

# The First Church of Christ, Scientist

## Chapter I

### "CHOOSE YE"

- 1 MESSAGE FROM MARY BAKER EDDY ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE DEDICATION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE  
3 MOTHER CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, JUNE 10, 1906

*My Beloved Brethren:* — The divine might of Truth demands well-doing in order to demon-  
6 strate truth, and this not alone in accord with human desire but with spiritual power. St. John writes: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have  
9 right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." The sear leaves of faith without works, scattered abroad in Zion's waste places, appeal to re-  
12 formers, "Show me thy faith by thy works."

Christian Science is not a dweller apart in royal solitude; it is not a law of matter, nor a transcendentalism that  
15 heals only the sick. This Science is a law of divine Mind, a persuasive animus, an unerring impetus, an ever-present help. Its presence is felt, for it acts and acts wisely,  
18 always unfolding the highway of hope, faith, understanding. It is the higher criticism, the higher hope; and its effect on man is mainly this — that the good which has  
21 come into his life, examination compels him to think genuine, whoever did it. A Christian Scientist verifies his calling. *Choose ye!*

1     When, by losing his faith in matter and sin, one finds  
the spirit of Truth, then he practises the Golden Rule  
3 spontaneously; and obedience to this rule spiritualizes  
man, for the world's *nolens volens* cannot enthrall it.  
Lust, dishonesty, sin, disable the student; they preclude  
6 the practice or efficient teaching of Christian Science, the  
truth of man's being. The Scripture reads: "He that  
taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy  
9 of me." On this basis, how many are following the  
Way-shower? We follow Truth only as we follow truly,  
meekly, patiently, spiritually, blessing saint and sinner  
12 with the leaven of divine Love which woman has put  
into Christendom and medicine.

A genuine Christian Scientist loves Protestant and  
15 Catholic, D.D. and M.D., — loves all who love God,  
good; and he loves his enemies. It will be found that,  
instead of opposing, such an individual subserves the  
18 interests of both medical faculty and Christianity, and  
they thrive together, learning that Mind-power is good  
will towards men. Thus unfolding the true metal in  
21 character, the iron in human nature rusts away; honesty  
and justice characterize the seeker and finder of Christian  
Science.

24     The pride of place or power is the prince of this world  
that hath nothing in Christ. Our great Master said:  
"Except ye . . . become as little children, ye shall not  
27 enter into the kingdom of heaven," — the reign of right-  
eousness, the glory of good, healing the sick and saving  
the sinner. The height of my hope must remain. Glory  
30 be to Thee, Thou God most high and nigh.

Whatever is not divinely natural and demonstrably  
true, in ethics, philosophy, or religion, is not of God but

1 originates in the minds of mortals. It is the Adam-  
dream according to the Scriptural allegory, in which  
3 man is supposed to start from dust and woman to be  
the outcome of man's rib, — marriage synonymous with  
legalized lust, and the offspring of sense the murderers  
6 of their brothers!

Wholly apart from this mortal dream, this illusion and  
delusion of sense, Christian Science comes to reveal man  
9 as God's image, His idea, coexistent with Him — God  
giving all and man having all that God gives. Whence,  
then, came the creation of matter, sin, and death, mortal  
12 pride and power, prestige or privilege? The First Com-  
mandment of the Hebrew Decalogue, "Thou shalt have  
no other gods before me," and the Golden Rule are the  
15 all-in-all of Christian Science. They are the spiritual  
idealism and realism which, when realized, constitute a  
Christian Scientist, heal the sick, reform the sinner, and  
18 rob the grave of its victory. The spiritual understanding  
which demonstrates Christian Science, enables the devout  
Scientist to worship, not an unknown God, but Him whom,  
21 understanding even in part, he continues to love more and  
to serve better.

Beloved, I am not with you *in propria persona* at this  
24 memorable dedication and communion season, but I am  
with you "in spirit and in truth," lovingly thanking your  
generosity and fidelity, and saying virtually what the  
27 prophet said: Continue to choose whom ye will serve.

Forgetting the Golden Rule and indulging sin, men  
cannot serve God; they cannot demonstrate the omnipo-  
30 tence of divine Mind that heals the sick and the sinner.  
Human will may mesmerize and mislead man; divine  
wisdom, never. Indulging deceit is like the defendant

1 arguing for the plaintiff in favor of a decision which the  
defendant knows will be turned against himself.

3 We cannot serve two masters. Do we love God  
supremely? Are we honest, just, faithful? Are we true  
to ourselves? "God is not mocked: for whatsoever a  
6 man soweth, that shall he also reap." To abide in our  
unselfed better self is to be done forever with the sins  
of the flesh, the wrongs of human life, the tempter and  
9 temptation, the smile and deceit of damnation. When  
we have overcome sin in all its forms, men may revile us  
and despitefully use us, and we shall rejoice, "for great  
12 is [our] reward in heaven."

You have dexterously and wisely provided for The  
Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, a magnificent tem-  
15 ple wherein to enter and pray. Greatly impressed and  
encouraged thereby, deeply do I thank you for this proof  
of your progress, unity, and love. The modest edifice  
18 of The Mother Church of Christ, Scientist, began with  
the cross; its excelsior extension is the crown. The room  
of your Leader remains in the beginning of this edifice,  
21 evidencing the praise of babes and the word which pro-  
ceedeth out of the mouth of God. Its crowning ulti-  
mate rises to a mental monument, a superstructure high  
24 above the work of men's hands, even the outcome of  
their hearts, giving to the material a spiritual significance  
— the speed, beauty, and achievements of goodness.  
27 Methinks this church is the one edifice on earth which  
most prefigures self-abnegation, hope, faith; love catching  
a glimpse of glory.