

## IN THE FOREFRONT

There is a wonderful statement of fact given us in the third chapter of John, as coming from Jesus himself, which, if we will but read, mark, learn and inwardly digest in connection with that which is to be found on page 248:12-32 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, will enable us to heal the sick and raise the dead, even as the great Master did before us, and which he expected us to do.

Jesus referred to the time when the children of Israel were required by Moses to turn from the contemplation of the serpent bites to the recognition of the utter powerlessness of matter, by continually looking upon the brazen serpent. This he did in a very simple manner, to wit: by placing the brazen serpent at the top of a high pole where it could be readily seen, and thus be before them all the while.

We do this same thing with the flag of our country when we are desirous of a national spirit prevailing in the consciousness of the people. Not infrequently do we hear the expression, "Waving the flag," meaning thereby to keep some great truism before the particular people to whom it applies, and gain their undivided enthusiasm and support.

At times of war, the flag has a most prominent place everywhere in the world. It is the custom, if not the law, that the flag shall be flown at all times during the day while war continues, in order that patriotism be aroused, and the right justice of the cause for which one is at war, be kept in the *forefront* of the consciousness of the people, for all of which the flag stands as a symbol. The flag is not flown at night-time because it cannot be seen in the dark, and thus the very purpose of flying it would be defeated.

So we find Jesus counseling us that "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man [the Christ-man, or the true man] be lifted up [above the earth]"; lifted up in our consciousness, or kept in the *forefront* of consciousness, in order that this true sense of creation may receive our undivided attention and support; or, in order that we may come to believe in the actuality of the Christ-man.

For thousands of years, the world has been lifting up a false or material viewpoint of creation in consciousness, until at this time we find that we have brought out a human sense of man as material and subject to sin, disease and death. In the Bible reference referred to, we are counseled and advised by the Master himself that we should no longer lift up this false sense of man in our consciousness, but that we should raise on high the true creation; we must keep the Christ-man in the very *forefront* of consciousness, and thus bring out the result according to law, that as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." This result will be the visible healing and regeneration of mankind; or the true man, the spiritual man, or man made in the image and likeness of God recognized as the only man ever created.

Jesus continues, "Whosoever believeth in him [me] should not perish [be sick, sin or die], but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten

Son [the Christ], that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For," he says, "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world [for God sent not the Christ-Truth into our worldly consciousness to condemn — punish is a better word — to punish the world for whatsoever wrong thinking or acting it may have done]; but that the world through him [the Christ] might be saved [or healed]. He that believeth on him is not condemned [punished]: but he that believeth *not* is condemned [punished] already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God [because he does not believe that he himself has the characteristics of the very Christ]." (John)

This is a wonderful statement. Just think of it! That God did not send this great Truth, this great Christ-Truth about man into the world to cause us to suffer and die; but, on the contrary, He sent the Christ into the world, sent him to us, in order that we might be healed and saved from our false viewpoints of what He is, what the Christ is, what the world is, and what our relationship to Him is.

He sent His son into the world with an important message to the world: First, that the God which is worshipped, is not the God that is. Second, the world which you believe you live in, is not the world that is. Third, the man you believe yourself to be, is not the man that you are.

Our business, then, is to live in the spiritual senses, and keep the Christ, or spiritual senses, in the very *forefront* of consciousness, to write it on the tablets of our hearts, so that no matter what human consciousness may say or assert to us, we may not be guilty of lowering the flag of the spiritual man; for, so surely as we do this, do we find inharmony creeping in where harmony should reign.

In the passages referred to above in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, it tells us of the world holding up the "imperfect model," with the resultant discords of sin, disease, poverty, death; and insists that we should lift up the Christ, thus bringing out the true or the Christ-man with all the attendant happiness, health, spiritual consciousness, or the Kingdom of Heaven. Or, as Jesus many times said: "Hold thy peace," that is, hold what you already recognize of good constantly before you, in the *forefront* of consciousness.