

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010

*SUBJECT*— SUBSTANCE

*GOLDEN TEXT*: HOSEA 10 : 12

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***“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.”***

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RESPONSIVE READING: Proverbs 10 : 22; Proverbs 11 : 23 (*to* :)-27 (*to* :), 28

22. The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.
23. The desire of the righteous *is* only good.
24. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.
25. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
26. He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it*.
27. He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour.
28. He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

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*This Bible Lesson was prepared by Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, in Plainfield, New Jersey. It is comprised of Scriptural Quotations from the King James Bible and Correlative Passages from the Christian Science textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.*

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## LESSON SERMON

### *The Bible*

#### 1. Psalms 132 : 13 (the)-16

<sup>13</sup> The LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired *it* for his habitation.

<sup>14</sup> This *is* my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

<sup>15</sup> I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread.

<sup>16</sup> I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

#### 2. Proverbs 3 : 9, 10, 27-29

<sup>9</sup> Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

<sup>10</sup> So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

<sup>27</sup> Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.

<sup>28</sup> Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

<sup>29</sup> Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

#### 3. Ezekiel 34 : 2 (Thus)-5 (*to* :),9-11, 23-27

<sup>2</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

<sup>3</sup> Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *but* ye feed not the flock.

<sup>4</sup> The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *that which was* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

<sup>5</sup> And they were scattered, because *there is* no shepherd.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

<sup>10</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

<sup>11</sup> For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, *even* I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

<sup>23</sup> And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, *even* my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

<sup>24</sup> And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken *it*.

<sup>25</sup> And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

<sup>26</sup> And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

<sup>27</sup> And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

#### 4. John 1 : 14 (the Word), 16, 17

<sup>14</sup> The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

#### 5. John 10 : 7 (to Jesus), 7 (Verily)-14

<sup>7</sup> Then said Jesus. . . , Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

<sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup> But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

<sup>13</sup> The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

## 6. Colossians 3 : 1, 2, 12-15

<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

<sup>12</sup> Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

<sup>13</sup> Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

<sup>14</sup> And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

## ***Science and Health***

### 1. 301 : 17-20

As God is substance and man is the divine image and likeness, man should wish for, and in reality has, only the substance of good, the substance of Spirit, not matter.

2. 258 : 31-5

Through spiritual sense you can discern the heart of divinity, and thus begin to comprehend in Science the generic term *man*. Man is not absorbed in Deity, and man cannot lose his individuality, for he reflects eternal Life; nor is he an isolated, solitary idea, for he represents infinite Mind, the sum of all substance.

3. 301 : 5-12

Few persons comprehend what Christian Science means by the word *reflection*. To himself, mortal and material man seems to be substance, but his sense of substance involves error and therefore is material, temporal.

On the other hand, the immortal, spiritual man is really substantial, and reflects the eternal substance, or Spirit, which mortals hope for.

4. 17 : 7 (Love) (*to* ;)

Love is reflected in love.

5. 91 : 16-21

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

6. 252 : 15-8

The false evidence of material sense contrasts strikingly with the testimony of Spirit. Material sense lifts its voice with the arrogance of reality and says:

I am wholly dishonest, and no man knoweth it. I can cheat, lie, commit adultery, rob, murder, and I elude detection by smooth-tongued villainy. Animal in propensity, deceitful in sentiment, fraudulent in purpose, I mean to make my short span of life one gala day. What a nice thing is sin! How sin succeeds, where the good purpose waits! The world is my kingdom. I am enthroned in the gorgeousness of matter. But a touch, an accident, the law of God, may at any moment annihilate my peace, for all my fancied joys are fatal. Like bursting lava, I expand but to my own despair, and shine with the resplendency of consuming fire.

Spirit, bearing opposite testimony, saith:

I am Spirit. Man, whose senses are spiritual, is my likeness. He reflects the infinite understanding, for I am Infinity. The beauty of holiness, the perfection of being, imperishable glory, — all are Mine, for I am God. I give immortality to man, for I am Truth. I include and impart all bliss, for I am Love. I give life, without beginning and without end, for I am Life. I am supreme and give all, for I am Mind. I am the substance of all, because I AM THAT I AM.

7. 583 : 10-11

CHRIST. The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.

8. 133 : 24-28

That he made "himself equal with God," was one of the Jewish accusations against him who planted Christianity on the foundation of Spirit, who taught as he was inspired by the Father and would recognize no life, intelligence, nor substance outside of God.

9. 51 : 28-32

Jesus was unselfish. His spirituality separated him from sensuousness, and caused the selfish materialist to hate him; but it was this spirituality which enabled Jesus to heal the sick, cast out evil, and raise the dead.

10. 365 : 7-14

The benign thought of Jesus, finding utterance in such words as "Take no thought for your life," would heal the sick, and so enable them to rise above the supposed necessity for physical thought-taking and doctoring; but if the unselfish affections be lacking, and common sense and common humanity are disregarded, what mental quality remains, with which to evoke healing from the outstretched arm of righteousness?

11. 366 : 12-21

The physician who lacks sympathy for his fellow-being is deficient in human affection, and we have the apostolic warrant for asking: "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Not having this spiritual affection, the physician lacks faith in the divine Mind and has not that recognition of infinite Love which alone confers the healing power. Such so-called Scientists will strain out gnats, while they swallow the camels of bigoted pedantry.

12. 367 : 3-23

The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love.

This is what is meant by seeking Truth, Christ, not "for the loaves and fishes," nor, like the Pharisee, with the arrogance of rank and display of scholarship, but like Mary Magdalene, from the summit of devout consecration, with the oil of gladness and the perfume of *gratitude*, with tears of repentance and with those hairs all numbered by the Father.

A Christian Scientist occupies the place at this period of which Jesus spoke to his disciples, when he said: "Ye are the salt of the earth." "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Let us watch, work, and pray that this salt lose not its saltness, and that this light be not hid, but radiate and glow into noontide glory.

13. 428 : 8-14

To divest thought of false trusts and material evidences in order that the spiritual facts of being may appear, — this is the great attainment by means of which we shall sweep away the false and give place to the true. Thus we may establish in truth the temple, or body, "whose builder and maker is God."

## THE DAILY DUTIES

by Mary Baker Eddy

### Daily Prayer

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: "Thy kingdom come;" let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!

### A Rule for Motives and Acts

Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church. In Science, divine Love alone governs man; and a Christian Scientist reflects the sweet amenities of Love, in rebuking sin, in true brotherliness, charitableness, and forgiveness. The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously.

### Alertness to Duty

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.