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Wednesday Evening Selections

March 3, 2010

Subject: Don't be Fooled by the Illusion of Matter

The following selections from the Bible and from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures will be read at 7:30 PM on March 3, 2010 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 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

Genesis 2:4-25

4 ¶ These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,
5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.
6 But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.
7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
8 ¶ And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.
9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.
11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;
12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.
13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.
14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.
15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
18 ¶ And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.
20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.
21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:1-23

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 ¶ And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Matthew 6:25-25

24 ¶ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 15:1-20

1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

10 ¶ And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Science and Health

71:2-4

Evil has no reality. It is neither
3 person, place, nor thing, but is simply a belief, an illusion
of material sense.

The identity, or idea, of all reality continues forever;
6 but Spirit, or the divine Principle of all, is not *in* Spirit's
formations. Soul is synonymous with Spirit, God, the
creative, governing, infinite Principle outside of finite form,
9 which forms only reflect.

Close your eyes, and you may dream that you see a
flower, — that you touch and smell it. Thus you learn
12 that the flower is a product of the so-called
mind, a formation of thought rather than of
matter. Close your eyes again, and you may see land-
15 scapes, men, and women. Thus you learn that these
also are images, which mortal mind holds and evolves
and which simulate mind, life, and intelligence. From
18 dreams also you learn that neither mortal mind nor
matter is the image or likeness of God, and that im-
mortal Mind is not in matter.

Dream-
lessons

91:16-92:20

Absorbed in material selfhood we discern and reflect
but faintly the substance of Life or Mind. The denial of
18 material selfhood aids the discernment of man's spirit-
ual and eternal individuality, and destroys the erroneous
knowledge gained from matter or through what are termed
21 the material senses.

Certain erroneous postulates should be here considered
in order that the spiritual facts may be better
24 apprehended.

Erroneous
postulates

The first erroneous postulate of belief is, that substance,
life, and intelligence are something apart from God.

27 The second erroneous postulate is, that man is both
mental and material.

The third erroneous postulate is, that mind is both evil
30 and good; whereas the real Mind cannot be evil nor the
medium of evil, for Mind is God.

The fourth erroneous postulate is, that matter is in-
1 telligent, and that man has a material body which is part
of himself.

3 The fifth erroneous postulate is, that matter holds in
itself the issues of life and death, — that matter is not
only capable of experiencing pleasure and pain, but also

6 capable of imparting these sensations. From the illusion implied in this last postulate arises the decomposition of mortal bodies in what is termed death.

9 Mind is not an entity within the cranium with the power of sinning now and forever.

12 In old Scriptural pictures we see a serpent coiled around the tree of knowledge and speaking to Adam and Eve.

This represents the serpent in the act of commending to our first parents the knowl- Knowledge of good and evil

15 edge of good and evil, a knowledge gained from matter, or evil, instead of from Spirit. The portrayal is still

graphically accurate, for the common conception of mortal man — a burlesque of God's man — is an outgrowth

18 of human knowledge or sensuality, a mere offshoot of material sense.

121:17-123:15

18 The earth's diurnal rotation is invisible to the physical eye, and the sun seems to move from east to west, instead of the earth from west to east. Until rebuked by clearer views of the everlasting facts, this Astronomic unfoldings

21 false testimony of the eye deluded the judgment and induced false conclusions. Science shows appearances often

24 to be erroneous, and corrects these errors by the simple rule that the greater controls the lesser. The sun is the

central stillness, so far as our solar system is concerned, and the earth revolves about the sun once a year, besides

27 turning daily on its own axis.

As thus indicated, astronomical order imitates the action of divine Principle; and the universe, the reflection of God, is thus brought nearer the spiritual fact, and is allied to divine Science as displayed in the everlasting government of the universe.

1 The evidence of the physical senses often reverses the real Science of being, and so creates a reign of discord, —

3 assigning seeming power to sin, sickness, and death; but the great facts of Life, rightly understood, defeat this triad of errors, contradict their false Oposing testimony

6 witnesses, and reveal the kingdom of heaven, — the actual reign of harmony on earth. The material senses' re-

9 versal of the Science of Soul was practically exposed nineteen hundred years ago by the demonstrations of Jesus;

yet these so-called senses still make mortal mind tributary to mortal body, and ordain certain sections of matter, such

12 as brain and nerves, as the seats of pain and pleasure, from which matter reports to this so-called mind its status

of happiness or misery.

15 The optical focus is another proof of the illusion of
material sense. On the eye's retina, sky and tree-tops
apparently join hands, clouds and ocean meet
18 and mingle. The barometer, — that little
prophet of storm and sunshine, denying the testimony of
the senses, — points to fair weather in the midst of murky
21 clouds and drenching rain. Experience is full of instances
of similar illusions, which every thinker can recall for
himself.

Testimony of
the senses

24 To material sense, the severance of the jugular vein
takes away life; but to spiritual sense and
in Science, Life goes on unchanged and
27 being is eternal. Temporal life is a false sense of
existence.

Spiritual
sense of life

Our theories make the same mistake regarding Soul
30 and body that Ptolemy made regarding the solar system.
They insist that soul is in body and mind therefore tribu-
tary to matter. Astronomical science has destroyed the
1 false theory as to the relations of the celestial bodies, and
Christian Science will surely destroy the greater error as
3 to our terrestrial bodies. The true idea and
Principle of man will then appear. The Ptole-
maic blunder could not affect the harmony of
6 being as does the error relating to soul and body, which
reverses the order of Science and assigns to matter the
power and prerogative of Spirit, so that man becomes
9 the most absolutely weak and inharmonious creature in
the universe.

Ptolemaic
and psychical
error

The verity of Mind shows conclusively how it is that
12 matter seems to be, but is not. Divine Science,
rising above physical theories, excludes matter,
resolves *things* into *thoughts*, and replaces the objects of
15 material sense with spiritual ideas.

Seeming
and being

129:21-29

21 We must abandon pharmaceuticals, and take up ontol-
ogy, — "the science of real being." We must look deep
into realism instead of accepting only the out-
24 ward sense of things. Can we gather peaches
from a pine-tree, or learn from discord the concord of
being? Yet quite as rational are some of the leading
27 illusions along the path which Science must tread in its
reformatory mission among mortals. The very name,
illusion, points to nothingness.

Ontology
needed

Hymns

Hymn 359

William P. McKenzie

WILLINGHAM

Franz Abt

Trust the Eternal when the shadows gather,
When joys of daylight seem so like a dream;
God the unchanging pities like a father;
Trust on and wait, the daystar yet shall gleam.

Trust the Eternal, for the clouds that vanish
No more can move the mountains from their base
Than sin's illusive wreaths of mist can banish
Light from His throne or loving from His face.

Trust the Eternal, and repent in meekness
Of that heart's pride which frowns and will not
yield,
Then to thy child-heart shall come strength in
weakness,
And thine immortal life shall be revealed.

Hymn 430

Joachim Neander
Adapted by Robert Bridges
Adapted by Fenella Bennetts

MICHAEL
Herbert Howells
Music by Herbert Howells
Words by Joachim Neander (d.1680) adpt by Robert Bridges (d.1930)
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All my hope on God is founded;
Day by day my trust is new.
Through the trials of life He guides me,
Only good and only true.
God alone, dearly known,
Calls my heart to be His own.

Earthly treasures, pride and glory,
Human power and worldly trust,
Though with care and toil are builded,
In the end will fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

Daily does th'almighty Giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow.
His desire our soul delighteth,
Joy attends us where we go.
Blessings stand at His hand,
Healing flows at His command.

Now from man to God eternal
Endless thanks and praise be sung.
Hearts made new are anthems raising
Through the love of Christ, His Son.
Hear His call, one and all,
We who follow shall not fall.

Hymn 437

Communion
Violet Hay

UNION SEMINARY

Harold Friedell

Arranged by Jet Turner

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Father, Thou art very near us,
Well we know that Thou dost hear us,
And dost answer ere we call:
May the prayer of faith now heal us,
May the vision true reveal us
One with Thee, and Thou our all in all.

Christ, the way of our salvation,
Rends the veil of separation,
Shews our life in Spirit, free—
Shews the glory of creation,
God and man in true relation:
Now, beloved, sons of God are we!

Father, this most wondrous union
We would prove in blest communion:
Take Thy Truth, our bread from heaven,
Drink the wine of inspiration,
Rise in holy exaltation,
One in Thee, redeemed, restored, forgiven.