

Extract from ***Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures***,  
by Mary Baker Eddy

## CHAPTER IV — CHRISTIAN SCIENCE VERSUS SPIRITUALISM

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#### **Spiritual awakening**

Lulled by stupefying illusions, the world is asleep  
in the cradle of infancy, dreaming away the hours.  
30 Material sense does not unfold the facts of  
existence; but spiritual sense lifts human  
consciousness into eternal Truth. Humanity advances

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1 slowly out of sinning sense into spiritual understanding;  
unwillingness to learn all things rightly, binds Christen-  
3 dom with chains.

#### **The darkest hours of all**

Love will finally mark the hour of harmony, and spir-  
itualization will follow, for Love is Spirit. Before error  
6 is wholly destroyed, there will be interrup-  
tions of the general material routine. Earth  
will become dreary and desolate, but summer and winter,  
9 seedtime and harvest (though in changed forms), will  
continue unto the end, — until the final spiritualization of  
all things. "The darkest hour precedes the dawn."

#### **Arena of contest**

12 This material world is even now becoming the arena

for conflicting forces. On one side there will be discord  
and dismay; on the other side there will be  
15 Science and peace. The breaking up of mate-  
rial beliefs may seem to be famine and pestilence, want  
and woe, sin, sickness, and death, which assume new  
18 phases until their nothingness appears. These disturb-  
ances will continue until the end of error, when all  
discord will be swallowed up in spiritual Truth.

21 Mortal error will vanish in a moral chemicalization.  
This mental fermentation has begun, and will continue  
until all errors of belief yield to understanding. Belief is  
24 changeable, but spiritual understanding is changeless.

### **Millennial glory**

As this consummation draws nearer, he who has  
shaped his course in accordance with divine Science  
27 will endure to the end. As material knowl-  
edge diminishes and spiritual understanding  
increases, real objects will be apprehended mentally  
30 instead of materially.

During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor  
to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but

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1 those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in  
check. They will aid in the ejection of error. They  
3 will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the  
certainty of ultimate perfection.

### **Dangerous resemblances**

In reality, the more closely error simulates truth and  
6 so-called matter resembles its essence, mortal mind, the  
more impotent error becomes as a belief. Ac-  
cording to human belief, the lightning is fierce  
9 and the electric current swift, yet in Christian Science

the flight of one and the blow of the other will become harmless. The more destructive matter becomes, the  
12 more its nothingness will appear, until matter reaches its mortal zenith in illusion and forever disappears. The nearer a false belief approaches truth without passing  
15 the boundary where, having been destroyed by divine Love, it ceases to be even an illusion, the riper it becomes for destruction. The more material the belief, the more  
18 obvious its error, until divine Spirit, supreme in its domain, dominates all matter, and man is found in the likeness of Spirit, his original being.

21 The broadest facts array the most falsities against themselves, for they bring error from under cover. It requires courage to utter truth; for the higher Truth  
24 lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion.

"He uttered His voice, the earth melted." This Scripture indicates that all matter will disappear before the  
27 supremacy of Spirit.

### **Christianity still rejected**

Christianity is again demonstrating the Life that is  
30 Truth, and the Truth that is Life, by the apostolic work of casting out error and healing the sick. Earth has no repayment for the persecutions which

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1 attend a new step in Christianity; but the spiritual recompense of the persecuted is assured in the elevation of existence above mortal discord and in the gift of divine Love.  
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### **Spiritual foreshadowings**

The prophet of to-day beholds in the mental horizon the signs of these times, the reappearance of the Christianity which heals the sick and destroys error,  
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and no other sign shall be given. Body cannot be saved except through Mind. The Science of Christianity is misinterpreted by a material age, for it is the healing influence of Spirit (not *spirits*) which the material senses cannot comprehend, which can only be spiritually discerned. Creeds, doctrines, and human hypotheses do not express Christian Science; much less can they demonstrate it.

### **Revelation of Science**

Beyond the frail premises of human beliefs, above the loosening grasp of creeds, the demonstration of Christian Mind-healing stands a revealed and practical Science. It is imperious throughout all ages as Christ's revelation of Truth, of Life, and of Love, which remains inviolate for every man to understand and to practise.

### **Science as foreign to all religion**

For centuries — yea, always — natural science has not been considered a part of any religion, Christianity not excepted. Even now multitudes consider that which they call *science* has no proper connection with faith and piety. Mystery does not enshroud Christ's teachings, and they are not theoretical and fragmentary, but practical and complete; and being practical and complete, they are not deprived of their essential vitality.

### **Key to the kingdom**

The way through which immortality and life are learned is not ecclesiastical but Christian, not human but divine,

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1 not physical but metaphysical, not material but scientifically spiritual. Human philosophy, ethics, and superstition afford no demonstrable divine Principle

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by which mortals can escape from sin; yet  
to escape from sin, is what the Bible demands. "Work  
6 out your own salvation with fear and trembling," says  
the apostle, and he straightway adds: "for it is God  
9 which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good  
pleasure" (Philippians ii. 12, 13). Truth has furnished  
the key to the kingdom, and with this key Christian Sci-  
ence has opened the door of the human understanding.  
12 None may pick the lock nor enter by some other door.  
The ordinary teachings are material and not spiritual.  
Christian Science teaches only that which is spiritual and  
15 divine, and not human. Christian Science is unerring  
and Divine; the human sense of things errs because it  
is human.

18 Those individuals, who adopt theosophy, spiritualism,  
or hypnotism, may possess natures above some others  
who eschew their false beliefs. Therefore my contest is  
21 not with the individual, but with the false system. I  
love mankind, and shall continue to labor and to endure.

The calm, strong currents of true spirituality, the  
24 manifestations of which are health, purity, and self-  
immolation, must deepen human experience, until the  
beliefs of material existence are seen to be a bald imposi-  
27 tion, and sin, disease, and death give everlasting place  
to the scientific demonstration of divine Spirit and to  
God's spiritual, perfect man.

[End of Chapter]