Supplement: Selected Correlative Article References from the Christian Science Periodicals for study the week of February 13 - 19, 2017

Mind

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Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left

Golden Text: Isaiah 30

From the Christian Science periodicals:


JSH-Online: https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1958/10/76-10/the-allness-of-mind

• We too must yield to the fact that there is but one power, that of the one Mind, God, and rely on it wholly and exclusively. The consciousness which yields to the divine power is ready to perceive the true way. We read in Isaiah (30:21), “Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

• The result of our knowing the right way and not walking in it is similar to our having an expert map out a route to a desired destination and then not following it. When we take unwise short cuts or believe in the expediency of material ways, we are led to an impassable road or problem, and our steps must be retraced.

• There are no short cuts in the path Spirit-ward, and we must take every step in that direction under the guidance of Mind. How necessary it is to keep our consciousness ever in harmony with the divine Mind, to exclude every erroneous and material thought and deed, which would seek to disprove the allness of Mind.
Lean not unto thine own understanding

Responsive Reading: Proverbs 3

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1973/3/75-13/base-your-trust-on-understanding

• We can all effectively put these verses from the book of Proverbs into practice in our daily lives: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

• To “lean not unto [our] own understanding" implies that we must gain a knowledge of God, man's perfect and only creator, and of what man actually is as God's exact image, and lean on that, not on the evidence of the faulty, physical senses, which would have us believe man is mortal and material. With its scientific and systematic teaching, Christian Science can enable us to establish our trust on a foundation far removed from the shifting sands referred to by the Master, Christ Jesus, and based on the rock of Christ, or Truth. It reveals and teaches a concept of God as omnipotent, omniscient good—as All—which every individual can make practical in daily life. This Science brings to light man's real selfhood—the likeness of God, spiritual, complete, perfect.

• This is the true basis on which to found our trust, and spiritual progress inevitably proves that such trust is not misplaced. Prayer affirming spiritual truth finds us parting company with the disappointment of trust in materiality, with its empty promises and its deceptions, and moving toward the joys and contentment of true living, living to express God. Truly, to trust God is to love Him, and to love Him is to trust Him. Building our trust on the rocklike foundation of love and spiritual understanding, we gain the sense of security and comfort that confidence in God can bring. Regular prayerful mental work provides us with an unshakable conviction that we are gaining more and more of the priceless consciousness of man's oneness with God as His reflection.

No wisdom is wise but His wisdom

Section 1: S&H p.275

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1923/3/40-12/the-wisdom-that-is-from-above

• It is deeply interesting that the apostle should thus make his appeal to the Christians scattered abroad to gain the wisdom of God. In doing so he brings to their recollection the fact of God's impartiality, and actually indicates the nature of divine wisdom in terms of purity, peaceableness, gentleness, approachableness, mercifulness,—all mental qualities productive of good results. James went back scientifically to God as the source of wisdom; Christian Science always does the same. In "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" (p. 275) Mrs. Eddy writes: "All substance, intelligence, wisdom, being, immortality, cause, and effect belong to God. These are His attributes, the eternal manifestations of the infinite divine Principle, Love. No wisdom is wise but His wisdom; no truth is true, no love is lovely, no life is Life but the divine; no good is, but the good God bestows." As these words indicate, Christian Science attributes all to God, as the one divine and infinite Principle of being. Wisdom is thus an attribute of God; and "no wisdom is wise but His wisdom." That is to say, unless thought is governed by the understanding of divine Principle—endued with Principle's ideas—it cannot be in accord with divine intelligence,—divine intelligence which itself is the very essence of wisdom.
"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." In every age wisdom has been appraised in a similar way to that. It may be profitable, therefore, to consider the meaning of the word "wisdom." Dictionary definitions are often of little value, simply because, as a rule, they do not seek to go deeper than the human point of view. But what the student of divine Science, more than anything else, requires is the spiritual meaning of those terms which relate to God and His qualities. Indeed, if he have not that, a definition may be of little or no value to him. The endeavor must be to gain an understanding of divine Mind and its attributes; and this understanding will not fail to enlighten us on the nature of divine wisdom. On page 587 of Science and Health, our Leader gives the following definition of God: "God. The great I am; the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal; Principle; Mind; Soul; Spirit; Life; Truth; Love; all substance; intelligence." Could anything possibly present more vividly the fact that God is all-wise than that profound statement as to His nature? The Being who knows all, sees all, loves all, and is eternally active, must surely be infinitely wise.

The question naturally arises, How shall we gain the Mind of Christ, and so possess divine wisdom? In "Miscellaneous Writings," beginning on page 359, Mrs. Eddy writes: "Men give counsel; but they give not the wisdom to profit by it. To ask wisdom of God, is the beginning of wisdom. Meekness, moderating human desire, inspires wisdom and procures divine power." Here, surely, is practical advice. First, there must be the desire for divine wisdom; next, the desire must grow into the prayer for it; and then meekness will inspire this prayer; with the inevitable result that wisdom will be obtained and divine power realized. Every student of Christian Science well knows these steps. Each of them is necessary before the inspired wisdom comes, the wisdom which our "adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."

The waters were divided

Section 2: Exodus 14

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1930/9/33-4/go-forward

• Under God’s direction the waters were divided, and the people passed over on dry ground. The Egyptians, attempting to pursue, were overthrown; and the Israelites united in a psalm of victory and praise. All this, we see, was the consequence of their obedience. It came about because, after a season of prayerful waiting on God, they went forward under His direction.

• What made it seem impossible for the Israelites to proceed? The Red Sea! What is it that often makes it hard for us to act? It is, likewise, the Red Sea, which is interpreted in Science and Health (p. 566) as "the dark ebbing and flowing tides of human fear." Fear is one of the chief obstacles to the advancement of humanity. And what is fear but belief in something apart from God, good? Now, Christian Science emphasizes the glorious revelation of the allness of God, good; therefore there is, in reality, nothing to be afraid of. Fear is a delusion, a tormenting phantom that enslaves men, retards progress, and would paralyze all righteous endeavor. It must be eliminated from our thinking if we are to prove our heritage of the liberty of the sons of God.

• In this connection this Bible story conveys a helpful lesson. How were the children of Israel freed from their fears? By going forward! Because they were obedient, the sea was crossed, their pursuers were discomfited, and their disquietude vanished. Someone may say, I know what I should do, but I dread to make a move; I must wait until my timidity is dispelled, and then I can act. Let such a one consider that it may not have seemed easy to the Israelites to advance in that untried pathway with a wall of water on either hand. Who ever had heard of such an adventure? There may have been much trepidation and
many misgivings on their part, but the important point is that they went forward. And as they marched on to safety, with courage mounting higher and higher, their fear dropped away, displaced by gratitude and the exaltation of a splendid achievement.

And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found

Section 3: 1 Samuel 9

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1889/8/7-5/christian-science-bible-lessons

• 20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found.

• Vs. 18, 19: First interview; "In the gate," city gates; Saul coming with consciousness, Samuel going out; Saul has not yet manifested himself to the people, but Samuel has discerned him. "Where the seer's house is," etc. Error aspiring for the high place. "Go up before me" etc. Error in the minds of the people rises above Samuel —their previous thought of goodness. "Ye shall eat with me," etc. (Bear in mind all is Mind.) Samuel and Saul represent conditions of Mind. The Israelites were seeking to combine good and evil, thinking this would sustain them. ("Ye shall eat with me.) Tomorrow I will let thee go"; a night must intervene. When the light at last dawned on Israel, Saul would disappear. "Tell thee all that is in thine heart." Samuel knew it, and it would be revealed when the morrow (light) came. (JOHN IX. 29) "Asses" (Animal Magnetism). "It never gets to be above a beast and man was given dominion over the beasts." (Gen. i. 26.) Jesus rode upon the beast (ass) in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He rose above Animal Magnetism. "Set not thy Mind on them," etc. Animal Magnetism is nothing; treat it, and expel it from the mind as nothing but a belief, without power, place, or presence; divest it of mind or intelligence.

Taught them as one that had authority

Section 4: Mark 1

From the Christian Science periodicals:


• Christ Jesus, the great Exemplar of the power of God, good, thoroughly understood God to be the one and only Mind. In declaring that he could of himself do nothing, he claimed no other mind as his own. He said, "I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him,"1 and it is recorded that the people were amazed, "for he taught them as one that had authority."2 His humble reliance on God as the only Mind or Ego and his faithful obedience were the basis of his demonstration of God's law.

• Mind, one of the seven synonyms used in Christian Science for God, is the first and only cause. Infinite Mind is not, and cannot be, confined in a material body but is expressed in its effect or idea, spiritual man. This divine consciousness Jesus knew to be his and ours as God's reflection. He denounced its supposed opposite, the devil, or carnal mind, saying, "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."3

• Mrs. Eddy begins her definition of Mind: "The only I, or Us."5 When we are willing to let go of the belief that we are separated from God, having a mind of our own, we will begin to understand the illness of the one Mind and will experience the harmony of our true being. Mind is in sure control of the
universe, and our demonstration of this spiritual supremacy is certain as we surrender mortal thinking for the thoughts of the one real Mind, God.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end

Section 5: Jeremiah 29

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1920/5/22-38/right-thinking

• In Scripture we read, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." The Revised Version gives it, "to give you hope in your latter end." What does humanity hope for more than deliverance from all the varied forms of evil which are constantly striving to appear and which we know to be simply the manifestations of wrong thinking, endeavoring to gain a hold in human consciousness and to hide from men the peace which comes when a man thinks with God?

• Then let us know that consciousness is filled with the truth,—"thoughts of peace and not of evil,"—that we may bless our fellow men, that the light of His countenance may be seen upon ours. Let us refuse entrance to any suggestion that is unlike good and thus by purifying thought we may follow Paul's admonition to the Corinthians, "Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

This is the way, walk ye in it

Section 5: Isaiah 30

From the Christian Science periodicals:

JSH-Online: https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1906/5/24-2/the-restraining-guide

• The Master has left the assurance that the spiritual way is strait and narrow, and every disciple who starts to walk in it soon finds this assurance confirmed. It is simple direct; so plain that "the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." It is only when we stop to consider some of the innumerable ways that diverge from the King's highway, or when we may be beguiled into, heeding the suggestion of some guide who plans according to worldly ways and means, that there can or does come any complication or uncertainty. Then, when a confusion of thought or an errant impulse may succeed in diverting the pilgrim for a moment, there will surely be given some warning token that will be to him the guiding word, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

• If the disciple is abiding close in the conscious presence of the guide, the consciousness of the spiritual idea that directs the way from sense to Soul, the guiding and restraining word will come as a spiritual impulse and intuition as a spiritual sense that at once restrains and directs, and thought will be corrected and rightly directed before it has been manifested in some mistaken word or deed. Thus to follow our guide will be to find the unerring direction of Science it will mean that every misleading thought or erring impulse will be discerned and destroyed before it has turned the Truth-seeker's feet from the way; but if the wrong word is spoken, or the wrong deed is done, there will come the unerring rebuke. The warning voice will be heard and the disciple's safety is in promptly heeding it.

• It is noteworthy that this assurance of the restraining word is that it shall be heard "behind thee;" and it immediately follows a statement in the preceding verse that "thine eyes shall see thy teachers." All
through the Bible, in its promises and in its history, there is given the assurance of a guide to go before. This was given to the journeying Israelites as a pillar of cloud and fire, and an assurance that God’s angel should go before them to bring them into the place divinely chosen. The Discoverer of Christian Science has written,—“So shall the spiritual idea guide all right desires in their passage from sense to Soul, from a material sense of existence to the spiritual, up to the glory prepared for them who love God” (Science and Health, p. 566). The spiritual guide is always before. How, then, is it that the word shall be heard "behind thee"? It is not because our eyes shall not see our “teachers;” it is not because our spiritual guide shall be withdrawn, but that in turning to the right hand or to the left, in turning out of the way, the disciple has turned away from his "teachers," has turned his back on his guide. Then, as restraint or rebuke, will come the "word" which will rectify the mistake.

This week’s benediction suggestion:
“...may, the Lord, guide your hearts into the love of God, and into the endurance of the Christ.”
— 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (may) The Emphasised Bible

“May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.”
— 2 Thessalonians 3:5 New Living Translation