

THE REAPERS

Christ Jesus once gave the following parable to his followers: "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

"His disciples came unto him saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man [your true self]; The field is the world [human consciousness, your own consciousness]; the good seed are the children of the kingdom [spiritual ideas]; but the tares are the children of the wicked one [wrong thoughts, fears, wrong desires, worries, anxieties, moroseness, forebodings]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil [the universal false beliefs of error, nothing personal at all; you must be careful to keep them quite impersonal, and not to attach them to people, places, or things]; the harvest is the end of the world [the end of that false state of consciousness, the end of believing in good and evil]; and the reapers are the angels [spiritual ideas flying to and fro in your consciousness; the light of the Christ; intelligence; the Truth coming to you]. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire [cleansing, purging]; so shall it be in the end of this world [the only way the end of this world ever comes, to each one individually, through spiritualization of consciousness]. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears [spiritual sense] to hear, let him hear."

The above is parallel to the statement, which is the Word of God, in *Science and Health*, "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick."

This is what one who claims to be a true Christian Scientist should do. He should, in spite of all the testimony against him, continue to behold the perfect man, "where sinning mortal man appears to mortals." No matter how material a thing may appear to be, the fact is that it is spiritual and perfect, and some day the light of the Christ will shine forth so brightly that under that light there will appear harmony where there seemed to be discord, health instead of sickness, peace instead of pain, and normality instead of abnormality.

This same Word of God in *Science and Health* says, "One only of the following

statements can be true: (1) that everything is matter; (2) that everything is Mind. Which one is it?" The answer is indubitably, "... everything is Mind." This then being so, why should we be continually fooled into believing that there is matter? To believe that there is matter is to be led into all sorts of trouble, whereas to know the truth, we are instantly set free.

It is something like coming into a room where there is a hat and a coat hanging on a hatrack. By reason of an insufficiency of light, the one entering the room believes the form in the corner is a burglar, and from this false belief dire results may occur. In the attempt to flee from the supposed burglar (which is simply the creation of his own false viewpoint, or the devil if we care to so term it), one may trip and be rendered unconscious or even meet with a fatal accident, attributing it all to the presence of a burglar who is not there. If one, however, instead of yielding to what his material senses tell him, will hold fast to the true facts, then as one becomes accustomed to the dim or peculiar light under which he stands, the object will become more and more distinct until the seeming burglar fades out entirely, and in its stead shows forth the true facts, namely, a hat and coat hanging on a coatrack. To this way, of course, there are no attendant evil effects. That one then, standing firmly, has recognized the truth and the truth has set him free.