



APRIL 21–27, 2025

Probation After Death

GOLDEN TEXT

Psalms 18:32, 36

It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. . . . Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 56:11 (to :), 13; 119:16, 133, 135, 138, 142, 144 *give*, 146, 170; 143:8, 10 *lead*

56:11 In God have I put my trust:

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?

119:16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

138 Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

144 . . . **give me understanding, and I shall live.**

146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.

170 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.

143:8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

10 . . . **lead me into the land of uprightness.**

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | **Psalms 51:8 (to ;), 10–12**

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness;

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and

take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

2 | **Proverbs 16:1, 9**

¹ The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

3 | **Proverbs 4:23, 26, 27 (to :)**

²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. ²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left:

4 | **Psalms 116:5, 8, 9**

⁵ Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

⁸ For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. ⁹ I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

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

1 | **289:32-1**

Because Life is God, Life must be eternal, self-existent.

2 | 487:3–6

Life is deathless. Life is the origin and ultimate of man, never attainable through death, but gained by walking in the pathway of Truth both before and after that which is called death.

3 | 451:14

Man walks in the direction towards which he looks, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be also. If our hopes and affections are spiritual, they come from above, not from beneath, and they bear as of old the fruits of the Spirit.

4 | 213:11–12

Every step towards goodness is a departure from materiality, and is a tendency towards God, Spirit.

5 | 2:16–17

Goodness attains the demonstration of Truth.

6 | 496:9–10

We all must learn that Life is God. Ask yourself: Am I living the life that approaches the supreme good?

7 | 486:9–10

Earth's preparatory school must be improved to the utmost.

SECTION 2

The Bible

5 | **Genesis 17:1** / *am*

¹ I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

6 | **Genesis 5:21–24**

²¹ And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: ²² And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: ²³ And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

7 | **Hebrews 11:5**

⁵ By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

8 | **Proverbs 4:1, 10–13** *receive*

¹ Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

¹⁰ receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. ¹¹ I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. ¹² When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Science and Health

8 | 214:5, 14

If Enoch's perception had been confined to the evidence before his material senses, he could never have "walked with God," nor been guided into the demonstration of life eternal.

When it is learned that the spiritual sense, and not the material, conveys the impressions of Mind to man, then being will be understood and found to be harmonious.

9 | 291:9–18

Mortals need not fancy that belief in the experience of death will awaken them to glorified being.

Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them.

Salvation
and
probation

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.

10 | 324:4, 13–15 *The*

The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the only Life.

SECTION 3

The Bible

9 | **Psalms 31:1, 5, 8 (to :), 15 (to :)**

¹ In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

⁵ Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

⁸ And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy:

¹⁵ My times are in thy hand:

10 | **Genesis 32:9, 11, 24–30**

⁹ And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

¹¹ Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled

with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. 29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Science and Health

11 | 569:3

Every mortal at some period, here or hereafter, must grapple with and overcome the mortal belief in a power opposed to God.

12 | 308:16–28

Jacob was *alone*, wrestling with error, — struggling with a mortal sense of life, substance, and intelligence as existent in matter with its false pleasures and pains, — when an angel, a message from Truth and Love, appeared to him and smote the sinew, or strength, of his error, till he saw its unreality; and Truth, being thereby understood, gave him spiritual strength in this Peniel of divine Science. Then said the spiritual evangel: “Let me go, for the day

Wrestling
of Jacob

breaketh;” that is, the light of Truth and Love dawns upon thee. But the patriarch, perceiving his error and his need of help, did not loosen his hold upon this glorious light until his nature was transformed.

13 | 309:7–12

The result of Jacob’s struggle thus appeared. He had conquered material error with the understanding of Spirit and of spiritual power. This changed the man. He was no longer called Jacob, but Israel, — a prince of God, or a soldier of God, who had fought a good fight.

Israel the
new name

14 | 296:4–9 (to 2nd .)

Progress is born of experience. It is the ripening of mortal man, through which the mortal is dropped for the immortal. Either here or hereafter, suffering or Science must destroy all illusions regarding life and mind, and regenerate material sense and self. The old man with his deeds must be put off.

Scientific
purgation

15 | 77:5–6

Existence continues to be a belief of corporeal sense until the Science of being is reached.

16 | 506:10

Through divine Science, Spirit, God, unites understanding to eternal harmony. The calm and exalted thought or spiritual apprehension is at peace. Thus the

Exalted
thought

dawn of ideas goes on, forming each successive stage of progress.

SECTION 4

The Bible

11 | **Psalms 102:1, 2, 12** *thou*

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.

¹² thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

12 | **II Kings 20:1 (to ;), 2–5 (to 2nd :)**

¹ In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order;

² Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, ³ I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. ⁴ And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁵ Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my peo-

ple, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee:

13 | **Psalms 118:14, 17**

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Science and Health

17 | **9:32**

Consistent prayer is the desire to do right. Prayer means that we desire to walk and will walk in the light so far as we receive it, even though with bleeding footsteps, and that waiting patiently on the Lord, we will leave our real desires to be rewarded by Him.

18 | **426:5–14, 16**

The discoverer of Christian Science finds the path less difficult when she has the high goal always before her thoughts, than when she counts her footsteps in endeavoring to reach it. When the destination is desirable, expectation speeds our progress. The struggle for Truth makes one strong instead of weak, resting instead of wearying one. If the belief in death were obliterated, and the

Our footsteps
heavenward

understanding obtained that there is no death, this would be a “tree of life,” known by its fruits.

When it is learned that disease cannot destroy life, and that mortals are not saved from sin or sickness by death, this understanding will quicken into newness of life. It will master either a desire to die or a dread of the grave, and thus destroy the great fear that besets mortal existence.

19 | **392:24–27 Stand**

Stand porter at the door of thought. Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously.

Guarding
the door

20 | **427:29**

The dream of death must be mastered by Mind here or hereafter. Thought will waken from its own material declaration, “I am dead,” to catch this trumpet-word of Truth, “There is no death, no inaction, diseased action, overaction, nor reaction.”

No death
nor inaction

SECTION 5

The Bible

14 | **John 8:1, 2, 12** *I am*

¹ Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. ² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

¹² I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

15 | **John 4:46–53** *And*

⁴⁶ And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judæa into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. ⁴⁹ The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. ⁵⁰ Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. ⁵² Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. ⁵³ So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

Science and Health

21 | 428:3–8

Life is real, and death is the illusion.

Vision
opening

A demonstration of the facts of Soul in Jesus' way resolves the dark visions of material sense into harmony and immortality. Man's privilege at this supreme moment is to prove the words of our Master: "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

22 | 289:14

The fact that the Christ, or Truth, overcame and still overcomes death proves the "king of terrors" to be but a mortal belief, or error, which Truth destroys with the spiritual evidences of Life; and this shows that what appears to the senses to be death is but a mortal illusion, for to the real man and the real universe there is no death-process.

Death but
an illusion

23 | 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

24 | 203:24–25 (to 1st .), 31–1

Death is not a stepping-stone to Life, immortality, and bliss.

God, divine good, does not kill a man in order to give him eternal Life, for God alone is man's life. God is at once the centre and circumference of being.

SECTION 6

The Bible

16 | I Corinthians 15:1, 3–6 (to ;), 57 thanks

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once;

⁵⁷ thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

17 | Acts 1:3 he, 9

³ he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

18 | I John 5:20

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Science and Health**25 | 410:4-7**

“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.

Life eternal
and present

26 | 46:20-26

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 pro-

Spiritual
ascension

gressive state beyond the grave. Jesus was “the way;” that is, he marked the way for all men.

27 | 428:23

We must hold forever the consciousness of existence, and sooner or later, through Christ and Christian Science, we must master sin and death. The evidence of man’s immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.

The present
immortality

28 | 429:4

We must begin, however, with the more simple demonstrations of control, and the sooner we begin the better. The final demonstration takes time for its accomplishment. When walking, we are guided by the eye. We look before our feet, and if we are wise, we look beyond a single step in the line of spiritual advancement.

Careful
guidance

29 | 510:9

Truth and Love enlighten the understanding, in whose “light shall we see light;” and this illumination is reflected spiritually by all who walk in the light and turn away from a false material sense.

30 | 254:2–6, 10–12

Individuals are consistent who, watching and praying, can “run, and not be weary; . . . walk, and

Patience
and final
perfection

not faint,” who gain good rapidly and hold their position, or attain slowly and yield not to discouragement.

When we wait patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs our path.

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