

THE MANUAL

The great revelator of Truth to this age has so guarded the highest spiritual Church that the *Manual of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist*, does not have and never can have human law read into it by unbelievers, against which Paul warns us in First Corinthians, and which warning would be disobeyed if it were possible to do this. Under divine impulsion and naught else, the revelator never allowed these By-laws to be adopted into the organization in a legal way. For which the good Lord be praised!

The textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, is an inspired book; and it stands forever applicable to the man in the gutter, the man in the street, or the "priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm), the highest and most spiritually-minded person.

As we read *Science and Health*, the words never change, but the meaning, or the interpretation, changes as we individually advance spiritually. This is the reason why translations into foreign languages never can be absolutely correct, for the translator, no matter how advanced he may be in his grasp of what Christian Science interprets to mortals, as set forth in the English language of the textbook, can only express in a foreign language that which is his grasp of the meaning of the textbook at the time of translating it. This may all be very well at that moment, but the next day the same person, if he has advanced ever so slightly toward the resurrection morn, will find that the very words which he has construed to mean one thing, have now unfolded to the point where they may mean a quite different and more advanced sense of Truth, or God. This actually makes his rendition of the book an obsolete and vague translation.

Thus we see that *Science and Health* cannot have an exact and arbitrary meaning decreed for it by any one person, or by many persons. We all know that the textbook, though the same words are used, is quite different in meaning to that which it meant when we first awakened to this message; and it is the same with any inspired work of any messenger of God, and so it is with the *Manual*.

The word *Manual* comes from the French word *mains*, meaning a book for the hands. This *Manual* is inspired. The revelator to this age was inspired when she wrote the *Manual* as it stands; and by reason of her God-guidance, she never incorporated, or permitted it to be incorporated into the organization of The Mother Church as a legal document. She did, however, leave unmistakable instructions for true Christian Scientists to advance by obeying and never forsaking the *Manual* Rules and By-laws.

It is even prohibited that branch churches should incorporate the By-laws of The Mother Church into their own organizations. So we find that nowhere on earth are these By-laws a legal document, or a part of the organization. Had these By-laws been incorporated into the organization, the unbeliever would have had the power to read into them the meaning according to human courts of laws and jurisprudence, against which the rev-

elator distinctly warns. Should human law ever be read into them, the By-laws would then be the law of the Medes and Persians, and the highest spiritual church of today could not progress according to the law of God without changing the By-laws. This is, of course, absolutely forbidden, except with the consent of the revelator. The Church, then, would lapse into mere orthodoxy, with the consequent loss of the Christ and the healing resulting therefrom. To have these By-laws made a part of the human mind, would be “death” to the Church.

Many have for years read into these By-laws that which *they* thought was the correct meaning of these laws, until custom marked them as law, but which, nevertheless, they were not. Happily, however, there are many, too, who, in spite of the mesmerism of custom and human thought, human opinions (“The one Mind, God, contains no mortal opinions” — *Science and Health*), and suggestions, are not blinded by this standpoint, recognizing, as they do, a higher sense of this inspired writer’s meaning as they study the *Manual* under the light of revealed Truth; and having the sturdiness of righteousness to dispute the worn-out custom of the Medes and Persians, they have been able to “stand upright,” for the vision of the Christ as revealed to them.

The *Manual* is inspired — not just a part, but *all* — and it never can be changed; but our conception of that which it means can be changed in the light of spiritual advancement; and our interpretation *is* being enlarged or magnified, and opened up, and our progress *is* assured as we rise higher in consciousness, all in accord with the demands of the Word of God wherever found.

Nevertheless, although inspired, the fact cannot be denied, or overlooked, that these By-laws are “laws of limitation,” “that which I said in my heart would never be needed . . . for a Christian Scientist.” (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*) When this *Manual* was first sent out into the world with its message, letters and telegrams were sent to the revelator congratulating her on the book. She at once replied by a most forceful rebuke: “Heaps upon heaps of praise confront me, and for what? That which I said in my heart would never be needed — namely, laws of limitation for a Christian Scientist” (*ibid.*).

According to her statement, the *Manual* stands for “laws of limitation” for the true Christian Scientist, and knowing the mass mesmerism of the human consciousness, she knew, too, that the only way ever to take off these “laws of limitation,” and allow the Christ to have full sway, was to make Rules and By-laws in which the “laws of limitation” would be removed automatically. This she did under God’s direction, and those who have “ears to hear” and “eyes to see” will find in that same *Manual* the removal of the “laws of limitation.”

“Each Rule and By-law in this *Manual* will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner” (*Miscellany*); “Each one was the fruit of experience and the result of prayer” (*ibid.*, 343). According to this, *each* and *every* By-law is to be obeyed, not just a few, and then leave the rest because they are not understood. By not obeying *each* and *every* By-law, her own followers are placing this inspired woman in a peculiar position, that of not being inspired, and the *Manual* not inspired; or, that half of it is inspired, and the other half not inspired. This is, of course, an impossible position to take, either way. The *Manual* is inspired, and *each* and *every* By-law is inspired.

By obeying that which is not to be done, is as much obedience as obeying that which is to be done. And the object of those Rules, which require her approval or signature, is to remove the *limitation*. Just think of it! The wisdom which could provide for the advancement of those who have the spiritual sense to see this wisdom! If *each* and *every* Rule is *not* obeyed, then the stewardship is as certainly voided, for it is distinctly and definitely stated that the By-laws never can be amended or annulled; and yet, by general consent, that is just what is being done.

To amend is to “change or alter under authority,” and that authority can only be given by the revelator herself; but “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs), and the door is shut tight on the advancing guard toward that light which lets in the resurrection (from material beliefs). The *Manual* contains Rules for the hands (laws of limitation); it also contains Rules for the heart (removal of laws of limitation.)

The very means provided for the releasing of the “laws of limitation” is ignored; that *light* which is already perceived as at hand, the reign by God, or *His* Christ, is set aside, even as in the days of Samuel and Saul, the *light* rejected, and the “laws of limitation” worshipped.

The removal of the “laws of limitation” is individually discerned through the spiritual senses giving us the higher meanings of Jesus’ commands. Those individuals who have discerned the spiritual sense of “her” *Manual*, after years of consecration under the “laws of limitation,” should take their advancing *march forward* (always away from the human consciousness) without condemnation or hatred for having the *light* of the Christ sufficiently to recognize the command of God to *march forward*. To condemn, to hate, to ostracize, to excommunicate, those who are *marching forward* is not seeing the means which is proved for that very *march forward*, where the boundaries are removed from the human consciousness to perceive the *limitless* divine consciousness.

The prophecy of Mary Baker Eddy, in *Unity of Good*, to “wait patiently on the Lord” and in less than another fifty years *His* name will be magnified [enlarged, borders taken off, and “laws of limitation” removed] in the apprehension of this new subject, as already *He* is *glorified* is fulfilled today, in the lifting up of the “laws of limitation” through the recognition of *His ever-presence*, and manifested as better bodies and higher morals. Shall we then, her own followers, who are to follow our “leader only so far as she follows Christ” (*Message to The Mother Church for 1901*), ignore the command of that divinity in her, to *march* out of the “laws of limitation” and take off the borders placed around *Him*?

To obey only a part of the Word of God, is not obedience, for it is not that “right apprehension of *Him*” (*Science and Health*); but to obey that which God says to do, as well as that which He says not to do, is true obedience. The results then are the “*greater works*” (living in spiritual sense only); so that we do not have to be constantly destroying that which is already destroyed and is not; but rather manifesting *Him* as Love instead of hatred, forbearance instead of condemnation, tolerance instead of bigotry, openness and frankness instead of “the whispering campaigns,” which are ever on the rampage.

The revelator saw that all would have to come out from under those “laws of limitation.” She knew, too, that there would be a continuous stream of coming out from under, and a continuous stream of coming in under; she knew that there would be newcomers into the fold, and at the same time, the advancing higher condition of thought would free itself from the “laws of limitation.” Thus would that high spiritual Church of

today be the example of continuous activity, typifying the *everywhereness* and supremacy of *good*.

The practitioners of this Christ-Science would be given their proper place as prophets of God, and, because of their works, would be respected and provided for by the kindness of those who have, through their works, seen that *great light* and have themselves become beacon *lights* to light the way for the “fallen by the wayside” (unawakened consciousness).

The *Manual* IS inspired, and will live forever, not because of the “laws of limitation,” but because of its applicability to all conditions of thought, and not just a few. The “twentieth century Church Manual” (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany*) is “digested only when Soul silences the dyspepsia of sense.” (ibid) Note the significance of the use of the words “twentieth century” — the time of removing the “laws of limitation” and the *utilization* of the laws of the heart, or the Golden Rule.

Every means has been provided and set forth for the recognition of the supremacy of God Himself; but the dull and doubting disciple will not be awakened from the “lethargy of mortals, produced by man-made doctrines” (*Science and Health*) until he recognizes the demands of Divine Science, that the church is to “evolve scientifically,” and “its present rules of service and present rulership will advance nearer perfection.” (*Miscellany*) But can it evolve unless that same dull disciple is willing to be awakened from the lethargy and apathy into which he has fallen by the wayside because of his adherence to “man-made doctrines” (*Science and Health*), dogmas and creeds. There is but one Rule, and that is the Golden Rule. That is *the Manual* which will live forever! And this *golden rule* is hidden in its pages, awaiting the acceptance of those who may be awakened that “the blind are no longer blind.”

Obey *all* the commands of God; obey *all* the By-laws; do what the revelator to this age says to do, and do *not* do what she says not to do. This is simple and easy to the enlightened and childlike thought (willingness to leave *all* the old viewpoints and the ways of men, the doctrines and creeds of orthodoxy, human opinions and methods); then, through the *Manual*, will *He be seen as the ruler of all the earth*.

As one begins to see the *entire Manual* as the inspired Word of God, one sees that the divine wisdom given to the *Manual*, through *His* revelator, *His* child, is constantly lessening business and enlarging spiritual sense; while worldly or earthly sense is constantly increasing human business, and thereby decreasing spiritual sense, or the healing. Thus, “business” overlays the spiritual sense of the living word, until there is lost to view that living child of spiritual sense, and only the dead child of earth is perceived. It is not too late yet, as evidenced by the woman who “went to sleep” with her living child (inspiration) by her side and woke up and found the dead child of earthly belief by her side; because that Judge (called Solomon), God, knew her heart, her meekness, her humility, her honesty, her inspiration, the living child was returned to her.

In II Chronicles is a wonderful instance of this same awakening, the discovery of a “Book of the law of the Lord,” just as one has now discovered the “Book of the law of the Lord” in the *Manual*. Josiah, the King, had determined (decided) with himself (even as Daniel did later), to “seek after the God of David his father,” and God placed in his hands, through Hilkiah, the priest (enlightened consciousness), a book. Then he found

that “our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book,” and not all therein is kept. However, it is not too late now, nor was it then, to do *all* that the Lord thy God commands us to do.

“Truth, like the light, shineth on darkness, that is, first on belief and opinions, and the darkness [or belief] comprehendeth it not, then on the advanced thought, etc., until it is understood.” (First Edition, *Science and Health* p 49)

*For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and
as the garden causeth the things that are sown
in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise to spring forth be-
fore all the nations [human consciousness].*

ISAIAH 61:11

This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Jesus, the Christ

LUKE 4:21

REJOICE: GOD *IS* DOING IT