



Christian Science Quarterly

Bible Lessons

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God the Preserver of Man

GOLDEN TEXT

Deuteronomy 33:12 *The*

... The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 18:6, 19, 22, 25, 35; 119:117, 151, 174; 4:3 *the Lord will, 8*

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

19 **He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.**

22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

25 **With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;**

35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

117 **Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.**

151 Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.

174 **I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.**

3 ... the Lord will hear when I call unto him.

8 **I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.**

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | **Isaiah 40:9 *Behold, 11***

9 Behold your God!

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

2 | **Isaiah 66:1 (to :), 13**

1 Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:

13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

3 | [Psalms 121:5, 7, 8](#)

5 The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

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

1 | [332:4](#)

Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation. As the apostle expressed it in words which he quoted with approbation from a classic poet: "For we are also His offspring."

Father-
Mother

2 | [516:21](#)

Man and woman as coexistent and eternal with God forever reflect, in glorified quality, the infinite Father-Mother God.

3 | [470:23–24, 32](#)

Man is the expression of God's being.

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.

4 | [151:23–24, 26–28](#)

The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness.

All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the entire being is found harmonious and eternal.

SECTION 2

The Bible

4 | [II Timothy 1:7](#) *God, 9, 10*

7 God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

5 | [John 6:2](#)

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

6 | [Luke 10:1, 17–20](#)

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19 Behold, I give unto

you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Science and Health

5 | [333:16–23](#)

The advent of Jesus of Nazareth marked the first century of the Christian era, but the Christ is without beginning of years or end of days. Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth.

The divine
Principle
and idea

6 | [259:11](#)

The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration.

7 | [328:14–17](#)

This understanding of man's power, when he is equipped by God, has sadly disappeared from Christian history. For centuries it has been dormant, a lost element of Christianity.

Promise
perpetual

8 | [494:5–15](#)

Is it not a species of infidelity to believe that so great a work as the Messiah's was done for himself or for God, who needed no help from Jesus' example to preserve the eternal harmony? But mortals did need this help, and Jesus pointed the way for them. Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need. It is not well to imagine that Jesus demonstrated the divine power to heal only for a select number or for a limited period of time, since to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good.

Inexhaustible
divine Love

The miracle of grace is no miracle to Love.

SECTION 3

The Bible

7 | [Romans 1:1, 6, 16](#) *I am (to ;)*

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;

8 | [Acts 15:40](#) *Paul*

40 Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

9 | [Acts 16:16–20, 23, 25–35](#)

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. 19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, 20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. 35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeants, saying, Let those men go.

*Science and Health*9 | [224:29–31 \(to 2nd .\)](#)

The power of God brings
deliverance to the captive.
No power can withstand divine Love.

Mental
emancipation

10 | [227:16–19](#)

God made man free. Paul
said, "I was free born." All
men should be free. "Where the Spirit of the Lord
is, there is liberty."

Native
freedom

11 | [560:22–24, 28](#)

Abuse of the motives and religion of St. Paul hid from view the apostle's character, which made him equal to his great mission.

To misunderstand Paul, was to be ignorant of the divine idea he taught. Ignorance of the divine idea betrays at once a greater ignorance of the divine Principle of the idea — ignorance of Truth and Love. The understanding of Truth and Love, the Principle which works out the ends of eternal good and destroys both faith in evil and the practice of evil, leads to the discernment of the divine idea.

12 | [226:14–17](#)

God has built a higher platform of human rights, and He has built it on diviner claims. These claims are not made through code or creed, but in demonstration of "on earth peace, good-will toward men."

13 | [1:6](#)

Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-immolation, are God's gracious means for accomplishing whatever has been successfully done for the Christianization and health of mankind.

14 | [225:5, 21](#)

You may know when first
Truth leads by the fewness
and faithfulness of its followers. Thus it is that the march of time bears onward freedom's banner. The powers of this world will fight, and will command their sentinels not to let truth pass the guard until it subscribes to their systems; but Science, heeding not the pointed bayonet, marches on. There is always some tumult, but there is a rallying to truth's standard.

Truth's
ordeal

Love is the liberator.

SECTION 4

The Bible

10 | [II Corinthians 4:1](#)

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

11 | [II Corinthians 6:4 in, 5, 10](#)

4 in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

12 | [Acts 27:1, 20–24, 41 \(to :\), 42–44](#)

1 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Cæsar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground;

42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. 43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

*Science and Health*15 | [232:7](#)

Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science.

16 | [424:5–11](#)

Accidents are unknown to God, or immortal Mind, and we must leave the mortal basis of belief and unite with the one Mind, in order to change the notion of chance to the proper sense of God's unerring direction and thus bring out harmony.

Under divine Providence there can be no accidents, since there is no room for imperfection in perfection.

17 | [22:11–20](#)

"Work out your own salvation," is the demand of Life and Love, for to this end God worketh with you. "Occupy till I come!" Wait for your reward, and "be not weary in well doing." If your endeavors are beset by fearful odds, and you receive no present reward, go not back to error, nor become a sluggard in the race.

When the smoke of battle clears away, you will discern the good you have done, and receive according to your deserving.

18 | [288:14](#)

The lightnings and thunderbolts of error may burst and flash till the cloud is cleared and the tumult dies away in the distance. Then the raindrops of divinity refresh the earth. As St. Paul says: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (of Spirit).

Accidents
unknown
to God

Wait for
reward

SECTION 5

The Bible

13 | [Acts 28:3, 5, 7–9](#)

3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

7 In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. 8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. 9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

14 | [I Timothy 4:12 be, 16](#)

12 be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

*Science and Health*19 | [387:18–19, 27](#)

That man does not pay the severest penalty who does the most good.

The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.

Christian
history

20 | [98:7–8](#)

Body cannot be saved except through Mind.

21 | [14:12–18](#)

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well. Sorrow is turned into joy when the body is controlled by spiritual Life, Truth, and Love.

Spiritualized
consciousness

22 | [514:26–28](#)

Understanding the control which Love held over all, Daniel felt safe in the lions' den, and Paul proved the viper to be harmless.

23 | [285:27](#)

As mortals reach, through knowledge of Christian Science, a higher sense, they will seek to learn, not from matter, but from the divine Principle, God, how to demonstrate the Christ, Truth, as the healing and saving power.

Salvation
is through
reform

SECTION 6

The Bible

15 | [II Corinthians 4:15 all, 17, 18](#)

15 all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the

things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

16 | [II Corinthians 5:20 \(to :\)](#)

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us:

17 | [II Corinthians 6:1, 2](#)

1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

18 | [II Corinthians 9:8, 11](#)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

*Science and Health*24 | [442:25–28](#)

St. Paul says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling:" Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

25 | [519:16](#)

What can fathom infinity! How shall we declare Him, till, in the language of the apostle, "we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"?

26 | 39:18–22

“Now,” cried the apostle, Present
salvation
“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.

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