
A LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
ENTITLED

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:
THE WAY OF LIFE IMPERVIOUS**

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INTRODUCTION

There's a snake native to South Africa whose bite is almost always fatal. It's been clocked slithering up to 25 miles per hour. The one particular characteristic of this snake is its fearlessness when attacking -- it pursues its victim -- if disturbed or cornered. And, you've guessed it: it pursues at 25 miles per hour -- or however fast you can flee up to that speed! It strikes again and again, pouring in its venom, totally paralyzing its victim. This snake, the black mamba, grows to 12 feet long, and it's been called the most feared snake in South Africa. And just in case you're having difficulty envisioning such an aggressive serpent, remember, the python is also native to South Africa and grows large enough to consume a human being -- yet the black mamba is considered the most feared.

I don't know about you, but being pursued by a slick, slithering snake at 25 miles per hour, carrying a deadly venom, is not on my list of activities! However, there are times we may feel like we're in this position. Perhaps we feel we're being chased by a hereditary disease, or a constant, ever-recurring problem, or faced with continual difficulties.

Whatever the difficulty, if it tenaciously pursues you, (and tonight we'll learn that it pursues one in one's thinking through false suggestion, not as an entity) then it's time to learn more about man's impervious life as taught in Christian Science.

MENTAL MIRAGES

Those of you who have either lived in or traveled through the desert have probably seen an oasis. Then you'll know that if the oasis appears to be trembling it's a mirage. A real oasis doesn't tremble in the sunlight.

A mirage is something that's not really there, it only appears to be present, it's an illusion.

Christian Science teaches that the same is true for the inharmonious manifestations in our experience. Anything and everything inharmoniously manifested is a mental mirage, or misconception of thought objectified. If we are trembling because of some disease, if we are shuddering from lack, if we are quivering from bad relationships or the poor economy, then we can humbly turn thought to God, Life, and overcome the aggressive, mamba-like thoughts pursuing us. And where are we pursued but within consciousness? It's within consciousness that the mental mirages, or images, of disease, sin, sickness, death are perceived factual. However, when we spiritually understand that our thinking eventuates in our experience we can learn to turn to God, through prayer, and prayerfully destroy the misconceptions which result in destroying sin, sickness, and death. Spiritually understanding that the misconceptions of God and man is the foundation of mankind's woes we can eagerly turn to God to gain the right conception of God and man's relationship.

Spiritually understanding this relationship is mankind's salvation. Christian Science teaches that Life is another name for God. This synonym is implied in the Bible, and refers to God as the source of all being. With God there isn't any disease, illness, poverty, sickness. With God, Life, there is health, abundance, and freedom. Therefore anything that tries to infringe upon God as Life is powerless because God is impervious to discord. Hence man, God's child, is impervious to discord. Man, God's image and likeness, is impervious to the mental mirages pursuing him, in consciousness, because man reflects God.

Man's existence is impervious because he is idea. Man is the idea of God. He is the body of God, or the embodiment of Life, and this includes all existence and expression. Thus we can conclude that if there is abnormality or malfunctioning in experience, it is eradicated through a deeper understanding of God as Life, and man as the image and likeness of Life, completely impervious. This relationship of Life and its expression, God and man, Mind and idea is inseparable.

With God, man is wholly perfect. With man, God is expressed. Because God is Life, man is living. Because God is Love, man is loving. Whatever God is, man is, as God's reflection, as God's perfect image and likeness. This is because God, Life, is cause and man is His immediate effect. This explains why there can't be any dualism in God and man's relationship. That is, the elements of good and bad, sickness and health, sin and purity do not mix. It's impossible to be good and bad at the same time. It's mentally impossible to think evil of someone while simultaneously thinking

good of him. Try it. It can't be done. It's simply impossible. Hence our concept of God determines our concept of man, and our concept of God and man, and God and man's relationship, determines our experience.

It is this unutterably unified relationship, when spiritually understood, which sustains man under all conditions. It is this unutterably unified relationship which you and I have. It is never severed, engrossed in dualism, or in two beings, because God and man is one, though distinct. God is always cause and man His immediate effect. There isn't more than cause and effect -- Mind and His idea. There can't be God, man, and disease -- that would be dualism -- the mixture of good and bad. Man can't have more than all. God has given man all. However, inharmonious mental mirages of humanity and its needs do scream to us daily of the mixture of good and evil, but the Bible teaches " ...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. But to us there is but one God, the Father of whom are all things, and we in him;.." (I Cor.8:4, 6).

This scientific fact -- that there is but one God -- and we in Him -- dispels the false belief in dualism, of other gods or other creations --it destroys mental mirages --and hence, destroys sin, sickness, and death. Christian Science teaches one God, and God's image, man; and that with God and man there is no amalgamation of good and evil. But it does appear that there's a mixture because of the misconception of God and man's relationship. However, this misconception corrected, and thought aligned with God, results in experience corrected and aligned with God.

The Bible promises, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall by my son" (Rev.21:7). We overcome and inherit all things from God not by running from the serpents of false beliefs but by replacing misconceptions with right ideas within consciousness; and we do this prayerfully. God, Life, uncovers and overcomes the vipers of mental manipulation, fascination with sin, epicycles of difficulties, in short, a penetrable life, with His immortal wisdom. If we're being mentally pursued by mamba-like misconceptions, whatever they're called, we can effectively turn that serpent into a staff by changing thought which changes experience.

TURNING THE SERPENT INTO A STAFF

In the Bible, the book of Exodus tells the life-history of the Hebrew people. From slavery under the Egyptians to the freedom found in the promised land, Moses was used by God to lead his own people away from bondage. The Bible records: "When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. And

Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aarons' rod swallowed up their rods" (Ex.7:9-12). Aaron's rod swallowed up the rods of the sorcerers, and the magicians. Their enchantments were powerless in the presence of Aaron's rod which represents the power of God acting upon mortal minds and bodies through spiritual right thought.

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer of Christian Science, writes about Moses in her textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. She says, "The Hebrew Lawgiver, slow of speech, despaired of making the people understand what should be revealed to him. When, led by wisdom to cast down his rod, he saw it become a serpent, Moses fled before it; but wisdom bade him come back and handle the serpent, and then Moses' fear departed. In this incident was seen the actuality of Science. Matter was shown to be a belief only.

The serpent, evil, under wisdom's bidding, was destroyed through understanding divine Science, and this proof was a staff upon which to lean. The illusion of Moses lost its power to alarm him, when he discovered that what he apparently saw was really but a phase of mortal belief" (321).

Are you fleeing before a phase of mortal belief calling itself disease, sickness, death? Does it look very real to you? Can you touch, see, hear, feel it? Is it pursuing you? Well, your fear can depart through spiritual right thought, that is, through aligning your thought with God, and gaining an understanding of divine Science. Just as Moses' fear departed when he turned the serpent back into a staff by discovering that all he was seeing was a phase of mortal belief -- a mental mirage.

Mortal belief, the opposite of spiritual right thought, continually externalizes different states and stages of consciousness. Mortal belief is the foundation of erring, false, material laws. It not only claims to make the false laws governing mankind but claims to empower and enforce them. These false laws are the false concepts which would predetermine, if unopposed, our success, our health, our longevity, our status as God's child. It is these false laws, mentally pursuing us, (for where else can we really be pursued except for within thought) which are overthrown and destroyed by the presence, power, and allness of God, Life.

Because spiritual right thought acting within consciousness externalizes good.

Mrs. Eddy writes in her textbook, "If sickness is true or the idea of Truth, you cannot destroy sickness, and it would be absurd to try. Then classify sickness and error as our Master did, when he spoke of the sick, 'whom Satan hath bound,' and find a sovereign antidote for error in the life-giving power of Truth acting on human belief, a power which opens the prison doors to such as are bound, and sets the captive free physically and morally" (495).

If you would be free, classify sickness as a false suggestion rather than a material condition. If you would be safe and secure, unchased by the mamba-like aggression of mortal belief, then prayerfully employ the power of spiritual right thought. If you would be whole, turn the mental mirage haunting you, within your consciousness, into the staff, the power of God acting upon human minds and bodies, eradicating aggressive suggestions within consciousness.

Correctly classifying, employing, and turning, upon the false suggestions chasing you leads to physical and moral freedom -- it turns the serpent into a staff. And part of classifying is remembering that the false belief is simply a false suggestion, a mental mirage, not an entity. Turning thought to God, we find freedom, and it's manifested in our experience.

However, looking around us today, it's evident that healing is needed. Nations feud, people die, the poor are poorer, and the news depressing. But this is because the false beliefs which are chasing mankind, are being accepted as fact -- encouraging mankind to think of hatred, death, poverty, and disease as more powerful than God, Life.

Encouraging mankind to believe that man is separated from God, good. These are the mamba-like beliefs trying to chase away man's God-given harmony. However, prayerfully aligning our thought with God and His attributes, blending our life with Him, the serpent becomes our staff, our weapon, to wipe out discord within thought because once the false beliefs are destroyed in consciousness they are destroyed in experience, which results in a life impervious.

Turning the serpent of mortal belief into a staff of spiritual understanding utilizes man's God-given status as God's child. To do this is to be prayerfully immunized and impervious to the strikings of viper-like thoughts and actions, it is to be unafraid.

Among others, there are three qualities that are helpful when dealing with the pursuit of false beliefs and their claims: immunity, imperviousness, and unafraidness.

Spiritual immunity is our therapeutic defense if we've already been attacked by the venom of false concepts. Spiritual, mental immunity refuses to be touched by anything but God, good. It is the quality

which precludes one from fatal effects. And it is the quality that disallows the venom of aggression to take effect either in thought or in experience.

Spiritual immunity defends one from harm -- if it appears he's about to be stricken with discord! It is our prophylactic defense. Immunity means that we've already prayerfully armed ourselves against the machinations of evil.

It means we're spiritually prepared to fight the bombardments of poisonous suggestions and actions through spiritual right thought. By aligning thought with God, man is unaffected by any aggressive attacks of mortal belief. Man's immunization prophesies the inevitable victory over serpent-like snares -- even if one has already been a victim of fatal poisons injected by false concepts.

Imperviousness from false beliefs begins within thought and is externalized in experience. It is more than merely being "thick skinned," it is mentally being untouched and unimpressed by the aggressions of false suggestions. It disallows the serpent's venom to take effect because it cannot penetrate thought. Man is totally impenetrable, and therefore totally safe from sin, disease, death. Man's life is impervious.

Now, unafraidness is the ultimate defense against the approach of discord. When one is unafraid he never runs from his enemy, rather he turns and faces it.

Unafraidness is the foundation of one's defense against the attacks of false suggestions coming to thought. It requires God's presence, because in the presence of God there is no presence of evil, because with God there is no dualism. He is all.

To be unafraid is to trust in God's power. It is to turn to God, to love God, to adore God, and we do this within thought. Hence our unafraidness, even in the face of extreme circumstances, becomes our foundation upon which to prayerfully stand. When we're unafraid we're unaffected by the threats of matter. When we're unafraid we're unimpressed by the tales of corporeality. When we're unafraid we're victorious over the false suggestions of evil. Where else could we be unafraid, but within consciousness which is manifested in our lives.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, we are not always actually pursued by the black mamba of South Africa -- rather we are mentally pursued by the black mamba of mortal mind.

And mortal mind is another term for false thinking. It is the soil where false suggestion is cultivated, not destroyed. Mortal mind is a pursuant which is beguiling, subtle, poisonous, hypnotic. It's hateful, cunning, degrading, mesmeric. It's vicious, dishonest, painful, animalistic. These are the characteristics of the black mamba of mortal mind -- they describe the serpents of false belief which result

in fear, disease, sickness, sin, death. And, it's important to remember while we're talking about the perusal of mortal mind, that it's not an entity, it's not something or someone out there that is going to get you, but rather a false suggestion confronting consciousness. So, in order to have impervious life, we must pitch our battle not in materiality, but within consciousness with the power of Spirit, God, on our side, by aligning our thought with God, divine Mind.

Overcoming the false thinking which produces false living is accomplished through prayer. Unafraidness, spiritual immunization and imperviousness, along with a little humility and wisdom, are the tools we use to destroy the aggressive suggestions pounding at our mental door – the suggestions telling one of his penetrableness.

When we prayerfully change the characteristics of thought from malice to love, from fearfulness to fearlessness, we are turning the serpent into a staff upon which we can lean, which results in an impervious life because our consciousness is made impervious through prayer.

ADHESION, COHESION, AND ATTRACTION

Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, "Adhesion, cohesion, and attraction are properties of Mind (124:20)."

These three qualities, when understood spiritually, become a fortress upon which to stand unafraid. The property of adhesion, belonging to the divine Mind, God, is man's immunity from discord, and adherence to good. Man's attraction to good is the natural attraction to God, man's immunizer. Because God is cause and man His perfect effect they are inseverable -- steady in their relationship - - immuned to inharmony -- infrangible.

The property of cohesion, belonging to the divine Mind, God, is the quality expressed as imperviousness which vehemently holds God and man's relationship together. This quality vivaciously affirms the cohesiveness of Mind to unyieldingly grasp, and hold His idea, man, impenetrable. The property of attraction, belonging to the divine Mind, God, is the quality expressed as unafraidness which not only brings God and man together, but holds man unafraid of any other self-proclaimed power or presence. It is a spiritual magnet which makes one attractive and attracted only to good, and hence, unafraid of discord.

These three properties of Mind, adhesion, cohesion, and attraction expressed as immunity, imperviousness, and unafraidness, defend one from the onslaughts of the mamba-like thought which seeks out its victim by applying these properties in the negative. They defend because they are God-ordained, spiritually mental forces, which combat the so-called forces of false concepts. They arm thought, which is

where the battle always takes place. And a battle won in thought is a battle won in experience because thought is always objectified.

Mortal mind's steadiness of confrontation, tenacity of false suggestion, and attempts to force thought away from God and man's unified relationship are the serpents of experience which are dispelled by aligning thought with God. When we're mentally immuned, impervious, and unafraid, our thought is with God, and we are able to "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph.6:11), and we will be victorious, because thought is always objectified.

I have a friend who, in attempt to fix something above his head, accidentally emptied a full tube of super-glue into his eye when the tube fell apart in his hands. He said that besides being quite painful he could immediately feel his eye being glued shut -- he couldn't open it at all. He decided to call a Christian Science practitioner for prayerful treatment -- a Christian Science practitioner is someone who is experienced in healing solely through prayer as taught in Christian Science. After he spoke with the practitioner my friend continued praying. He says, "That night I didn't sleep, of course, but rather prayed very diligently to heal the situation. And through prayer I was gaining a deeper understanding of my relationship with God."

I asked him how he prayed and he replied with the sentence from the textbook we've been discussing, "Adhesion, cohesion, and attraction, are properties of Mind." He spiritually and fearlessly adhered to his perfection as God's child, through spiritual right thought. And he mentally fought against the false suggestions of fear, lack of vision, and pain, which were seeking him out as false concepts within consciousness. During the night, he tried stretching his eyelid open, three or four times, but the glue was solidly holding his eye shut.

There was no change by morning so he called the makers of super-glue and asked if there was any solvent that could help him, "No," they replied, "not any." He then contacted an emergency room at a nearby hospital to ask if they had any solvent, they also replied, "No." Then, someone attending him, reached up and began to pull the eyelid, and it came easily apart and all the glue came out.

My friend said that at that second the healing had taken place and there was no recovery period of any kind. However, before he left the emergency room the prediction was made that he would always have sight problems with that eye. But my friend was alert to keep his thought upon God, Life, and it resulted in the fact that he never did have any difficulty with his eye or his vision. He was perfectly healed. He had the right concept of adhesion, cohesion, and attraction. He

successfully turned his serpent into a staff -- through demonstration. He spiritually understood that man is forever at-one with God, immuned from discord. He knew beyond a doubt that man's imperviousness of thought results in a life impervious. He knew that the only grasp that anything could have upon him is the grasp the divine Mind had upon him through reflection. And he knew that the unafraidness of spiritual right thought would be externalized to him, because when we hold within consciousness the adhesion, cohesion, and attraction of divine Mind, God, we experience them in our everyday lives.

THE FALL BACKWARDS

Christian Science teaches that false belief produces error in action. It is the basis of wrong thinking which produces erroneous evidence. It objectifies disease, limits experience, and reigns with fear. So the need is to learn how to defend ourselves from false belief, which destroys lives and kills. No matter what it tries to kill -- whether a relationship, success at work, one's health, or one's stability -- it kills, thus the need to employ the universal solvent of Life, Christian Science, which counteracts its poison.

Christian Science is the universal solvent because it teaches how to align thought with God, Life, how to turn to Him in times of trouble. And when we turn thought to Him our actions change and hence our experience. Thus whatever needs adjusting in experience is first adjusted within consciousness through the power of truth acting upon human minds and bodies -- this is our rod of spiritual right thought.

Christian Science also teaches how to turn upon the pursuing, false, suggestions, fearlessly and authoritatively. It teaches the character of mortal mind and thus teaches how to overcome its aggressive advances. In the book of Genesis, in the Bible, there's a verse which is particularly vivid. It reads: "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward" (Gen.49:17). Have you ever felt that you've fallen backwards, either financially, morally, physically, or emotionally? It is the adder in the path which is trying to bite at your consciousness to make you fall backwards -- to fall away from gaining a clearer, deeper, understanding of God and man.

Perhaps you're unsure of God's presence, power, and allness. Or unsure of your ability to apply the principles of Christian Science. Or maybe you're being mentally pursued by a hereditary disease. These are all false suggestions in the way -- in the way of your harmony, peace, health. They are the ever-recurring thoughts which are looking for a hole to hide in. For the mamba snake slithers not back to its hole,

but pursues its victim until it's mentally and physically paralyzed -- then it consumes it.

The temptation to fall backwards confronts us within our own consciousness, for where else could mortal mind consult with us directly? It falsely claims that another is manipulative, dominating, egotistical, self-willed. It suggests that the so-called power of evil can weave webs within our consciousness and experience that are almost impossible to eradicate. It purposes that another's presence or thought could be so suffocating to us that we feel unable to live our own lives. However, all these things, and all the variations on their themes, become nothing to us when we align thought with God and His presence, power, and allness, because thought aligned with God is manifested in a life aligned with God.

The alert pray-er not only sees the false beliefs for what they are, aggressive suggestions to thought, but knows how to handle them and how to keep from falling backwards. We handle them with the power of God's word -- held within consciousness and hence externalized in experience.

Mrs. Eddy writes in her textbook, "The serpent is perpetually close upon the heel of harmony. From the beginning to the end, the serpent pursues with hatred the spiritual idea" (564).

Misconceptions are powerless when we understand the spiritual idea, man. And where do we dissolve misconceptions? Within thought. And how? By aligning our thought with God which results in a life aligned with God, and we do this prayerfully. When thought and life are aligned with God what happens to the fearful, false, forces of sin, sickness, and death, envy, hatred, and revenge -- all evil? They are dispelled -- dispelled within consciousness. And in its place is found the spiritual idea.

This spiritual idea is perfect man, made in God's image. Christ is man, which is counterpoint to the false suggestions of mortal mind manifest in mortal man. To understand the Christ is to understand our perfection, immunity, imperviousness, unafraidness.

The Christ is the perfect, complete, healthy, ideal man. Man maintained and sustained in God's likeness. This man is who you and I are as God's reflection. Because the Christ is man, each one of us contains the Christ within our consciousness; and hence, each one of us utilizes the Christ when we prayerfully align our thought with God, Mind, and hence destroy the erroneous testimony of sin, sickness, disease, and death.

Christian Science teaches a difference between Christ and Jesus that is unique to its theology. Jesus was the man who walked the globe healing the blind, stopping funeral processions and raising the dead. He was the son of Mary, a virgin. He was the man who showed others how to live their lives at-one with God;

and because of his spiritual understanding of God and man's relationship he demonstrated his understanding by utilizing, more than anybody else ever has, the Christ within himself -- the spiritual idea.

Because Jesus employed the Christ he allowed it to monopolize him but he did not monopolize it -- we each have the Christ within -- the Bible declares that it's "The Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col.1:27). The Christ in you, the Christ in me. It is this Christ, which is man, that we all express, that is the exact counterfeit of the slithering serpent of mortal mind.

However, if you feel that a false concept of man is running or ruining your experience. If you feel that disease has taken its hold. If you feel that sin has taken over. If you feel that death is immanent, then turn to God, Life, and overcome evil with good. Mrs. Eddy counsels us to, "Watch, and pray daily that evil suggestions, in whatever guise, take no root in your thought nor bear fruit. Ofttimes examine yourselves, and see if there be found anywhere a deterrent of Truth and Love, and 'hold fast that which is good'" (My 128).

This is how we turn the serpent into the staff of spiritual understanding.

The fall backwards, the serpent by the way, the adder in the path, is destroyed by the Christ in you, the Christ in me, because God's image is more powerful than suggestion.

LIVING AND SEEING TRULY

This was proven in the experience of a friend of mine. For many years he had suffered from two lumps on the back of his head. He not only wanted to be healed, but he wanted to get closer to God, Life, to learn more about Him. And he wanted to destroy the false evidence which appeared very real to him -- in fact -- made him afraid. He said, "One eventually grew so large and ugly that I hated to be seen in public. I had worked on the problem and had treatment from a Christian Science practitioner, but still they remained." A close friend of mine, in speaking of this man, once quietly said to me, "When I entered church, the problem seemed so pronounced, all I could see was this difficulty."

My friend, being a Christian Scientist, earnestly desired to combat the aggressive suggestions of this abnormality through spiritual right thought. And one aggressive suggestion was that he could turn to a cure other than God, if God seemed inadequate to meet his needs. Many suggested that it would be a simple process to simply have the lumps removed. However, one day my friend awoke to the realization that Christian Science was the only cure for him. He says, "I knew then that I would rely on God alone, no

matter how threatening the physical situation." Now that's what I call spiritual guts!

Not long after this, one of the lumps began to swell and became quite painful. He called a Christian Science practitioner to help him in the crisis and within 24 hours the lump opened, and drained through a small hole in his head, leaving a flat disk inside.

He writes, "I wondered how they could possibly come through that tiny hole. One morning at the office, I felt a motion on my head and reached up to feel. Half the disk had rolled up in a point and was protruding through the opening so I could easily grasp it and pull it out. Immediately the other half did the same and I pulled it out."

Not long after this the second lump opened and disappeared. He writes, "I was pleased to hear my barber calling one of his co-workers to 'come and see what prayer can do.'"

Upon telling this healing to a relative, it was mentioned that another member of his family had a similar lump and had it surgically removed -- twice -- and it grew back -- twice -- until he turned to Christian Science treatment, then the healing was permanent. My friend said that he was grateful to hear of his relative's healing because it reassured him that he had not been a religious fanatic solving a simple problem the hard way.

My friend once said to me that these lumps were apparent for many years, but that the healing came quickly. I always find this so interesting. He didn't measure time by how long the lumps were evident but by how quickly the healing came once he aligned thought with the adequacy and practicality of God as taught in Christian Science.

Today my friend is active and free. His imperviousness, spiritual immunity, and unafraidness, defended him from the attacks of mortal mind. They became his weapons which he prayerfully used to battle wrong thinking and acting. And through spiritual right thought he was restored, whole and complete.

Emerson wrote in his book, *Self-Reliance*, "If we live truly, we shall see truly." How right he was. And the alert pray-er will understand that the opposite is also correct, 'If we see truly, we shall live truly.' To live truly is to seek out the false beliefs within consciousness and hence eradicate them from experience. To see truly is to spiritually understand God and man's relationship. If I believe in the power of evil then I penalize myself for this false belief. If I falsely believe in the strength of mesmerism or even the adroitness of materiality then I will apparently exile myself from God's presence, power, and allness. However, if I prayerfully choose to turn to God and seek out the mamba's within my own consciousness then I am employing the power of God on my behalf

and I will profit from my thinking. I will be seeing and living truly. Right ideas, emanating from the divine Mind, produce true conclusions -- they give God "all the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever" -- as the Lord's Prayer promises (Matt.6).

Mrs. Eddy teaches, "Good thoughts are an impervious armor; clad therewith you are completely shielded from the attacks of error of every sort" (My 210). Good thoughts are our armor -- this statement also comments about wrong thoughts.

THE DISCOVERER

Thoreau, wrote in his book, *On Walden Pond*, "Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth." This is exactly what Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer of Christian Science has given mankind -- the truth about man's identity and relationship with God, with Life. And through her teachings, writings, and life, she has taught us how to combat the aggressive, false beliefs pursuing mankind.

Mrs. Eddy found this truth through deeply searching the Scriptures. From her childhood she loved God. During trying challenges her mother encouraged her to rely upon God for her strength and understanding. And this is exactly what she did, until, through a healing, she gained a deeper understanding of the Scriptures.

This deeper understanding was then written down, in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. After her teachings were not openly accepted into the creeds and orthodoxy of her home-church she was lead, by God, to establish a church which would "reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing" (Man.p.17).

Christian Science is the primitive Christianity used by Christ Jesus as he walked, healing, through the villages and towns of Galilee. This Christianity is ours to have and to use. It's available to all who are seeking its truth. It's recorded in this Textbook.

Mrs. Eddy diligently studied the Scriptures. She learned, through great trials and self-sacrifice, of Christ Jesus' teachings; and more she learned how to apply his teachings to everyday life reconciling man to God, not God to man. So, when Christian Scientists speak of the Discoverer of Christian Science with great love and dedication. It goes so far beyond her material personality to her unfeigned love for mankind, to her self-sacrifice, to her spiritual devotion, to all those things which has given each adherent a better way to think and to live. Each one who follows and abides by the laws of Christian Science can feel the power of God's word, as taught by Mrs. Eddy, as found in the Bible, and in the life of Christ Jesus.

There are many today who can tell you of healings accomplished through these teachings, and who have felt the Christ-power, have seen healing,

have healed, have been healed. Undoubtedly they have learned to confront the mamba-like suggestions pursuing them, and they have been victorious over its aggression. You, too, can learn this scientific system of ethics -- see healing, be healed, and heal others.

So, for what Mrs. Eddy has done for mankind we are indeed grateful. But unlike what some may affirm this is not a system of mere psychogenic cure; we are not worshippers of her personality; and she is not equated with Christ Jesus.

For what Christ Jesus has done for mankind, again, we are indeed grateful - but more, we are in debt to him for sharing through his life the allness of God and hence the unreality of false suggestion. The world is in debt to Christ Jesus, and to Christ's Christianity.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Tonight we've learned more about God and man's relationship as taught in Christian Science. We've seen how Christian Science is practical to meet the needs of individuals. We've seen God as Life, Truth, Love, Mind and Spirit, ever-present, omnipotent all. We've discovered man spiritually immuned, impervious, and unafraid.

We've also discovered how adhesion, cohesion, and attraction, expressed in consciousness, changes experience when we align our thought with God.

Changing the serpent into a staff becomes a joy when we spiritually understand that its perusal of the spiritual idea, man, or Christ, is powerless to the man whose thought is with God.

We've also found the Bible and the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, becomes to us a light which brightens our path and leads us in our journey to spiritual sense which simultaneously rebukes material sense. These two books, together, teach us not to run from the mamba-like false suggestions mentally chasing us, but rather to turn on them, to dispel, rebuke, and destroy them. For by prayerfully turning on them, through spiritual right thought, we are turning to God, and we find that man, God's image, has all.

Christian Science educates mankind to a higher sense -- to spiritual sense. It teaches how to pray, how to live, how to be. It arms one from the fall backwards into hypnotism, mesmerism, sin, disease, death. No matter what circumstances we're facing, through spiritual right thought, we can combat the false suggestions of mortal mind by aligning our thought with God. Because thought at-one with God eventuates in a life at-one with God, good. Thus may our days be long, and our life impervious.

"Give me truth" was Thoreau's wish. The world has received truth through the life of Christ Jesus and the teachings of Christian Science. We have learned to

pray not only "in the sunshine, but in the storm...midst clouds of wrong, injustice, envy, hate;...(My 252). "As thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deut.33:25).