



SEPTEMBER 16–22, 2024

Matter

GOLDEN TEXT

Isaiah 44:10

Why make an idol or an image that can't do a thing?

The Golden Text is from the Contemporary English Version.

RESPONSIVE READING

Deuteronomy 5:1; 4:6, 15–19, 39

5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.”

4:6 “Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.’

15 Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

16 lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,

17 the likeness of any animal that *is* on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,

18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that *is* in the water beneath the earth.

19 And *take heed*, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

39 Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart, that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is no other.*”

The Responsive Reading is from the New King James Version®.

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | **John 4:24**

²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

2 | **Isaiah 42:8, 16 I will**

⁸ I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

¹⁶ I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

3 | **Deuteronomy 5:7–9 (to :)**

⁷ Thou shalt have none other gods before me. ⁸ Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: ⁹ Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them:

4 | **Psalms 56:4**

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.

5 | Jeremiah 17:7, 14

⁷ Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

¹⁴ Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

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

1 | 535:10–14

Divine Science deals its chief blow at the supposed material foundations of life and intelligence.

Judgment
on error

It dooms idolatry. A belief in other gods, other creators, and other creations must go down before Christian Science.

2 | 108:19

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

3 | 114:13–17, 23–24

As Mind is immortal, the phrase *mortal mind* implies something untrue and therefore unreal; and as the phrase is used in teaching Christian Science, it is meant to designate that which has no real existence.

Imperfect
terminology

Christian Science explains all cause and effect as mental, not physical.

4 | 116:5, 13

Science so reverses the evidence before the corporeal human senses, as to make this Scriptural testimony true in our hearts, “The last shall be first, and the first last,” so that God and His idea may be to us what divinity really is and must of necessity be, — all-inclusive.

Spiritual
universe

Works on metaphysics leave the grand point untouched. They never crown the power of Mind as the Messiah, nor do they carry the day against physical enemies, — even to the extinction of all belief in matter, evil, disease, and death, — nor insist upon the fact that God is all, therefore that matter is nothing beyond an image in mortal mind.

Aim of
Science

SECTION 2

The Bible

6 | **Ecclesiastes 5:7**

⁷ For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

7 | **Jeremiah 23:32**

³² Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord.

8 | **Psalms 115:4–8**

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
⁵ They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: ⁶ They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: ⁷ They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸ They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

9 | **Romans 8:5, 16**

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Science and Health

5 | 475:7–13

The Scriptures inform us that man is made in the image and likeness of God. Matter is not that likeness. The likeness of Spirit cannot be so unlike Spirit. Man is spiritual and perfect; and because he is spiritual and perfect, he must be so understood in Christian Science.

Fleshly
factors unreal

6 | 173:11–12

What is termed matter manifests nothing but a material mentality.

7 | 397:24–28

Mortals are no more material in their waking hours than when they act, walk, see, hear, enjoy, or suffer in dreams. We can never treat mortal mind and matter separately, because they combine as one.

Independent
mentality

8 | 71:10

Close your eyes, and you may dream that you see a flower, — that you touch and smell it. Thus you learn that the flower is a product of the so-called mind, a formation of thought rather than of matter. Close your eyes again, and you may see landscapes, men, and women. Thus you learn that these also are images, which mortal mind holds and evolves and which simulate mind, life, and intelligence. From dreams also you learn that neither mortal mind nor

Dream-
lessons

matter is the image or likeness of God, and that immortal Mind is not in matter.

9 | 263:32–10

The fading forms of matter, the mortal body and material earth, are the fleeting concepts of the human mind. They have their day before the permanent facts and their perfection in Spirit appear. The crude creations of mortal thought must finally give place to the glorious forms which we sometimes behold in the camera of divine Mind, when the mental picture is spiritual and eternal. Mortals must look beyond fading, finite forms, if they would gain the true sense of things. Where shall the gaze rest but in the unsearchable realm of Mind?

Mind's true
camera

SECTION 3

The Bible

10 | Ezekiel 14:6 *Repent (to 2nd ;)*

⁶ Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols;

11 | Jeremiah 8:8 *the pen, 9, 11*

⁸ the pen of the scribes is in vain. ⁹ The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?

¹¹ For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

12 | **Psalms 119:33, 37**

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

13 | **II Corinthians 10:3–5**

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Science and Health

10 | **214:18–21**

We bow down to matter, and entertain finite thoughts of God like the pagan idolater. Mortals are inclined to fear and to obey what they consider a material body more than they do a spiritual God.

Idolatrous
illusions

11 | **208:25–29 A**

A material body only expresses a material and mortal mind. A mortal man possesses this

Sickness as
only thought

body, and he makes it harmonious or discordant according to the images of thought impressed upon it.

12 | 411:21

Disease is always induced by a false sense mentally entertained, not destroyed. Disease is an image of thought externalized. The mental state is called a material state. Whatever is cherished in mortal mind as the physical condition is imaged forth on the body.

Fear as the
foundation

13 | 179:32

Descriptions of disease given by physicians and advertisements of quackery are both prolific sources of sickness. As mortal mind is the husbandman of error, it should be taught to do the body no harm and to uproot its false sowing.

14 | 196:20, 31-2

Such books as will rule disease out of mortal mind, — and so efface the images and thoughts of disease, instead of impressing them with forcible descriptions and medical details, — will help to abate sickness and to destroy it.

Dangerous
shoals
avoided

The press unwittingly sends forth many sorrows and diseases among the human family. It does this by giving names to diseases and by printing long descriptions which mirror images of disease distinctly in thought.

15 | 400:12

Eradicate the image of disease from the perturbed thought before it has taken tangible shape in conscious thought, *alias* the body, and you prevent the development of disease. This task becomes easy, if you understand that every disease is an error, and has no character nor type, except what mortal mind assigns to it. By lifting thought above error, or disease, and contending persistently for truth, you destroy error.

Eradicate
error from
thought

16 | 391:3

Blot out the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin. Then, when thou art delivered to the judgment of Truth, Christ, the judge will say, "Thou art whole!"

SECTION 4**The Bible****14 | II Corinthians 6:16 *what (to 1st ;)***

¹⁶ what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God;

15 | I Chronicles 16:29 *worship*

²⁹ worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

16 | Acts 10:38 God

³⁸ God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

17 | Matthew 9:2–8

² And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

³ And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. ⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? ⁵ For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? ⁶ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. ⁷ And he arose, and departed to his house. ⁸ But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Science and Health**17 | 316:7**

Christ, Truth, was demonstrated through Jesus to prove the power of Spirit over the flesh, — to show that Truth is made manifest by its effects upon the human mind and body, healing sickness and destroying sin.

18 | 210:16, 25–28

Jesus healed sickness and sin by one and the same metaphysical process.

What is termed matter, being unintelligent, cannot say, “I suffer, I die, I am sick, or I am well.” It is the so-called mortal mind which voices this and appears to itself to make good its claim.

Matter
mindless

19 | 375:21

Palsy is a belief that matter governs mortals, and can paralyze the body, making certain portions of it motionless. Destroy the belief, show mortal mind that muscles have no power to be lost, for Mind is supreme, and you cure the palsy.

Cure for
palsy

20 | 396:14–32

The refutation of the testimony of material sense is not a difficult task in view of the conceded falsity of this testimony. The refutation becomes arduous, not because the testimony of sin or disease is true, but solely on account of the tenacity of belief in its truth, due to the force of education and the overwhelming weight of opinions on the wrong side, — all teaching that the body suffers, as if matter could have sensation.

False testimony
refuted

At the right time explain to the sick the power which their beliefs exercise over their bodies.

Healthful
explanation

Give them divine and wholesome understanding, with which

to combat their erroneous sense, and so efface the images of sickness from mortal mind. Keep distinctly in thought that man is the offspring of God, not of man; that man is spiritual, not material; that Soul is Spirit, outside of matter, never in it, never giving the body life and sensation. It breaks the dream of disease to understand that sickness is formed by the human mind, not by matter nor by the divine Mind.

21 | [425:21–26](#)

God is more to a man than his belief, and the less we acknowledge matter or its laws, the more immortality we possess. Consciousness constructs a better body when faith in matter has been conquered. Correct material belief by spiritual understanding, and Spirit will form you anew.

22 | [492:3–4](#)

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

SECTION 5

The Bible

18 | [I John 5:21 \(to 1st .\)](#)

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

19 | I John 2:15, 16

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

20 | James 4:4 *know (to ?)*

⁴ know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?

21 | Proverbs 12:11 *he that followeth*

¹¹ he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

22 | Romans 12:2 *be*

² be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

23 | II Corinthians 3:18 *we*

¹⁸ we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Science and Health

23 | 337:5–10

Material personality is not realism; it is not the reflection or likeness of Spirit, the perfect God. Sensualism is not bliss, but bondage. For true happiness, man must harmonize with his Principle, divine Love; the Son must be in accord with the Father, in conformity with Christ.

Man reflects
the perfect
God

24 | 186:32

The human mind has been an idolater from the beginning, having other gods and believing in more than the one Mind.

25 | 82:31–2

In a world of sin and sensuality hastening to a greater development of power, it is wise earnestly to consider whether it is the human mind or the divine Mind which is influencing one.

26 | 238:22, 27–28

Attempts to conciliate society and so gain dominion over mankind, arise from worldly weakness. He who leaves all for Christ forsakes popularity and gains Christianity.

People with mental work before them have no time for gossip about false law or testimony.

Society and
intolerance

27 | 21:25–31

Being in sympathy with matter, the worldly man is at the beck and call of error, and will be attracted

Zigzag
course

thitherward. He is like a traveller going westward for a pleasure-trip. The company is alluring and the pleasures exciting. After following the sun for six days, he turns east on the seventh, satisfied if he can only imagine himself drifting in the right direction.

28 | 239:5, 16–20

Take away wealth, fame, and social organizations, which weigh not one jot in the balance of God, and we get clearer views of Principle. Break up cliques, level wealth with honesty, let worth be judged according to wisdom, and we get better views of humanity.

Right views
of humanity

To ascertain our progress, we must learn where our affections are placed and whom we acknowledge and obey as God. If divine Love is becoming nearer, dearer, and more real to us, matter is then submitting to Spirit.

Standpoint
revealed

SECTION 6

The Bible

24 | Isaiah 2:2, 17 *the Lord*, 18

² And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

17 the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. 18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

25 | I Chronicles 29:11

11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Science and Health

29 | 264:15, 21 (only), 28

When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in
nor of matter, this understanding will expand
into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing
no other consciousness.

Self-
completeness

Matter disappears under the microscope of Spirit.

When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man's spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God's creation, — all the glories of earth and heaven and man.

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