



SEPTEMBER 11–17, 2023

Matter

GOLDEN TEXT

Proverbs 23:5 (to ?)

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?

RESPONSIVE READING

**Ecclesiastes 1:1, 2; 2:4–8, 10, 11,
26 God (to :); John 6:63 (to :)**

Eccl. 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

2:4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

26 . . . God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | Psalms 25:5, 12–14

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

12 What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. **13** His soul shall dwell at

ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.
 14 The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

2 | Deuteronomy 29:29 *those*

29 those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

3 | Galatians 3:3 *having*

3 having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

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

1 | 468:8-15

Question. — What is the scientific statement of being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.

2 | 107:1, 10

In the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and named my discovery Christian Science. God had

Christian
Science
discovered

been graciously preparing me during many years for the reception of this final revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental healing.

Through Christian Science, religion and medicine are inspired with a diviner nature and essence; fresh pinions are given to faith and understanding, and thoughts acquaint themselves intelligently with God.

Mission of
Christian
Science

3 | 108:19-3

When apparently near the confines of mortal existence, standing already within the shadow of the death-valley, I learned these truths in divine Science: that all real being is in God, the divine Mind, and that Life, Truth, and Love are all-powerful and ever-present; that the opposite of Truth, — called error, sin, sickness, disease, death, — is the false testimony of false material sense, of mind in matter; that this false sense evolves, in belief, a subjective state of mortal mind which this same so-called mind names *matter*, thereby shutting out the true sense of Spirit.

Light shining
in darkness

My discovery, that erring, mortal, misnamed *mind* produces all the organism and action of the mortal body, set my thoughts to work in new channels, and led up to my demonstration of the proposition that Mind is All and matter is naught as the leading factor in Mind-science.

New lines
of thought

SECTION 2

The Bible

4 | [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#)

29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

5 | [Genesis 11:1, 4-9 \(to :\)](#)

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth:

Science and Health

4 | [581:17-22](#)

BABEL. Self-destroying error; a kingdom divided against itself, which cannot stand; material knowledge.

The higher false knowledge builds on the basis of evidence obtained from the five corporeal senses, the more confusion ensues, and the more certain is the downfall of its structure.

5 | [168:6-8](#)

Whatever influence you cast on the side of matter, you take away from Mind, which would otherwise outweigh all else.

Belief on the
wrong side

6 | [389:22](#)

Materialists contradict their own statements. Their belief in material laws and in penalties for their infraction is the ancient error that there is fraternity between pain and pleasure, good and evil, God and Satan. This belief totters to its falling before the battle-axe of Science.

Ancient
confusion

7 | [28:6](#)

The determination to hold Spirit in the grasp of matter is the persecutor of Truth and Love.

8 | [119:1](#)

When we endow matter with vague spiritual power,

Unescapable
dilemma

— that is, when we do so in our theories, for of course we cannot really endow matter with what it does not and cannot possess, — we disown the Almighty, for such theories lead to one of two things. They either presuppose the self-evolution and self-government of matter, or else they assume that matter is the product of Spirit. To seize the first horn of this dilemma and consider matter as a power in and of itself, is to leave the creator out of His own universe; while to grasp the other horn of the dilemma and regard God as the creator of matter, is not only to make Him responsible for all disasters, physical and moral, but to announce Him as their source, thereby making Him guilty of maintaining perpetual misrule in the form and under the name of natural law.

9 | [167:22–26](#)

It is not wise to take
a halting and half-way
position or to expect to work equally with
Spirit and matter, Truth and error. There is
but one way — namely, God and His idea
— which leads to spiritual being.

Half-way
success

SECTION 3

The Bible

6 | [Psalms 61:2](#)

² From the end of the earth will I cry
unto thee, when my heart is over-

whelmed: lead me to the rock that is
higher than I.

7 | [Matthew 19:26 with God](#)

²⁶ with God all things are possible.

8 | [Matthew 14:22–32](#)

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. ²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. ²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst

thou doubt? ³² And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Science and Health

10 | [273:24](#)

Jesus walked on the waves, fed the multitude, healed the sick, and raised the dead in direct opposition to material laws. His acts were the demonstration of Science, overcoming the false claims of material sense or law.

*Spiritual law
the only law*

11 | [182:32](#)

The law of Christ, or Truth, makes all things possible to Spirit; but the so-called laws of matter would render Spirit of no avail, and demand obedience to materialistic codes, thus departing from the basis of one God, one lawmaker. To suppose that God constitutes laws of inharmony is a mistake; discords have no support from nature or divine law, however much is said to the contrary.

12 | [293:21-23](#)

There is no vapid fury of mortal mind — expressed in earthquake, wind, wave, lightning, fire, bestial ferocity — and this so-called mind is self-destroyed.

13 | [124:26](#)

We tread on forces. Withdraw them, and creation must collapse. Human knowledge calls them forces of matter; but divine Science declares that they be-

long wholly to divine Mind, are inherent in this Mind, and so restores them to their rightful home and classification.

14 | [495:14-20](#)

When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in your thought. Let neither fear nor doubt overshadow your clear sense and calm trust, that the recognition of life harmonious — as Life eternally is — can destroy any painful sense of, or belief in, that which Life is not.

*Steadfast and
calm trust*

SECTION 4

The Bible

9 | [Psalms 56:4, 13](#)

⁴ In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

¹³ For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

10 | [Mark 5:21-24, 35-42](#)

²¹ And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. ²² And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw

him, he fell at his feet, ²³ And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. ²⁴ And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

³⁵ While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

³⁷ And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. ³⁹ And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. ⁴⁰ And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. ⁴¹ And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. ⁴² And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Science and Health

15 | [429:31-9](#)

Jesus said (John viii. 51),
 "If a man keep my saying,
 he shall never see death." That statement is not confined to spiritual life, but includes all the phenomena of existence. Jesus demonstrated this, healing the dying and raising the dead. Mortal mind must part with error, must put off itself with its deeds, and immortal manhood, the Christ ideal, will appear. Faith should enlarge its borders and strengthen its base by resting upon Spirit instead of matter. When man gives up his belief in death, he will advance more rapidly towards God, Life, and Love.

Life
all-inclusive

16 | [210:25-26](#)

What is termed matter, being unintelligent, cannot say, "I suffer, I die, I am sick, or I am well."

17 | [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

SECTION 5

The Bible

11 | [Mark 6:34](#)

³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

12 | [John 6:35](#) *Jesus*

³⁵ Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

13 | [Luke 9:1-4, 6](#)

¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. ² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. ³ And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. ⁴ And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

⁶ And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Science and Health

18 | [139:4-5, 8-9](#)

From beginning to end, the Scriptures are full of accounts of the triumph of Spirit, Mind, over matter.

The Christian era was ushered in with signs and wonders.

19 | [271:7-8](#)

Jesus instructed his disciples whereby to heal the sick through Mind instead of matter.

20 | [530:5](#)

In divine Science, man is sustained by God, the divine Principle of being. The earth, at God's command, brings forth food for man's use. Knowing this, Jesus once said, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink," — presuming not on the prerogative of his creator, but recognizing God, the Father and Mother of all, as able to feed and clothe man as He doth the lilies.

Divine
providence

21 | [442:22-25](#)

Christ, Truth, gives mortals temporary food and clothing until the material, transformed with the ideal, disappears, and man is clothed and fed spiritually.

22 | 37:16-17, 20

When will Jesus' professed followers learn to emulate him in *all* his ways and to imitate his mighty works?

May the Christians of to-day take up the more practical import of that career! It is possible, — yea, it is the duty and privilege of every child, man, and woman, — to follow in some degree the example of the Master by the demonstration of Truth and Life, of health and holiness. Christians claim to be his followers, but do they follow him in the way that he commanded? Hear these imperative commands: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect!" "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature!" "*Heal the sick!*"

SECTION 6

The Bible

14 | Ecclesiastes 12:13

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

15 | I Thessalonians 5:16, 17, 19, 21

16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Science and Health

23 | 492:3-4, 7 (only)

For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence.

Being is holiness, harmony, immortality.

24 | 368:14

When we come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error.

25 | 340:4-12 (to 1st.)

This text in the book of Ecclesiastes conveys the Christian Science thought, especially when the word *duty*, which is not in the original, is omitted: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." In other words: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: love God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole of man in His image and likeness.

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