

METANOIA

In Matthew 3, verses 2 and 8, we find these words spoken by the Master: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;" and "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Both of these words, "repent" and "repentance," are translated from a word in the Greek, "metanoia."

The translation is not literally correct, for this Greek word "metanoia" means, "change your mind," or "change your mind, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand;" and "bring forth therefore fruits encumbent upon a change of mind."

For many years the writer has known that the translation as found in the Bible was not exactly what was meant by Jesus, but believing that the Science of Christianity was a system of right thinking, and then finding another translation setting forth that the true translation should be "a radical change of thought," he was satisfied at the time that this is what Jesus intended to convey, to wit: "Have a radical change of thought, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

Now, when one "changes his thought," he does something within his own human mind, but when one "changes his mind," he permits the human mind to fall into innocuous desuetude (harmless disuse), whereupon the Christ-Mind arises in him and becomes his Saviour.

During the past thousands of years no one believed that there was any other mind for one to have than the mind which came into his possession when he was born, and that this mind if cultivated might become a great mind. Jesus knew better than this, and so did Paul, and doubtless many others, but the rank and file of humanity continued to so believe until the Revelator to this age, Mary Baker Eddy, came to the fore and made plain to the world that there *is* a Mind, which Mind was and is *God*—the only Mind, in fact; and that the so-called human mind (not truly a mind at all but rather the absence of *Mind*) must be laid aside, stilled, permitted to fall into disuse, whereupon to the degree that this came to pass, the Christ would arise in whomsoever did so.

This is what the Word of God spoken through Isaiah set forth, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon *his* shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," and, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David [of him that is beloved of God], and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts [the automatic power of God] will perform this."

We have become accustomed to say, "I changed my mind," but when we so said we did not in any sense mean that we had really changed our mind; but we meant that whoever said this had simply changed the thoughts within his own human mind. This was natural enough when we believed that each one had a mind which he carried with him from the cradle to the grave. But when Mrs. Eddy came with her wonderful revelation that,

“Mind is God” and that there is “but one Mind,” and that the human mind is a counterfeit of this “one Mind,” which counterfeit has to be given up, then we began to understand that it was not a matter of changing the thoughts within our human minds, but was the “take *no* thought” as Jesus said; to still the human mind; stop our own thinking; or, “silence the material senses;” thus rolling away the stone of materiality and permitting the Christ to arise and become our Savior.

Jesus was most emphatic on this point. In his greatest dissertation, the Sermon on the Mount as it is called, he over and over again emphasized this, and said, “Take *no* thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink;” take *no* thought “for your body, what ye shall put on [the body]” and “Take therefore *no* thought for the morrow [the future].” He did not say to think right about it or to change your thoughts about it, but to take *no* thought whatsoever. Moreover, he ridiculed the possibility of our thinking being in any way potent to do anything, by interpolating, “which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?” To which, of course, the answer is always in the negative. He used this word “metanoia” as we have it in the Greek, though no doubt he spoke in the Syrian language; or, in English, said “change your mind.” So we find him telling us not to do our thinking, but to stop it, or to “take *no* thought,” whereupon the Christ-Mind would arise in us, and taking possession would assume the government hitherto stupidly arrogated to ourselves; from thenceforth the government would be upon His shoulder, with consequent harmony in every way.

How is this to be accomplished? By refusing to entertain human thoughts or opinions, by refusing to recognize the human mind and its vagaries, by refusing to argue for or against its suggestions, for to do this is to look *into* the sepulchre; whereas to look away from it, to turn to God, the one Mind, to see God everywhere, rolls away the stone from the door of consciousness and permits the Christ within to arise and become the Saviour.

Then, and then only, do we surrender this human mind, and the government is on the shoulder of the Christ. Listen to what God says, through Isaiah, “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake *his* way, and the unrighteous man *his* thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For *My* thoughts are not *your* thoughts, neither are *your* ways *My* ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are *My* ways higher than *your* ways, and *My* thoughts than *your* thoughts.”

Surely then, if this be so, that God’s thoughts are not the human being’s thoughts, and of course never will be, and if those thoughts of God are higher “as the heavens are higher than the earth (than your thoughts),” it is high time that we stopped thinking our foolish thoughts and surrendered our thoughts to God, the one Mind, or “changed our mind.”