



Mike Jackson, C.S.
132 Mill Cove Lane
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 307-0845
Fax: (904) 273-1005
N.Mike.Jackson@Comcast.net

Wednesday Evening Selections

March 17, 2010

Subject: Spiritual Progress and Renewal

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 17, 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

Isaiah 42:5-9

5 ¶ Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

8 I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

John 3:1-17

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 ¶ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 ¶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him

might be saved.

Mark 1:21-39

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.

23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33 And all the city was gathered together at the door.

34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Mark 2:16-28

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

18 And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

20 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

- 21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.
- 22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.
- 23 And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.
- 24 And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?
- 25 And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he, and they that were with him?
- 26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?
- 27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:
- 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

John 13:34-35

- 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

II Corinthians 5:17-18

- 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

Revelation 21:1-7

- 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
- 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.
- 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
- 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Science and Health

241:13-14

The Bible teaches transformation of the body by the renewal of Spirit.

14:25-30

Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding 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 "as one having authority."

20:6-22

To the ritualistic priest and hypocritical Pharisee Jesus said, "The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." Jesus' history made a new calendar, which we call the Christian era; but he established no ritualistic worship. He knew that men can be baptized, partake of the Eucharist, support the clergy, observe the Sabbath, make long prayers, and yet be sensual and sinful.

Jesus bore our infirmities; he knew the error of mortal belief, and "with his stripes [the rejection of error] we are healed." "Despised and rejected of men," returning blessing for cursing, he taught morals the opposite of themselves, even the nature of God; and when error felt the power of Truth, the scourge and the cross awaited the great Teacher. Yet he swerved not, well knowing that to obey the divine order and trust God, saves retracing and traversing anew the path from sin to holiness.

Perfect
example

323:32-18

Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Unless the harmony and immortality of man are be-

9 coming more apparent, we are not gaining the true idea
of God; and the body will reflect what gov-
erns it, whether it be Truth or error,
understanding or belief, Spirit or matter. Therefore
12 "acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace."
Be watchful, sober, and vigilant. The way is straight
and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God
15 is the only Life. It is a warfare with the flesh, in which
we must conquer sin, sickness, and death, either here
or hereafter, — certainly before we can reach the goal
18 of Spirit, or life in God.

Narrow
pathway

582:17-20

BRIDEGROOM. Spiritual understanding; the pure con-
sciousness that God, the divine Principle, creates man
18 as His own spiritual idea, and that God is the only crea-
tive power.

249:1-16

1 Let us accept Science, relinquish all theories based on
sense-testimony, give up imperfect models and illusive
3 ideals; and so let us have one God, one Mind, and that
one perfect, producing His own models of excellence.
Let the "male and female" of God's creating appear.
6 Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into
newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor
material power as able to destroy. Let us re-
9 jice that we are subject to the divine "powers that be."
Such is the true Science of being. Any other theory of
Life, or God, is delusive and mythological.
12 Mind is not the author of matter, and the creator of
ideas is not the creator of illusions. Either there is no
omnipotence, or omnipotence is the only power. God is
15 the infinite, and infinity never began, will never end, and
includes nothing unlike God.

Renewed
selfhood

536:1-9

In the Apocalypse it is
written: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for
3 the first heaven and the first earth were passed
away; and there was no more sea." In St.
John's vision, heaven and earth stand for spir-
6 itual ideas, and the sea, as a symbol of tempest-tossed
human concepts advancing and receding, is represented
as having passed away. The divine understanding reigns,

New earth
and no more
sea

9 is *all*, and there is no other consciousness.

573:3-2

3 The Revelator was on our plane of existence, while yet
beholding what the eye cannot see, — that which is in-
visible to the uninspired thought. This testimony of Holy
6 Writ sustains the fact in Science, that the heavens and
earth to one human consciousness, that consciousness
which God bestows, while to another, the
9 unilluminated human mind, the vision is material. This
shows unmistakably that what the human mind terms
matter and spirit indicates states and stages of con-
12 sciousness.

Accompanying this scientific consciousness was an-
other revelation, even the declaration from heaven, su-
15 preme harmony, that God, the divine Principle
of harmony, is ever with men, and they are
His people. Thus man was no longer regarded as a mis-
18 erable sinner, but as the blessed child of God. Why?
Because St. John's corporeal sense of the heavens and
earth had vanished, and in place of this false sense was
21 the spiritual sense, the subjective state by which he could
see the new heaven and new earth, which involve the
spiritual idea and consciousness of reality. This is Scrip-
24 tural authority for concluding that such a recognition of
being is, and has been, possible to men in this present
state of existence, — that we can become conscious,
27 here and now, of a cessation of death, sorrow, and pain.
This is indeed a foretaste of absolute Christian Science.
Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will
30 surely appear sometime and in some way. There will
be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away. When
you read this, remember Jesus' words, "The kingdom of
1 God is within you." This spiritual consciousness is
therefore a present possibility.

Nearness
of Deity

91:1-8

1 The Revelator tells us of "a new heaven and a
new earth." Have you ever pictured this heaven and
3 earth, inhabited by beings under the control of supreme
wisdom?

Let us rid ourselves of the belief that man is separated
6 from God, and obey only the divine Principle, Life and
Love. Here is the great point of departure for all true
spiritual growth.

Hymns

Hymn 218

Samuel Longfellow

MISSIONARY CHANT

Heinrich C. Zeuner

O Life that maketh all things new,
The blooming earth, the thoughts of men;
Our pilgrim feet, wet with Thy dew,
In gladness hither turn again.

From hand to hand the greeting flows,
From eye to eye the signals run,
From heart to heart the bright hope glows,
The seekers of the Light are one:

One in the freedom of the truth,
One in the joy of paths untrod,
One in the heart's perennial youth,
One in the larger thought of God; —

The freer step, the fuller breath,
The wide horizon's grander view;
The sense of Life that knows no death, —
The Life that maketh all things new.

Hymn 254

Christ My Refuge
Mary Baker Eddy

NORTON
Lyman Brackett

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 449

Robert Lowry

ENDLESS SONG

Robert Lowry

Arranged by Robert Rockabrand

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation;
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation:
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing,
It finds an echo in my soul,
How can I keep from singing?

What though my human comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth;
What though the darkness gather round!
Songs in the night He giveth:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging,
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes, the cloud grows thin,
I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths
Since first I learned to love it:
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing,
All things are mine since I am His,
How can I keep from singing?