

October 24, 1909

Subject: 17

PROBATION AFTER DEATH.

ooo3

-- Golden Text --

Psalm 68:20

20 He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death.

Responsive Reading

Acts 10:24-36,40-42

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore came I unto you

without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

34 #Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him

after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Section 1

Job 33:4

4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Psalm 16:11

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 36:9

9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

John 6:45-47

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

oo3o Chapter 10: Science of Being - 290:3-10

(Death no advantage)

If the Principle, rule, and demonstration of man's being are not in the least understood before what is termed death overtakes mortals, they will rise no higher spiritually in the scale of existence on account of that single experience, but will remain as material as before the transition, still seeking happiness through a material, instead of through a spiritual sense of life, and from selfish and inferior motives.

ooo3 Chapter 14: Recapitulation - 470:32

(10) Question: What is Mind?

ADAM = Nothingness.

Topic: Man

(Indestructible relationship)

The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.

ooo3 Chapter 14: Recapitulation - 471:13-20

(10) Question: What is Mind?

ADAM = Nothingness.

Topic: Man

(Celestial evidence)

The facts of divine Science should be admitted, - although the evidence as to these facts is not supported by evil, by matter, or by material sense, - because the evidence that God and man coexist is fully sustained by spiritual sense. Man is, and forever has been, God's reflection. God is infinite, therefore ever present, and there is no other power nor presence. Hence the spirituality of the universe is the only fact of creation.

oo2o Chapter 11: Some Objections Answered - 347:6-7

(Serving two masters) Nothing really has Life but God, who is infinite Life; hence all is Life, and death has no dominion.

oo1o Chapter 12: Christian Science Practice - 410:4-7

(Life eternal and present)

"This is life eternal," says Jesus, - is, not shall be; and then he defines everlasting life as a present knowledge of his Father and of himself, - the knowledge of Love, Truth, and Life.

Section 2

Job 18:1,5-8,14,19,21

1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,

5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.

7 The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

14 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.

19 He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings.

21 Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him that knoweth not God.

John 3:19,20

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

o2oo Chapter 7: Physiology - 188:11

(Disease a dream)

Mortal existence is a dream of pain and pleasure in matter, a dream of sin, sickness, and death; and it is like the dream we have in sleep, in which every one recognizes his condition to be wholly a state of mind. In both the waking and the sleeping dream, the dreamer thinks that his body is material and the suffering is in that body.

oo3o Chapter 10: Science of Being - 283:21-24

(Spiritual structure)

This false belief as to what really constitutes life so detracts from God's character and nature, that the true sense of His power is lost to all who cling to this falsity.

o1oo Chapter 8: Footsteps of Truth - 244:13-22

(Man never less than man)

Man undergoing birth, maturity, and decay is like the beasts and vegetables, - subject to laws of decay. If man were dust in his earliest stage of existence, we might admit the hypothesis that he

returns eventually to his primitive condition; but man was never more nor less than man.

If man flickers out in death or springs from matter into being, there must be an instant when God is without His entire manifestation, - when there is no full reflection of the infinite Mind.

oo3o Chapter 10: Science of Being - 285:7-11

(The human counterfeit)

What, then, is the material personality which suffers, sins, and dies? It is not man, the image and likeness of God, but man's counterfeit, the inverted likeness, the unlikeness called sin, sickness, and death.

oo3o Chapter 10: Science of Being - 305:22

(Inverted images)

In the illusion of life that is here to-day and gone to-morrow, man would be wholly mortal, were it not that Love, the divine Principle that obtains in divine Science, destroys all error and brings immortality to light. Because man is the reflection of his Maker, he is not subject to birth, growth, maturity, decay. These mortal dreams are of human origin, not divine.

Section 3

Psalm 102:1,2,16-20

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.

2 Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.

16 When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

17 He will regard the prayer of the

destitute, and not despise their prayer.

18 This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.

19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth;

20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

I Corinthians 15:19,20

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1ooo Chapter 4: Christian Science versus Spiritualism - 90:24

(Scientific finalities)

The admission to one's self that man is God's own likeness sets man free to master the infinite idea. This conviction shuts the door on death, and opens it wide towards immortality. The understanding and recognition of Spirit must finally come, and we may as well improve our time in solving the mysteries of being through an apprehension of divine Principle. At present we know not what man is, but we certainly shall know this when man reflects God.

1ooo Chapter 4: Christian Science versus Spiritualism - 91:16

(Man's genuine being)

Absorbed in material selfhood we discern and reflect but faintly the substance of Life or Mind. The denial of material selfhood aids the discernment of man's spiritual and eternal individuality, and destroys the erroneous knowledge gained from matter or through what are termed the material senses.

o2oo Chapter 7: Physiology - 191:8-19(to .)

(The immortal birth)

As a material, theoretical life-basis is found to be a misapprehension of existence, the spiritual and divine Principle of man dawns upon human thought, and leads it to "where the young child was," - even to the birth of a new-old idea, to the spiritual sense of being and of what Life includes. Thus the whole earth will be transformed by Truth on its pinions of light, chasing away the darkness of error.

(Spiritual freedom)

The human thought must free itself from self-imposed materiality and bondage. It should no longer ask of the head, heart, or lungs: What are man's prospects for life? Mind is not helpless.

2oo0 Chapter 3: Marriage - 66:11

(Salutary sorrow)

Spiritual development germinates not from seed sown in the soil of material hopes, but when these decay, Love propagates anew the higher joys of Spirit, which have no taint of earth. Each successive stage of experience unfolds new views of divine goodness and love.

Section 4

Job 14:14,15

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change

come.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Romans 5:12-15,17

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

oo3o Chapter 10: Science of Being - 290:16

(Future purification)

If the change called death destroyed the belief in sin, sickness, and death, happiness would be won at the moment of dissolution, and be forever permanent; but this is not so. Perfection is gained only by perfection. They who are unrighteous shall be unrighteous still, until in divine Science Christ,

Truth, removes all ignorance and sin.

0010 Chapter 12: Christian Science Practice - 409:27

(Death no benefactor)

We have no right to say that life depends on matter now, but will not depend on it after death. We cannot spend our days here in ignorance of the Science of Life, and expect to find beyond the grave a reward for this ignorance. Death will not make us harmonious and immortal as a recompense for ignorance. If here we give no heed to Christian Science, which is spiritual and eternal, we shall not be ready for spiritual Life hereafter.

0030 Chapter 10: Science of Being - 291:12-25(to 2nd .)

(Salvation and probation)

Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them. Heaven is not a locality, but a divine state of Mind in which all the manifestations of Mind are harmonious and immortal, because sin is not there and man is found having no righteousness of his own, but in possession of "the mind of the Lord," as the Scripture says.

"In the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." So we read in Ecclesiastes. This text has been transformed into the popular proverb, "As the tree falls, so it must lie." As man falleth asleep, so shall he awake. As death findeth mortal man, so shall he be after death, until probation and growth shall effect the needed change. Mind never becomes dust.

0100 Chapter 8: Footsteps of Truth - 233:8

(Perfection gained slowly)

In the midst of imperfection, perfection is seen and acknowledged only by degrees. The ages must slowly work up to perfection. How long it must be

before we arrive at the demonstration of scientific being, no man knoweth, - not even "the Son but the Father;" but the false claim of error continues its delusions until the goal of goodness is assiduously earned and won.

Section 5

Mark 16:9-14

9 #Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 #After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 #Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

3000 Chapter 2: Atonement and Eucharist - 42:6,15-29

(A belief in death)

Death will be found at length to be a mortal

dream, which comes in darkness and disappears with the light.

(Death outdone)

The resurrection of the great demonstrator of God's power was the proof of his final triumph over body and matter, and gave full evidence of divine Science, - evidence so important to mortals. The belief that man has existence or mind separate from God is a dying error. This error Jesus met with divine Science and proved its nothingness. Because of the wondrous glory which God bestowed on His anointed, temptation, sin, sickness, and death had no terror for Jesus. Let men think they had killed the body! Afterwards he would show it to them unchanged. This demonstrates that in Christian Science the true man is governed by God - by good, not evil - and is therefore not a mortal but an immortal. Jesus had taught his disciples the Science of this proof.

3000 Chapter 2: Atonement and Eucharist - 39:13

(A belief suicidal) The Bible calls death an enemy, and Jesus overcame death and the grave instead of yielding to them. He was "the way." To him, therefore, death was not the threshold over which he must pass into living glory.

3000 Chapter 2: Atonement and Eucharist - 46:20

(Spiritual ascension)

Jesus' unchanged physical condition after what seemed to be death was followed by his exaltation above all material conditions; and this exaltation explained his ascension, and revealed unmistakably a probationary and progressive state beyond the grave. Jesus was "the way;" that is, he marked the way for all men. In his final demonstration, called the ascension, which closed the earthly record of Jesus, he rose above the physical knowledge of his disciples, and the material senses saw him no more.

Section 6

Revelation 7:1-3,9-12

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

3000 Chapter 2: Atonement and Eucharist - 39:18- Subheadings in this lesson

27

(Present salvation)

"Now," cried the apostle, "is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," - meaning, not that now men must prepare for a future-world salvation, or safety, but that now is the time in which to experience that salvation in spirit and in life. Now is the time for so-called material pains and material pleasures to pass away, for both are unreal, because impossible in Science. To break this earthly spell, mortals must get the true idea and divine Principle of all that really exists and governs the universe harmoniously.

0030 Chapter 10: Science of Being - 285:3

(Our physical insensibility to Spirit)

This Science of being obtains not alone hereafter in what men call Paradise, but here and now; it is the great fact of being for time and eternity.

0001 Chapter 16: The Apocalypse - 573:13-28

(Nearness of Deity)

Accompanying this scientific consciousness was another revelation, even the declaration from heaven, supreme harmony, that God, the divine Principle of harmony, is ever with men, and they are His people. Thus man was no longer regarded as a miserable sinner, but as the blessed child of God. Why? Because St. John's corporeal sense of the heavens and earth had vanished, and in place of this false sense was the spiritual sense, the subjective state by which he could see the new heaven and new earth, which involve the spiritual idea and consciousness of reality. This is Scriptural authority for concluding that such a recognition of being is, and has been, possible to men in this present state of existence, - that we can become conscious, here and now, of a cessation of death, sorrow, and pain. This is indeed a foretaste of absolute Christian Science.

- 17 1 - Death no advantage
- 17 1 - Indestructible relationship
- 17 1 - Celestial evidence
- 17 1 - Serving two masters
- 17 1 - Life eternal and present
- 17 2 - Disease a dream
- 17 2 - Spiritual structure
- 17 2 - Man never less than man
- 17 2 - The human counterfeit
- 17 2 - Inverted images
- 17 3 - Scientific finalities
- 17 3 - Man's genuine being
- 17 3 - The immortal birth
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- 17 3 - Salutary sorrow
- 17 4 - Future purification
- 17 4 - Death no benefactor
- 17 4 - Salvation and probation
- 17 4 - Perfection gained slowly
- 17 5 - A belief in death
- 17 5 - Death outdone
- 17 5 - A belief suicidal
- 17 5 - Spiritual ascension
- 17 6 - Present salvation
- 17 6 - Our physical insensibility to Spirit
- 17 6 - Nearness of Deity