

THE LAW OF LOVE

In the Bible, it is related that on an occasion during Jesus' sojourn on this earth, "a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live."

Here we have Jesus' own statement that obedience to this law, the law of Love, results in eternal life, which necessarily must include the overcoming of sin, disease and death. Paul, too, says that he who obeys the command of loving one another "hath fulfilled the law."

What is this law of Love, this law which if obeyed insures life eternal? In the year 1866, Mary Baker Eddy discovered this law of Love, and named it Christian Science. She did not in any sense make this law of Love, any more than the Pilgrims made America. They discovered it, for it was there all the time. Mary Baker Eddy, the Revelator to this age, discovered the law of Love too, for it was here all the time.

Law that is true law is ever-operative, unbreakable, impersonal, unvarying. The moment one breaks a law, that law ceases to be a real law. Let us take the law of gravitation. It is impersonal, unvarying and ever-operative, and though it has been set aside, nevertheless for the purpose of illustration it will serve. So, too, with the law of light with regard to the sun. If one complies with the law and has an unobstructed view of the sun, he will receive its light and heat. He must. He cannot help it. It is law. So, too, with the law of gravitation. If you obey this law, and stand out under the broad heavens during a shower, the rain will fall on you and you will get wet. You must. You cannot avoid it. It is law.

It matters not whether one complies with the law advertently or inadvertently, consciously or unconsciously, the results are unfailing, because it is law. One might be forced into the sunlight or into the open air wholly against his will, but the result would be just the same as though that one had gone forth of his own accord. In the first instance, he would receive the light and heat from the sun, and in the second, he would get wet. It must be so, for it is law.

It is not within the power of the law of gravitation or the law of light to prevent one from receiving the heat and light or raindrops, provided the person has complied with the law. The business of the law of gravitation is to pull straight, and the business of the sun is to emit light and heat. So, the law being obeyed in either case, that one who is obedient will obtain the results. Jesus recognized this fact, and expressed it in his own manner when he said, "For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Why? Because it is according to law.

Now, Mary Baker Eddy, this sweet New England woman, had from her youth striven to know more about God, and as a result of her consecration to good, her purity,

her love and her sincerity, she was unwittingly obeying the law of God, or the law of Love. Others, such as Wesley and Luther, have unwittingly obeyed this law by similarly consecrating their lives to doing good, and as a result have received the benefits invariably following such obedience. So did Mrs. Eddy, the Revelator to this age, and on a memorable occasion when she suffered a so-called fatal accident, she, by reason of obeying inadvertently this law of Love, became a recipient of God's wondrous beneficence and was instantly healed.

Mrs. Eddy, through study and research, had acquired wisdom, and on this occasion she knew that she had fulfilled some law. She knew that nothing would occur unless according to law, and so, right here differing from all other beneficiaries of the law of Love, she set herself to find out what this law was which she had obeyed unknowingly. To do this, she secluded herself for several years, withdrew from society, devoted her time to the study of the Bible, and practiced what she understood until she actually discovered this unfailing law of Love, and also found out the exact rules whereby was to be obeyed. Much, then, as a child practices the law of gravitation did she practice the law of Love, until she was at last convinced that the Truth had been revealed to her. After proving it by healing the sick and sinning, and by doing good generally, she gave it to a waiting humanity in the book called *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

Now, what is this law of Love which she discovered, and how can we obey it? It is the law of loving God and our neighbor as ourselves, which being done, is obedience to or the fulfillment of this law of God, and the results are sure and certain. It is the Golden Rule, or the very foundation of Christianity which Jesus gave to the world. It is the law of Christianity, for to obey the law of loving God and our neighbor, she discovered, is to see or be conscious of God and man aright. Not as a personal God, by which is meant a humanized God, and not as a human material man called a mortal, who is subject to sin, disease and death, but to know God as infinite Mind, good, Love, Principle, Spirit, and man as image, idea or likeness of this infinite impersonal Mind. To do this is to love God and our neighbor, and to practice constantly that Golden Rule, which alone heals.

Paul said, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another," or to put it in the affirmative, "We owe to every man that we love one another." We owe it to each and every one that we be not deceived into believing the false evidence of the material senses, which tell us that man is subject to sin, disease and death. Rather should we be aware of what man is, and perceive him as our Father's image, or become conscious of man as the Son of God.

It is related of John that in his latter days, in Patmos, when addressed, he would invariably say in reply to any question, "Little children, love one another," which is no less plain than to say in the vernacular of today, "You who are as little children in the apprehension of the law of Love, always recognize only the spiritual sense of man when the counterfeit is presented to you, as it constantly is."

It is set forth in *Science and Health* the rules of loving God and one's neighbor as one's self. More than this, Mrs. Eddy has worked out the whole scheme of evil's attempt to foist itself upon us as a reality. Plainly she shows forth the nothingness of evil in every guise and disguise, and does this by holding fast constantly to the allness of God or good. It, therefore, is but a matter of study and practice on our part. We should try out the Principle and rules set forth in Christian Science, and because it is according to law, we will find that when this law of Love is obeyed, it is unfailing in its results.

It is not to be expected that we should obey this law of Love as naturally today as we obey the law of gravitation or light, because we have not been educated up to it, but we can start at this very moment to act in accord with this law of Love so far as we understand it. Jesus obeyed this law of Love as naturally as we obey the law of gravitation. He commenced as a child to practice it and when he arrived at the age of about thirty, he was as absolutely sure of the results of obedience to that law of Love as we are today sure of the result of obeying the law of gravitation.

We studied this law of gravitation from the moment we became conscious; as babies when we lost our rattles, we noticed that they fell down; they did not go up. Later, we learned to look for them and other things on the floor, and not on the ceiling. Soon, when we tripped, we learned by experience to put out our hands to protect our little noses, until after a time we automatically obeyed this law of gravitation in our every act.

We must become little children again in regard to this law of Love. By practicing it on every occasion we will soon find uniform results; and when we are tempted to fall into the error of believing man to be what he is not, we will learn to put out our hands, or manifest spiritual power in obedience to the law of Love; thus preventing the impending fall.

It is said that the law of Love is efficient only when wrong viewpoints, or the result of wrong viewpoints, are to be overcome; but what of some real condition, some real case of sickness, poverty, discord which has occurred without the preliminary wrong viewpoint? Christian Science boldly states, and without fear of successful contradiction, that no evil of any kind whatsoever can occur without the preliminary of wrong viewpoints, and hence is always antidoted by the law of Love.

To obey the law of Love, to love our neighbor as ourselves, is to be set free from the bondage with which Satan has bound us. This is the very law which Jesus said he came to fulfill, not to destroy. The laws which he seemed to set aside or destroy were only material laws, laws which he refused to recognize as real laws, and hence was not bound by them in any way. In fact, he broke every known so-called law of matter, and thereby proved that either he was not stating the truth when he said he had not come to destroy, but to fulfill; or else he meant that the only law to be recognized as law was the spiritual law of God, the law of Love, which neither he nor anyone else could possibly set aside. Yet, Jesus was very careful to obey the laws of the land. He paid the tax according to law, and he was particular in obeying the laws of what might be termed the health board, for when he healed the lepers he said, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests"

True prayer is utilizing constantly this law of Love.