

# Lecture on Christian Science Delivered Thursday

## Earl E. Simms Gives Talk in Auditorium

A Lecture on Christian Science was delivered in the Torrance Civic Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 8, by Earl E. Simms, C.S., of Austin, Texas, a Member of the Board of Lecturers of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

The subject of the lecture was "Christian Science: Following Christ," and it was delivered under the auspices of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Torrance.

The lecturer was introduced by Hugo A. Miller, First Reader of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Torrance.

The lecturer spoke substantially as follows:

In Jerusalem one bright summer morning, a native guide approached me, removed his fez, bowed from the waist, and said, "Would you like to follow in the steps of the Master? He referred to following the human steps of Jesus as he had gone about Jerusalem. My thoughts, however, immediately centered on following him as the Christ, our Saviour, that is, on accepting his glorious teaching and example of spiritual living and healing. I seemed to hear him say, "Follow me; heal the sick; cast out demons; cleanse the lepers; and raise the dead." The humility, obedience, and love for Christ Jesus which filled my consciousness at this point will long be remembered. With tear-filled eyes, I replied, "How I would! Oh, how I would!"

John the Baptist, the harbinger of Jesus the Christ, referred to the Saviour as the Son of God, the Son of the Father. While Jesus said of John, "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet," he added, "but he is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" (Luke 7:28). Thus Jesus indicated that whereas a person may be uncompromisingly moral and exceedingly religious, he still may not be able to demonstrate the spiritual-mindedness which heals sickness and overcomes death. This is accomplished only through a full understanding of Christ, Truth. In other words, important as complete morality is, this is not sufficient. In order to heal the sick, overcome lack, poverty, hatred, and fear, one must become increasingly conscious of God and His Christ. How imperative then is the Christ-command, "Follow me!"

Defining Christ in the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, writes (p. 332): "Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness. The Christ is incorporeal, spiritual,—yes, the divine and angelic likeness, dispelling the illusion of the senses: the Way, the Truth, and the Life, healing the sick and casting out evils, destroying sin, disease, and death."

Jesus was the human man. His name is the Greek form of Joshua, which properly translated means "saviour." He was divinely endowed, divinely appointed, and divinely anointed to speak God's Word to the poor (the receptive thought), thereby casting out demons, healing the sick, and raising the dead. Christ is the divine title which Jesus demonstrated and earned through his spiritual and heavenly works, which are eternal examples and signs of Immanuel or "God with us." The great patriarchs of the Bible furnished in some instances, through their examples of the Christ, Truth, in action, long before that glorious day when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

In every step of human experience, from his immaculate conception by the Virgin-mother through his ascension above every phase of materiality and limitation, Jesus exemplified the Christ, man's true sonship with God.

These magnificent examples were for our enlightenment, inspiration, and guidance. He promised, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

Webster defines a Christian as "one who believes in Jesus Christ, and the truth as taught by him." It may be safely said that practically everyone here believes in Christ Jesus and the truths he taught, but can it be said as safely that all understand and follow him? In Christian Science, Christian means primarily and secondarily one who understands Christ, one who accepts his teachings as divine authority and strives to obey them implicitly without reservation or "but-but-ty." Thus the Christian Scientist seeks to prove his true discipleship by healing the sick and diseased, reforming the sinner, and preaching the gospel—the good news of God's Kingdom here on earth—as the Master commanded.

Indeed, every pure, spiritual desire one entertains, every kind, loving, holy thought one thinks, every true, spiritual prayer one offers, every act of mercy and forgiveness one performs to further God's Kingdom on earth, evidences the Christ, one's true selfhood, manifesting itself. So we see the eternal, ever-present power of Christ, Truth, operating here and now through you and me, taking away the sins of the world and healing the sick.

The term "Science" as applied to Christianity means the exact, precise, and demonstrable knowledge of the spiritual system of teaching and healing practiced by Jesus. Mrs. Eddy discovered this scientific system and named her discovery Christian Science.

### Christ Jesus Our Saviour

In everything he did Jesus demonstrated the Christ, man's true sonship with God. Jesus was the Word made flesh among men. Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health (p. 332), "He was appointed to speak God's word and to appear to mortals in such a form of humanity as they could understand as well as perceive."

My friends, Christian Science reveals that the way of salvation is to follow the Christ. Christ Jesus was not only our Saviour but also our Exemplar. He said, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Truly, the sheep follow the shepherd! The Christy way is open to all. Jesus showed salvation to be individual. It comes about through progressive, moral, and spiritual repentance and regeneration and not merely through the righteous prayers of others. Jesus demonstrated this when he raised Lazarus from the dead and healed the man at the pool of Bethesda of disease which had held him in bondage thirty-eight years, because he saw that there is no evidence that he left them to work out their respective salvations thereafter.

The Master's experience in the garden of Gethsemane followed by his crucifixion is the greatest example of humble obedience, unselfish love, and self-sacrifice that we have ever known. Jesus was willing to undergo these experiences as our Way-shower and for our everlasting example.

Mrs. Eddy, whose life was one of tireless spiritual effort, unselfish Christian service, and self-sacrifice, has revealed his precious teachings to this age, writes (Science and Health, p. 25): "The spiritual essence of blood is sacrifice. The efficacy of Jesus' spiritual offering is infinitely greater than can be expressed in words. He was willing to shed his blood for the redemption of the world. The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon the accursed tree, than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business. His true flesh and blood were his life, and they truly eat his flesh and drink his blood, who partake of that divine Life."

Therefore it should be plain that salvation from sin and suffering does not come from worship of the man Jesus, neither is it dependent upon a mysterious belief that the human body of Jesus was crucified. The cross serves as our atonement, that is, deliverance from sin and its dastardly effects. The only way to atone for sin is to turn from it to good. Salvation is not something which occurs suddenly at some given time here or hereafter. It is the daily demonstration in ever-ascending degree of the all-presence and omnipotence of Life, Truth, and Love, and the consequent destruction of sin, disease, and death. Paul declared, "Behold, now the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). Truly, unselfed love, self-abnegation, and self-immolation are the way of salvation. The day of salvation is here and now. Christ Jesus, Science through his blessed teachings shows us how to work out our own salvation. It does not come from blind faith or through dependence upon mere doctrinal beliefs. It is what you and I do every day, here and now, as followers of Christ.

### The Holy Scriptures in Christian Science

When the glorious Biblical records of deliverance, healing, and saving from the effects of pestilence and famine have been recounted, have you not heard it said many times, "Oh, those are just rare instances of divine intervention; those days are passed and gone?" Then, Mrs. Eddy's teachings to heal the sick and raise the dead, and her demonstrations have been cited as precedents for present-day practice, have you not heard the objection: "But that was Jesus and his disciples! Those were miracles for a selected people and for a limited period of time, but we should not expect things now? Why shouldn't we expect them now? For three hundred years after the ascension of Jesus, followers of Christ who had never seen the Master or even one of his original disciples were able to do such things as heal the sick in a manner of sickness and disease and to raise the dead. Is the world approaching dark ages when spiritual healing and Christlike demonstrations are to be ruled out in favor of such things as medicine, surgery, and scholastic theology? Christ Jesus subordinated not one iota of God's healing power to the material systems of his day, and there is no authority for the current false belief that Christian healing through prayer is being supplied or complemented by material medicine, drugs, or surgery."

My friends, the holy, spiritual revelation of God's presence and power to the patriarchs of the Old Testament and the glorious teaching and example of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, of just preceding centuries as they were, are not to be discarded. It is true, then, that we may as well close the Holy Bible and surrender our God-given birthright of freedom and dominion to lives of limitation, lack, and hopelessness. We may as well give up our birthright to complicity in medicine and regimentation, which are attempting to make inroads upon our constitutional prerogative to select for ourselves the system of preventive and curative medicine we desire.

Speaking of the Bible as her "sole teacher" and only textbook in her discovery of Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy declares: "I have demonstrated through Mind the effects of Truth on the health, longevity, and morals of men and have found no other system in ancient or in modern systems on which to found my own, except the teachings and demonstrations of our great Master and the lives of prophets and apostles. The Bible has been my only authority. I have had no other guide in 'the straight and narrow way' of Truth" (Science and Health, p. 126).

That finite, personal opinions might be eliminated and that the preaching be kept entirely spiritual and lead to sin, disease, and death, Mrs. Eddy was divinely led to ordain the Bible and the Christian Science textbook as the only preachers in her church. The Bible used in Christian Science churches is the King James Version. These books, together with the Christian Science Quarterly, provide the Christian Science lesson-Sermon and they may be studied, borrowed, or purchased in any Christian Science Reading Room. So, my friends, the portal to great spiritual discoveries, revelation, and physical healing is open to you. If you will take up the daily, systematic study of these volumes at once you may expect to enjoy a greater confidence in good, genuine happiness, and fuller freedom.

### Christian Science and Its Discoverer

Christian Science is not just another religion. Neither is it the outgrowth or offshoot of an already established denominational church. It is the result of spiritual inspiration and divine revelation which came to Mrs. Eddy and teaches the precise system and method employed by the Master in the practice of the Science of Christ. This Science, centuries ago, the Christian Science church is not founded on a mortal personality, but on the divine Principle, God, Life, Truth, and Love, infinite Spirit, which, as Jesus demonstrated, heals the sick and reforms the sinner.

One needs only to study the Life and works of Mary Baker Eddy to be convinced that everything she wrote and every step she took in discovering and founding Christian Science was the result of divine inspiration and spiritual revelation, and not the orderly and progressive unfolding of a child's mind. On these holy qualities of purity, spiritual insight, spontaneity, and readiness which led her to become the revealer of Truth to this age, are apparent. The founding of the Christian Science church was not a preconceived idea of Mrs. Eddy, but its establishment was inevitable. Those healed through the Christy ministrations of this new-old truth required and demanded it. Prayerful and humbly seeking divine guidance, she was led to the Christian church, established by the disciples of Jesus, free from doctrinal beliefs, human pride, and egotism, was revealed to Mrs. Eddy. Just as this early Christian church was in Jerusalem, but not of it, so the Christian Science church in Boston is the Mother Church of the whole world and knows no geographical or racial limitations. It is the church built upon the rock, Christ, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail (Matt. 16:18).

Christian Science is known to many solely as the religion which heals sickness and disease. This is regarded as its primary purpose, but healing in Christian Science is the effect of the understanding of Truth. The main purpose of Christian Science, or the Science of Christianity, is not physical healing alone, but, as Mrs. Eddy says (Science and Health, p. 150), "to attest the reality of the highest mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world." So this Science must be embraced as a religion, as true Christianity, and not merely as a healing agent.

Since Christian Science is approximately the work performed by Jesus and his early followers in healing the sick and comforting the sorrowful, does it not fulfill his promise, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever?" (John 14:16) The Christian Scientist acknowledges that

Mrs. Eddy and her precious discovery (St. John's prophecy recorded in Revelation, chapter twelve; and further that the "little book" which the beloved disciple saw in the hand of the mighty angel which came down from heaven (Rev. 10:1, 2) symbolizes divine Science) saw every truth which Mrs. Eddy and set forth by her in its purity and completeness in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." Truly, the world owes Mary Baker Eddy an ever-mounting debt of gratitude.

Her pure, loving, self-effacing nature is disclosed in this admonition to her followers, "Finally, brethren, wait patiently on God; returning blessing for cursing; be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good; be steadfast, abide and abound in faith, understanding, and good works; study the Bible and the textbook of our denomination; obey strictly the laws that be, and follow your Leader only so far as she follows the Christ" (Message for 1901, p. 34). When one properly applies the life and character of the divinely inspired author of Science and Health, he finds the truths this priceless volume contains more readily demonstrated.

### The Spiritual Nature of the Real

Someone may ask, "What about Adam and Eve, weren't they made by God in His image and likeness? Then did they not yield to temptation, become sinners, and fall from grace, fall away from God's sweet love, and thus bring upon themselves the sinner so-called debt of sin?" Thus God and man are revealed as cause and effect, creator and creation, Spirit and Spirit's offspring, Mind and idea, Father and Son. The image of God, the image of God, and Adam, created from dust, is Spirit, as Jesus declared Him to be, and could create nothing unlike Himself. Speaking of the great difference between man, the image of God, and Adam, created from dust, Mrs. Eddy asks concerning Adam (Science and Health, p. 533), "Had he lost man's rich inheritance and God's best, dominion over all the earth?" Then she answers, "No! This had never been bestowed on Adam." Christian Science explains the Adam story as an allegory of material sense. It lifts the veil of mortal ignorance and superstition surrounding human experience, and leads to sin, disease, and death, and reveals God's creation as wholly spiritual and perfect.

One evening, following a Christian Science testimony meeting at which a speaker told of the healing in Christian Science of the smoking habit, social drinking, and other habits of profanity, a young man who had done considerable service in our armed forces overseas said, "That testimony impels me to ask: 'Why should one desire to be healed of such things? If we were in a material universe and are ourselves mortals, why are we as Christian Scientists, always bucking the material ways and trends? Why not go along with the rest of the world and accept things as they are?'"

Now, that is not an unreasonable question. First of all, let us understand that the Christian Scientist is not bucking anything good in human experience, but is nurturing it, because he realizes that the presence and power of good in his human experience evidences the Christ, which Mrs. Eddy defines in Science and Health as "the divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error" (p. 583). The Scientist presently rejects the worldly, the unclear, and the unlovely. He abides by the all-inclusive, unchanging, ever-present fact that God is infinite, divine, supreme Spirit and is eternally All; and that He alone is the creator of the universe, including man in His image and likeness. The understanding of God as infinite Spirit completely eliminates the false theory that God's creation, the universe including man, could possibly be material, finite, or limited.

To the materially-minded, all seems to be material. That which is imperceptible to the physical senses he considers abstract, unreal, intangible, and consequently impracticable. His universe, including his concept of man himself, is temporal, and subject to chance and dissolution. One who so practically minded, however, appreciates the preacher's declaration, when he said of evil days and worldly pleasures, "Vanity of vanities... all is vanity" (Ecc. 1:2). The glamour, gaudiness, and attraction of material pleasures are empty and short-lived; they grant no lasting happiness or contentment. Following the crowd, going downstream with the masses seeking happiness, joy, and success in material living is not the way of salvation and complete victory; it plainly leads to a dead end of confusion and frustration.

The Master's experience recorded in Matthew's Gospel shows definitely that all materiality and worldliness must be forsaken for spirituality in order to attain the happiness

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(Gen. 1:26, 31): "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth..." And every thing was very good. Mrs. Eddy and behold, it was very good."

Christian Science teaches and demonstrates that God is divine Mind, infinite Spirit, eternal perfection, the perfect and the universe as spirit, perfect, and eternal in God, the divine Mind. My friends, obviously Jesus was in the world, but not of it, as he said, "He resisted and defeated the temptation of the evil one to turn him from his mission of demonstrating man's true spiritual nature, the Christ, which is ever your true selfhood and mine."

Turning on the aggressive mental suggester and his lying suggestion, namely, that a matter world and so-called mortal man are realities of being, Jesus spoke the words of power, and determination, "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10). It is recorded that the devil left him, and that Jesus truly did Jesus turn the mount of temptation into the mount of triumph. He is indeed our Way-shower. So, "Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being. Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health (p. 41),

"So, when the tempter comes to us, urging us into the stream of worldliness, mass mesmerism, and arguing that the kingdom of heaven on earth is an idealistic dream, beautiful in theory but impracticable, also that we are fighting a losing battle against great odds, let us emulate our Master and ascend the mount of triumph. From this glorious mountaintop of spiritual inspiration we, too, can see beyond finite temporal things the concept of the universe into the realm of Spirit, where all is made and governed by God, infinite Mind. We are able to do this only as we reject, repudiate, and reverse every false argument that there is life, truth, intelligence, substance, power, or law in matter. It is the presence, here and now, of spiritual perfection and are able to demonstrate our God-given birthright of freedom and dominion, namely, perfect health, joy, success, and satisfaction. Does not this make plain Paul's glorious promise, 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death?' (Rom. 8:1, 2.)"

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Turning on the aggressive mental suggester and his lying suggestion, namely, that a matter world and so-called mortal man are realities of being, Jesus spoke the words of power, and determination, "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10). It is recorded that the devil left him, and that Jesus truly did Jesus turn the mount of temptation into the mount of triumph. He is indeed our Way-shower. So, "Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being. Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health (p. 41),

"So, when the tempter comes to us, urging us into the stream of worldliness, mass mesmerism, and arguing that the kingdom of heaven on earth is an idealistic dream, beautiful in theory but impracticable, also that we are fighting a losing battle against great odds, let us emulate our Master and ascend the mount of triumph. From this glorious mountaintop of spiritual inspiration we, too, can see beyond finite temporal things the concept of the universe into the realm of Spirit, where all is made and governed by God, infinite Mind. We are able to do this only as we reject, repudiate, and reverse every false argument that there is life, truth, intelligence, substance, power, or law in matter. It is the presence, here and now, of spiritual perfection and are able to demonstrate our God-given birthright of freedom and dominion, namely, perfect health, joy, success, and satisfaction. Does not this make plain Paul's glorious promise, 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death?' (Rom. 8:1, 2.)"

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