

Paper: Rudimental Divine Science – Last Two Questions and Answers

Christian Science is the expression of the Christ in human experience. The question being considered is “What are the Means and Methods of Trustworthy Christian Scientists?” From the thrust of Mrs. Eddy’s answer, the words “means and methods,” might be translated into the more modern expression “ways and means” which, according to the Encarta Dictionary, is involved with “methods of accomplishing or achieving something, especially finding a way of paying for something.”

I found it very interesting that Mrs. Eddy starts her answer referring to “these people.” Her whole answer seems to address those we would think of as Practitioners and Teachers, but it is in answer to a question about Christian Scientists in general. It follows logically that Mrs. Eddy saw no differentiation between ordinary Christian Scientists and Practitioners and Teachers except that she says it takes a special line of thought to be a teacher of Christian Science.

It appears that she expected any person that had been instructed in Christian Science to be spending all their time in Christian Science work. This was to follow formal instruction in this Science as surely as the dawn follows the nighttime.

Most of us are aware of the requirement Mrs. Eddy gave to her students after the third day of instruction, “Now go home and take your first patient.”(See Lulu Blackman’s account *The Stars in My Crown of Rejoicing* in “We Knew Mary Baker Eddy – Second Series, page 9). Mrs. Eddy may not have expected everyone instructed in Christian Science to put out a shingle and be

listed in the Christian Science Journal as a practitioner, nurse or teacher, but she obviously did expect everyone to be using their talent on a full time basis, and she expected that they would be paid for their services.

You may have a job in an office, or in the sports field, or in the arts, and your employer may think he or she is paying you for your work as a secretary or salesperson or manager or CFO or athlete or artiste, but you can know that your workplace is your patient, and you are being remunerated for bringing harmony and supply and right activity and God-directed decisions to that workplace and making it a blessing to all who come in contact with it.

I love Mrs. Eddy's reminder to us, in answering this question, that we cannot serve two masters, giving only a portion of our time and thought to God, and still be Christian Scientists. We cannot compartmentalize our work and thought, doing the lesson for an hour, and then putting the books away saying, "Now I will go to the office, cursing all those stupid, selfish drivers on the way in, and then, upon arrival, I will crush the competition. Then I will come home again and pray some more before going to bed."

Rather we get our thought clear and spiritualized with our study, then heal traffic situations on the way to work, use our time in the workplace to bless all, pray as we cook our dinner and give thanks at the end of the day for all the blessings we have seen and received.

Mrs. Eddy gives us solid direction, in her answer to this question, that while we are worthy of payment for our work, payment should never be our motive for the work, and we should never refuse help to anyone simply

because they do not seem able to pay us. That situation would be incorporated in the healing work.

In this answer about the means and methods of *trustworthy* Christian Scientists, she points out that, while we might turn to a Christian Scientist for healing, the procedure of learning Christian Science is an entirely different matter and requires a different motive.

We seek healing because, just as those who came to Jesus, we do not know how to heal ourselves. We seek to learn so that we can be more like Jesus and have that same knowledge that was in him. We seek to teach because we have demonstrated what we have learned and are so filled with the Mind that is Love that we cannot help but share what we know. The motive for these acts is love for God and man. At no time can be we *trustworthy* Christian Scientists if our motive is monetary gain.

In the final question and answer of her book on the rudiments of Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy covers the idea that we can possibly compromise, dilute, mix or incorporate anything not in strict accord with the teachings of our Master and still call it Christian Science. She states quite emphatically that we can not do so.

Paul warns the Ephesians that after he leaves them, wolves would come in to spoil the flock and that even from themselves would some arise speaking perverse things to draw disciples unto themselves. This happened to the Church of Christ, Scientist too, and is continuing to happen even today. People write beautiful books or sermons giving ideas and sweet thoughts, often quoting or paraphrasing Mrs. Eddy without giving credit to her, and

these people might deceive the very elect into thinking the teachings are the same as Christian Science. However, upon careful reading, we find the thoughts are based in the human mind rather than coming from the divine.

I use two criteria of measurement when reading these types of publishings.

1. If I find anywhere that it is based on, or comes down to, the use of the human mind, brain, or will power, I know that it might sound lovely, but it will eventually fail because it is not actually the Science of the Christ. 2. If a statement is made that is not backed up in Science and Health, it is not legitimate.

In the book of Revelation, the angel of the Church of Ephesus tells them that if they continue to be vigilant and thrust out the liars and false apostles, and also return and take up their first love – the healing works, to him that overcometh will be given to eat of the tree of life. I believe it is legitimate to say this is also a promise to us if we adhere to and obey the laws given in Rudimental Divine Science.

Lovingly submitted,

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