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## Wednesday Evening Selections

January 19, 2011

### **Subject: Our Divine Authority**

The following selections from the Bible and from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures will be read at 7:30 PM on January 19, 2011 as part of the Wednesday evening service of the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, Jacksonville, Florida in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Manual of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, by Mary Baker Eddy.

In addition to the selected readings, those in attendance are encouraged to share experiences, remarks, and testimonies of healing in Christian Science. As noted in Article VIII, Section 24 of the Manual of the Mother Church, "Testimony in regard to the healing of the sick is highly important. More than a mere rehearsal of blessings, it scales the pinnacle of praise and illustrates the demonstration of Christ, "who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3). This testimony, however, shall not include a description of symptoms or of suffering, though the generic name of the disease may be indicated."

If for any reason you are unable to present your own testimony to the congregation during our Wednesday evening service, but would like to have it read aloud from the desk during the service, please feel free to forward your remarks in writing to: [n.mike.jackson@comcast.net](mailto:n.mike.jackson@comcast.net) or by mail to the Clerk of Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, 8327 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32216-3172. Requests for anonymity will always be lovingly honored and respected.

The members and guests of the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist are grateful for your prayers. As further noted in Article VIII, Section 5 of the Manual of the Mother Church, "The prayers in Christian Science churches shall be offered for the congregations collectively and exclusively." Thus, our Sunday and Wednesday evening meetings are healing services in which all who gather and share in Spirit are blessed. Thank you for your prayerful support of this loving mission!

*"There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind. " (Mary Baker Eddy)*

**The Bible**

**Mark 1:21-22**

21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

**John 4:5-24**

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat. )

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

## **Romans 6:1-21**

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
- 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
- 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
- 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.
- 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
- 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
- 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
- 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
- 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
- 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
- 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
- 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.
- 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.
- 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.
- 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
- 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **I John 4:1-21**

- 1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
- 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

- 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
- 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.
- 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
- 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
- 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
- 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
- 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
- 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- 19 We love him, because he first loved us.
- 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
- 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

### **Matthew 10:8**

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

### **John 14:11-16**

- 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.
- 12 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.
- 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.
- 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

## Science and Health

### 134:28-30

There  
is divine authority for believing in the superiority of  
30 spiritual power over material resistance.

### 168:15-23

15 Because man-made systems insist that man becomes  
sick and useless, suffers and dies, all in consonance with  
the laws of God, are we to believe it? Are  
18 we to believe an authority which denies God's  
spiritual command relating to perfection, — an authority  
which Jesus proved to be false? He did the will of the  
21 Father. He healed sickness in defiance of what is called  
material law, but in accordance with God's law, the law  
of Mind. The divine  
authority

### 126:22-31

I have set forth Christian Science and its application  
to the treatment of disease just as I have discovered them.  
24 I have demonstrated through Mind the effects  
of Truth on the health, longevity, and morals  
of men; and I have found nothing in ancient or in modern  
27 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 au-  
30 thority. I have had no other guide in "the straight and  
narrow way" of Truth. Biblical  
basis

### 14:25-30

Entirely separate from the belief and dream of mate-  
rial living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual under-  
27 standing and the consciousness of man's dominion  
over the whole earth. This understanding casts out  
error and heals the sick, and with it you can speak  
30 "as one having authority."

### 26:10-16

The Christ was the Spirit which Jesus implied in his  
own statements: "I am the way, the truth, and the life;"  
12 "I and my Father are one." This Christ,  
or divinity of the man Jesus, was his divine Christ's  
demonstration

nature, the godliness which animated him. Divine Truth,  
15 Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness,  
and death.

### 380:22-382:4

Many years ago the author made a spiritual discov-  
ery, the scientific evidence of which has accumulated to  
24 prove that the divine Mind produces in man A higher  
health, harmony, and immortality. Gradu- discovery  
ally this evidence will gather momentum and clearness,  
27 until it reaches its culmination of scientific statement and  
proof. Nothing is more disheartening than to believe  
that there is a power opposite to God, or good, and that  
30 God endows this opposing power with strength to be used  
against Himself, against Life, health, harmony.

Every law of matter or the body, supposed to govern  
1 man, is rendered null and void by the law of Life, God.  
Ignorant of our God-given rights, we submit to unjust  
3 decrees, and the bias of education enforces Ignorance  
this slavery. Be no more willing to suffer the of our rights  
illusion that you are sick or that some disease is develop-  
6 ing in the system, than you are to yield to a sinful tempta-  
tion on the ground that sin has its necessities.

When infringing some supposed law, you say that  
9 there is danger. This fear is the danger and induces the  
physical effects. We cannot in reality suffer No laws  
from breaking anything except a moral or of matter  
12 spiritual law. The so-called laws of mortal belief are  
destroyed by the understanding that Soul is immortal,  
and that mortal mind cannot legislate the times, periods,  
15 and types of disease, with which mortals die. God is the  
lawmaker, but He is not the author of barbarous codes.  
In infinite Life and Love there is no sickness, sin, nor  
18 death, and the Scriptures declare that we live, move, and  
have our being in the infinite God.

Think less of the enactments of mortal mind, and you  
21 will sooner grasp man's God-given dominion. You must  
understand your way out of human theories God-given  
relating to health, or you will never believe dominion  
24 that you are quite free from some ailment. The har-  
mony and immortality of man will never be reached  
without the understanding that Mind is not in matter.  
27 Let us banish sickness as an outlaw, and abide by the  
rule of perpetual harmony, — God's law. It is man's  
moral right to annul an unjust sentence, a sentence never  
30 inflicted by divine authority.

Christ Jesus overruled the error which would impose penalties for transgressions of the physical laws of health; he annulled supposed laws of matter, opposed to the harmonies of Spirit, lacking divine authority and having only human approval for their sanction.

Begin  
rightly

**342:7-26**

He that decries this Science does it presumptuously, in the face of Bible history and in defiance of the direct command of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel," to which command was added the promise that his students should cast out evils and heal the sick. He bade the seventy disciples, as well as the twelve, heal the sick in any town where they should be hospitably received.

Commands  
of Jesus

If Christianity is not scientific, and Science is not of God, then there is no invariable law, and truth becomes an accident. Shall it be denied that a system which works according to the Scriptures has Scriptural authority?

Christianity  
scientific

Christian Science awakens the sinner, reclaims the infidel, and raises from the couch of pain the helpless invalid. It speaks to the dumb the words of Truth, and they answer with rejoicing. It causes the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and the blind to see.

Argument of  
good works

**393:8-15**

Mind is the master of the corporeal senses, and can conquer sickness, sin, and death. Exercise this God-given authority. Take possession of your body, and govern its feeling and action. Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.

**395:6-10**

Like the great Exemplar, the healer should speak to disease as one having authority over it, leaving Soul to master the false evidences of the corporeal senses and to assert its claims over mortality and disease.

Divine  
authority

## Hymns

### Hymn 12

Violet Hay

MELITA

John B. Dykes

Arise ye people, take your stand,  
Cast out your idols from the land,  
Above all doctrine, form or creed  
Is found the Truth that meets your need.  
Christ's promise stands: they that believe  
His works shall do, his power receive.

Go forward then, and as ye preach  
So let your works confirm your speech,  
And prove to all with following sign  
The Word of God is power divine.  
In love and healing ministry  
Show forth the Truth that makes men free.

O Father-Mother God, whose plan  
Hath given dominion unto man,  
In Thine own image we may see  
Man pure and upright, whole and free.  
And ever through our work shall shine  
That light whose glory, Lord, is Thine.

## Hymn 253

Christ My Refuge  
Mary Baker Eddy

PLEASANT STREET  
William Lyman Johnson

O'er waiting harpstrings of the mind  
There sweeps a strain,  
Low, sad, and sweet, whose measures bind  
The power of pain,

And wake a white-winged angel throng  
Of thoughts, illumed  
By faith, and breathed in raptured song,  
With love perfumed.

Then His unveiled, sweet mercies show  
Life's burdens light.  
I kiss the cross, and wake to know  
A world more bright.

And o'er earth's troubled, angry sea  
I see Christ walk,  
And come to me, and tenderly,  
Divinely talk.

Thus Truth engrounds me on the rock,  
Upon Life's shore,  
'Gainst which the winds and waves can shock,  
Oh, nevermore!

From tired joy and grief afar,  
And nearer Thee, —  
Father, where Thine own children are,  
I love to be.

My prayer, some daily good to do  
To Thine, for Thee;  
An offering pure of Love, whereto  
God leadeth me.

## Hymn 453

Peter B. Allen

RISE UP

Peter B. Allen

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Rise up and walk, take up your bed.  
With these few words the sickness fled.  
Stretch forth your hand. Receive your sight.  
Jesus' commands reveal God's might.  
You are God's purpose, His great design.  
Beautiful, blameless, His child divine.  
Holding your thought to the good and the true,  
Spirit will form you anew.

Refrain

Rise up and walk! God made you free,  
born of His liberty.  
Carefree and strong, you are His song,  
perfect for all to see.  
Mountains and seas, great rising trees,  
echo the joyous song:  
Heaven is here, harmony's bliss  
to everyone belongs.

Cleanse the lepers, heal the sick.  
Cast out demons. Raise the dead.  
Truth is revealed in every place,  
Throughout all time, throughout all space.  
Right in this moment, doing God's will  
"These works shall you do, and greater still."  
Standing triumphant upon holy ground,  
Songs of the angels resound.

Refrain