spiritual basis.

In the first chapter of Genesis we read, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." Let us read this verse, substituting for the word God the synonymous Mind and Spirit: So Mind, Spirit, created man in His own image, in the image of Mind, Spirit, created He him. Now to be the image of Mind, or Spirit, the real man must be mental or spiritual; in other words, he must reflect or express the all-knowing intelligence, omniactive good, that Spirit or consciousness which is omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience.

### Carnal Mind Befogged

Here someone may say: "If it is true that God's creation is spiritual, how is it that this spiritual sense is so intangible, while materiality seems so real and substantial?" Simply because the carnal mind is befogged in its own erroneous, limited conception. The very first appearance of a material sense of things came in a mist. It will be recalled that there is no record of a material creation in the first chapter of Genesis. There man and creation proceed from Mind, Spirit, and are pronounced very good. But in the second chapter of Genesis, before Adam and Eve, depicting a material creation, appear, we read this significant statement: "But there went up a mist from the earth." A mist arose; and with the coming of a mist came the material, sick, sinning, dying sense of man and creation. And to this day, when-

ever and wherever the carnal mind asserts itself one sees through a mist of ignorance, or fear, or self-will, and naturally cannot cognize creation as God sees it.

### Lucifer's "I Will!"

The carnal mind, or the adversary, or Satan, is typified in Isaiah as Lucifer, a so-called intelligence which dares to set itself up against Mind, God. Says the Scripture: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend unto heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." A well-known commentator of the Bible, Dr. Schofield, states, in a memorable footnote, "When Lucifer said 'I will,' sin began."

What says the master Christian about Lucifer or Satan? "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." Thus Christian Science boldly disputes the "I wills" of the carnal mind, such as "I will be sick" or "I will be sensual" or "I will show you that matter is as real and powerful as Spirit!" It renominates the arguments and the objectifications of the carnal mind as frauds, lies, outrageously perpetrated on humanity because of the mist of ignorance; and putting in the place thereof the glorious, serene "I AM THAT I AM" of Mind, and man as the reflection of this "I AM," sickness disappears, sin lessens, and the carnal, fleshly sense of being is put off. Mind does not need to say "I will"; Mind saith "I am!"

### Knowing the Oneness of Mind

There is no greater need at the moment than that mortals should strive to demonstrate that in truth there are not minds many but one alone; not a thousand million Lucifers selfishly and sensually willing this or that, but the one glorious, harmonious, all-knowing intelligence, governing men and nations, "in the rhythmic round of unfolding bliss" (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 83), to use Mrs. Eddy's words. But if one is to contribute measurably in the great demonstration of Mind's control over all, one must certainly begin with Mind's government of his own thinking. Knowing how true is the adage, as you think so you are, Mrs. Eddy has given every Christian Scientist, in the Manual of The Mother Church (p. 41), this beautiful "Daily Prayer" of direction and protection: "Thy kingdom come; let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!" As will be seen, the first

step in this prayer deals with one's own thinking. Praying that God's reign be established in consciousness necessarily involves the ruling from thought of self-will, self-love, self-pity; in other words, one's first task is to grapple with the many subtle forms of Lucifer, or the carnal mind, and to know their powerlessness, because they proceed not from the one and only Mind. Then the student is ready to reach out in a prayer for the blessing of the whole human family.

### Dealing With the Mental Adversary

Now let us suppose that one who is a student of Christian Science has just awakened in the morning and his first conscious thought possibly finds him instinctively turning to the "Daily Prayer;" but no sooner is this finished than a troop of fears appears at the door of his mental home, suggestions of fear of lack, fear of disease, fear of failure, etc. How are these to be dealt with? They clamor for admission, for recognition. The Christian Scientist is taught to deal with this mental adversary speedily. Like the sentry who halts all who draw near him and asks for a password, so the Christian Science soldier challenges these intruding suggestions of fear and demands their credentials. Did they originate in God, the Mind which is Love and good? Never! Then they are emissaries of the carnal mind, and Jesus said they were lies. Shall a lie be feared? Has it power? Only that which ignorance might give it. Then may the Christian Science soldier bid it be gone. Nay, he must thank God that it is not happening in His harmonious kingdom. It must be seen that the very corner stone of the teaching of Christian Science is the allness of God, the Mind which is good, and the consequent powerlessness or unreality of its opposite, the carnal mind, designated by Jesus as "a liar, and the father" of all lies.

### Handling a Problem of Lack

Now while some of the more aggressive fear-suggestions may be silenced there is one persistent argument that seems to refuse to be downed. It whispers: But you haven't money enough for your needs! You must have money! Here Lucifer has resorted to the use of one of his most subtle and most fear-provoking weapons, and truly does one need to have well buckled on his armor of spiritual understanding, if he would prove this powerless.

From the beginning of time, the human mind has worshipped and feared the mammon of this world—money. Paul designates the love of money as "the root of all evil;" and the Master warned that one could not serve God and Mammon at the same time. Now comes the beloved Leader of the Christian Science movement with a statement fraught with tremendous good for mankind. In one brief paragraph, like the shepherd David with his sling, she deals the mammon-Goliath a death-blow. Instead of agreeing with the argument, centuries old, that man's primal and greatest need is for money, she shows that his real need, first and last, is for right, saving ideas. In "Miscellaneous Writings" in an article entitled "Angels" (p. 307): she writes: "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies. Never ask for tomorrow; it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment." And how practically does this work out in human ex-