

*****HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

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A.I. UNLEASHED

The Spring 2023 *Banner* carried an article titled, "Artificial Intelligence" which quoted warnings about this new technology and what its rapid spread could mean for mankind.

An article on the Daily Wire on May 2, 2023 stated, "Geoffrey Hinton, a cognitive psychologist and computer scientist known as the 'Godfather of A.I.' announced on Monday (May 1, 2023) that he exited his position at Google and is no longer optimistic about the future of artificial intelligence.

The remarks come as other technology experts voice their concerns about the advent of ChatGPT, a mass-market AI tool based on a large language model developed by OpenAI, because of the possible effects on the flow of information and the specter of widespread unemployment.... 'I console myself with the normal excuse: If I hadn't done it, somebody else would have,' Hinton told the outlet. 'It is hard to see how you can prevent the bad actors from using it for bad things.'... The idea that this stuff could actually get smarter than people, a few people believed that,' he continued. 'But most people thought it was way off. And I thought it was way off. I thought it was 30 to 50 years or even longer away. Obviously, I no longer think that.'" (www.dailywire.com)

The 2023 AI RACE: Will You Be Left Behind? (secure.tradesmith.com) examined some of the characteristics of artificial intelligence: "Chess was the perfect testing ground for AI...because playing chess...is ultimately about recognizing patterns and thinking through a series of moves and 'what-if' scenarios to arrive at a single goal...checkmating the king. But, when designers of AI-powered chess playing programs started testing their systems years ago, they noticed—strategies human players would never come up with...and in many cases would be outright ridiculed by chess grandmasters... AI chess programs often make sacrifices that seem bizarre and nonsensical. AI chess programs would create wild and complex strategies human players would never think of. These AI-created chess strategies have been called 'alien' and 'chess from another dimension.' But they ended up crushing human players with those unconventional strategies... even grandmasters like the famous Garry Kasparov." (tradesmith.com)

"Will millions of people soon be looking to artificial intelligence for spiritual guidance? Such a notion may sound crazy to you, but we should not underestimate how rapidly AI is changing our world... In just a matter of moments, it can produce extremely sophisticated answers to very complex questions... Other AI programs are capable of producing very realistic photos, artwork, and videos. Of course what we are seeing right now is just at the beginning. AI technology is advancing at an exponential rate, and given enough time it would be millions of times more powerful than it is right now...

"On Friday [July 21, 2023], over 300 people attended a 'church service' that was led by a ChatGPT chatbot. The artificial intelligence chatbot asked the believers in the fully packed St. Paul's church in the Bavarian town of Fuerth to rise from the pews and praise the Lord.

"The ChatGPT chatbot, personified by an avatar of a bearded Black man on a huge screen above the altar, then began preaching to the more than 300 people who had shown up on Friday morning for an experimental Lutheran church service almost entirely generated by AI. During the 40 minute service, four different 'avatars' appeared on the screen. Two of them were young women and two of them were young men. The 29-year-old that came up with this idea said that about 98 percent of the content for the service 'comes from the machine.' The 40-minute service -- including the sermon, prayers and music -- was created by ChatGPT and Jonas Simmerlein, a theologian and philosopher from the University of Vienna. 'I conceived this service -- but actually I rather accompanied it, because I would say about 98% comes from the machine,' the 29-year-old scholar told The Associated Press... But of course it is probably just a matter of time before entirely new religions are created by artificial intelligence.'" (michaelsnyder.substack.com)

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) is all the rage. You can't read a headline or turn on the news without hearing about how machines with vast computing power, access to billions of books and documents, the ability to teach themselves, and blinding processing speeds are now poised to take over the world... Experimenters now envision machines taking on a life of their own and attacking humans and civilization. It's important to remember that if the machine goes berserk, you can just pull the plug. Apologists for AI capacity claim that pulling the plug won't work because the machine will anticipate that strategy and 'export' itself to another

machine in a catch-me-if-you-can scenario where disabling one location won't stop the code and algorithms from popping up elsewhere and continuing its attack." (J. Rickards' Strategic Intelligence, Paradigm Press (April 17, 2023))

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the April 2023 and July 2023 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches have closed in the United States: Camarillo (1st), California; Idyllwild (1st), California; and Southern Pines (Soc.), North Carolina. Since the count began in February 1987, 1190 churches have closed and 86 have opened.

From: WATCHES - PRAYERS - ARGUMENTS

Given to students by Mary Baker Eddy with a forward by Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B.
Privately printed in 1950

WATCH

The thief is ready to rob and steal all treasures. But our Master saith, "Had the good man watched, his house would not have been broken open." I beg you to watch and pray to this end. You are in danger unless you do. The more useful and prominent you become, the harder the mental robbers will work to rob you of good thoughts, a strong purpose and wise efforts to do God's will. (p.14)

WATCH

No form of error can make a C.S. treatment produce an opposite effect, nor can I be made to overlook or forget anything in the treatment that is necessary for its certain accomplishment of good. We must go ahead of error, and keep ahead of error all the way. Error is nothing but erroneous thought, and we must never give in to it, or go down before it. Mental activity must be tranquil – not lazy; it must express force, be exact, and it must know the reality of man's oneness with God, and the utter unreality of evil in all its forms of beliefs. (p.14)

WATCH

Repeat the following affirmations silently several times each day, not with strained anxiety to get something out of them, but trying calmly to realize the meaning of the words.

God is All; there is no evil
All is harmony; there is no discord.
All is health; there is no sickness.
All is Spirit; there is no matter.
All is joy; there is no sorrow.
All is Truth; there is no falsehood.
All is faith; there is no fear.
All is Life; there is no death.
All is Love; there is no hate.

(pp.14, 15)

WATCH

Realize for yourself daily, more than once, that the fields are already white with harvest; that "divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need," the need of work as well as any other; that Mind is active and you reflect the divine activity; that the true source of supply supplies every need; that there is plenty of work for all; that yours belongs to you, no one else can do it, and it comes to you direct, and the supply is abundant and you know all the time that this is so. Never let a sense of lack of anything stay a moment with you; it is rank error and breeds all sorts of difficulties. Daily know that mental malpractice cannot cause Christian Scientists or their patients to have a return of old beliefs, as this is the argument sent out; also that there is no reversal of the treatment of Christian Science. (p.16)

WATCH

Evil is not power, no mind, and nobody has any power to accomplish evil of any sort (here stop and dwell on this argument till you realize this truth). Then declare that Love is All and *in all*, in every thought, and all power is in Love. There is no other power. Evil is powerless; there is no evil. Hypnotism, theosophy, and esoteric magic have no power to do evil, and cannot reverse Truth -- but Life, Truth, Love *have reversed*, and they have destroyed all evil. There are no false suggestions, lying arguments or hatred -- these are illusions. They do not exist. I have no fear of them. *I am not controlled by them.* Divine Love is supreme and controls all I think, say, or do. Pray daily twice at least to divine Love to give you success. Then realize for yourself that Love and Truth and action on your part (for Truth does not work for you unless you work) will give you the victory. Guard reversal. There is no law of hypnotism to reverse God's law. Truth is unchangeable and cannot be reversed. (p.17)

PRAYER

The need of divine wisdom and Love -- Christ's assurance of prayer answered -- and the absolute Science of God's Allness, moves the Christian Scientist to pray for the peace, prosperity, and brotherhood of all nations and peoples. No will-power is used in the Scientist's prayer, since human will must be lost in the Divine, for prayer to be efficacious. In the words of Zechariah, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts." I would ask that all Christians unite in prayer for the cessation of sin, -- the oppression of the weak, -- the accession of power at the sacrifice of individual rights; but especially that divine Love shield the innocent from the wrath of the guilty, and cause it to praise Love. (p. 28, 29)

EVENING PRAYER

Before you are ready to close your eyes in sleep, be

sure that you are not holding anything unlovely in your consciousness, anything unlike God; laying aside every fear, put yourself entirely in His charge. Quiet yourself with the thought that He who has all power will protect you, give you health, and all you need in abundance, and know that whether sleeping or waking, you are safe because your life is hid with Christ in God. To declare that you are well is the exact truth; you are not flesh, but rather the ray of divine light that, shining upon flesh, makes it appear alive. This you is spiritual and cannot be sick. Remember that power is exerted by merely stating a truth. All truth is the word of God. Assert it constantly, even though your so-called human mind screams falsehood. It is to acknowledge Him, to have your mind stayed on Him, to be directly benefited by the activity of good. (p. 29)

CHILD'S PRAYER

Dear Father, I want to love Thee supremely; I want to be unselfish, temperate, pure and good; I want to love and honor my earthly parents, and so be able to uplift humanity. I know that God is good, and that He hath made me in His own likeness, harmonious and immortal; and I will strive daily not to make myself appear otherwise. I thank Thee now and forevermore.

(p. 31)

PRAYER

Father teach me how to still the clamoring of sense, and fill my place as listener, that I may hear Thy voice and grow to understand Thy Word, and so become Thy messenger. Then teach me how to banish pride and stubborn will that I may be Thy representative -- with no false sense of human zeal, that every word may bless and heal, when I thy message give. (p.31)

INCLUDE THIS IN ALL YOUR PRAYERS

All the individuals in this house can and do help themselves by prayer.

God helps them.

His promise is fulfilled; Seek and ye shall find. "Because he has put his trust in Me, therefore have I delivered him." (p.31)

ARGUMENTS

We are the channels, transparencies for the reflection of His goodness in proportion to the demonstration we have made over self, and the understanding gained of the Truth of being, the love for the brotherhood.

The deadliest poison is a secretion engendered by the working of hatred. Handle arsenical and mercurial poison to prevent rheumatism. Strive to work from God instead of up to God.

We, as God's ideas, are free from and cannot be touched by the errors of unfavorable comment, disapproval, criticism, fault-finding, censure, blame, condemnation, hate, murder.

Man has no constitutional liability to disease, no inherited weakness; is not subject to abnormal growths, decay, decomposition, A.M. or vital poison; is not subject to or liable to death, sin, sensuality, vice or consequence. (p.32)

ARGUMENT

How many Christian Scientists give treatments as though they knew that Mind really heals the sick? The real thing is the presence of Mind and the realization that there is no other presence. Do not be afraid to take this stand and demonstrate it. Make *God All*, for *God is All*, and there is nothing else. It is just as though Mind was saying: "I am here and there, is nothing else here. I am the practitioner and I am the patient and there is nothing else and neither can be other than I AM." It is this Infinity, this infinite Presence that makes disease impossible. Don't squabble with yourself mentally and wear yourself out with arguments, either audibly or silently -- but be firm, and know that God is the source of your intelligence. "Be still and know." Quiet the material senses one after another, and withdraw to the "secret place of the Most High," and after you have shut out the material clamoring, you can hear the still, small voice. The Bible tells you, "The battle is not yours, but the Lord's." Meet every problem that comes up as its master, knowing that which hath been is now, and that which is to be hath already been, and God requireth that which is past." This implies that nothing which is not good can remain permanently in consciousness. (pp. 37, 38)

ARGUMENTS

If we go at an error with a determination to conquer with Truth, we should know that an error is a coward; it will retreat.

Try not to see mental work as treatment, but as a watch to keep out the enemy. Jesus said, "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." We have "to work out our own salvation," and this is one of the ways to do it. We have got all things. *Dominion is our right*. It is necessary to realize this by arguing down the evil which says we have not. The enemy will try to make us do wrong, or make us sick or try to kill us to the end, so we must stand guard, and the way to do it is to declare that evil cannot do these things. Mortal mind will try in every conceivable way to prevent this thought from being declared. Why? Because it means death to error. (p.45, 46)

ARGUMENT

There is no mortal mind, or man, or personality, that can think through me or read my thoughts, or change influence, beguile, bewilder, or darken my consciousness.

It is impossible for darkness to destroy light. Nothing that divine Mind created can be perverted,



reversed, relapsed, or changed.

The infinite light forever protects its idea in the substance of Soul. Evil minds have no power to reject, deny, oppose or defy God; no power to stop the work of Christian Science.

There is a spiritual reversal for every argument of evil and to declare it agrees with your adversary "quickly".

God will reverse every argument of evil before it reaches us, through the Word, which is the two-edged sword, which liveth and abideth forever.

We must handle the claim of trickery, slander, meddlesomeness of the human mind. (p.65)

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER 3/19/00

Goodness such as yours is a sure pretext of success in all struggles to be "better". If a single sin remains -- and who is destitute of all sin? -- be of good cheer, for the victory over it is a foregone conclusion. If a supposed sensation exists that God, good, is displeased with, it must yield and neither fear nor abnormal conditions can hold it. Your good heart is the victor over it and *now* and forever you know this is truth and the Truth has made you *free*. You are liberated by divine

Love from every false claim of the flesh. The law of Spirit is supreme; it dominates the flesh and you are God's own child. *Never* born of the flesh nor subject to it. Here plant your understanding and having done your part, stand, and God will provide for the temptation strength to overcome it. (pp. 103, 104)

HOUSEHOLD LESSON

Rom. 2:22, S&H 476:32. Hold to the correct view of man that heals. We adulterate the Truth when we have a false sense of God and man. We have idols when we hold in thought the beliefs of sin, sickness and death, and believe them to be real. We break the law when we believe that evil is as real as good, for this is a false sense which sees only the inverted image and not the true idea of God; hence it prevents us from reflecting the healing Truth, having but one God and loving our neighbor as ourself. (p. 92)

INSTRUCTION 3/31/92

Our work is not to change God's work, for that is finished and perfect. Neither is it to make error nothing, for it is that already; but to stand (apparently) in the midst of it, *unmoved*, knowing its nothingness. Isa.43:2 (p. 108)