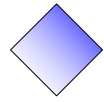


The Voice of Truth



September 15, 2013

Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part IX

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Now, let's look at the Christian Science teachings. Christian Scientism as a religious doctrine and the Christian Science faith originated with Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy.

Christian Science's standard of authority is "Science and Health with key to the Scriptures", which sets forth the system for which Mrs. Eddy claims "Divine Revelations".

"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 been graciously preparing me during many years for the reception of this final revelation of the absolute divine principle of scientific mental healing (S.H., p. 107:1-6). She claims to have received the teaching of science and health from God.

There is a curse placed on anyone, including an angel that preaches another gospel (**Galatians 1:8-9**). Jude tells us that "THE FAITH", the gospel, has ONCE FOR ALL been delivered to the saints (**Jude 3**). Mrs. Eddy refers to them as her thoughts and to herself as the author (S.H., p. 114:30-31; 123:16-17; 130:23; 152:5; 153:5), and refers to herself as having healed or cured by its practice (S.H., p. 149:22-25; 162:17-25).

Christian Science says, "There is no sin." "A sinner is not reformed merely by assuring himself that he cannot be a sinner because there is no sin. To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion . . . and so prove its unreality" (S.H., p. 447:22-27). "Man is incapable of sin . . ." (S.H., p. 475:28). This teaching of "Science and Health" if true would cause the Bible to appear ridiculous in such verses as "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body" (**Romans 6:12**). "Be ye angry and sin not..." (**Ephesians 4:26**). "... For whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (**Romans 14:23**). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us ... If we say we have not sinned we make Him a

liar and His word is not in us" (**1 John 1:8-10**). What a ridiculous doctrine!

The Christian Science view on Christ is that He is not God, He is not the Christ, and He was not capable of reconciling fallen mankind to Jehovah God. ". . . The Christian believes that Christ is God. Jesus Christ is not God." (S.H., p. 361:1-2, 12). **Hebrews 1:8** says differently. The Christian Science faith would contradict the Bible and make it a lie. They go and say "One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin" (S.H., p. 23:3-4). They need to read God's word again! The Bible clearly refutes their false teaching (**1 Peter 1:18-19**; **Hebrews 9:12**; **Hebrews 9:27-28**).

"Science and Health" denies that death is experienced. "Life is real, and death is the illusion" (S.H., p. 584:9-16). The Bible over seven hundred times uses the word "dead" or "death" in passages concerning mankind's experiences and some tense of "die" over five hundred times as in "And as it is appointed unto men once to die ..." (**Hebrews 9:27**).

Concerning the judgment, Christian Science teaching is: "No final judgment awaits mortals . . ." (S.H., p. 291:28-32). Again, they need to stop and think on these passages (**Hebrews 9:27**; **2 Corinthians 5:10**; **Romans 14:10**). Whom shall we believe the inspired writers of the Bible or the authors of Science and Health?

The teaching of Christian Scientism says Jesus' death on the cross did not occur. "Jesus' students, not sufficiently advanced fully to understand their master's triumph, did not perform many wonderful works, until they saw him after his crucifixion and learned that he had not died" (S.H., p. 45:32; 46:1-3). "His disciples believed Jesus to be dead, while he was hidden in the sepulchre, whereas he was alive . . ." (S.H., p. 44:28-29). So "Science and Health" teaches that Jesus did not die, but the Bible says:

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"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (**Romans 5:10**). Read also (**Romans 10:9**; **Philippians 2:5-8**; **Hebrews 2:9**; **Romans 5:6**; **Romans 14:8-9**; **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**; **1 Thessalonians 4:14**).

Reconciliation to God has not and cannot occur for any

"Some Things Man Cannot Escape"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In our society, we are used to people "getting away" with certain things, aren't we? It has become almost commonplace to hear about a person hiring a "dream team" of lawyers so as to avoid criminal charges and prosecution. Closer to home, we may notice people "getting away" with theft by eating displayed food at the grocery store without buying it; or someone taking extra time on their breaks at work and getting paid for it. Perhaps someone we know has been dishonest (lying), and yet men tend to ignore this sin. It seems that we have reared a society which thinks that we can escape certain sins by ignoring them and no one is the wiser. Is this really the case?

God says there are things we cannot escape in this life no matter how hard we try! Just like Adam and Eve could not escape God (**Gen. 3:7-10**); just like Jonah could not escape God (**Jonah 1:3-17, ch. 2**); neither can we escape God (**Prov. 15:3**; **Heb. 4:13**; **Ecc. 12:14**; **Rom. 2:16**)! Nor can we escape the truth He has revealed.

We Cannot Escape The Consequences Of Sin.

We have reared a society of people who are under the impression that they can "bury" their sins deep enough that no one will find out about them. Sometimes, folks have the idea that they can somehow escape the consequences of sin if they pay enough money, run far enough away, deny it, or whatever. In truth, this is not possible! "Be sure your sin will find you out" (**Num. 32:23**)! We need to understand that independently of Christ and His shed blood (**Rom. 6:3-6**), we cannot escape sin (**Acts 2:38, 22:16**)! Whether we are looking at this from the aspect of the physical or the spiritual consequences of sin, we cannot escape this without Christ! Lest we forget, go back and read **Romans 6:23**, which tells us, "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." In addition to this, God compares physical sowing and reaping with spiritual sowing and reaping in **Galatians 6:7-8**. Be sure, there will be a "bitter harvest" awaiting us if we have sown a life of sin and have not re-

Christian Scientist because they deny that the event necessary for reconciliation ever took place. They cannot be saved because we must believe that death took place in order to be saved. Which one will you take your stand with?

(Part 10 printed in next week's bulletin) ♦

pented nor have been forgiven!

We Cannot Escape Death.

As hard as men try through medicines, vitamins, exercise, food choices, etc., we cannot escape death! "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (**Heb. 9:27**). Death was something God promised as a physical consequence of Adam and Eve's sin (**Gen. 3:19**) and it continues to this day. Solomon put it this way: "The living know that they shall die" (**Ecc. 9:5a**)! How true this is! In fact, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (**1 Cor. 15:26**). Therefore, be assured we will not escape death because it will be with us until the Lord returns!

We Cannot Escape The Judgment.

Friends, there is a Judgment Day coming in which all mankind will be judged by The Judge, Christ (**Acts 17:30-31**; **Jn. 5:22**). Just like death, no one will escape this event! How do I know this? I know this because the Bible reveals this truth in passages like the following:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Matthew 25:31-33, 46 - "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

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II Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must *all appear before the judgment seat of Christ*; that every one may receive the things done in his body, *according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*"

Can there be any question as to the coming Judgment? Can there be any question as to who is going to be there? We will all be present before Christ in Judgment. The ques-

tion is: "Are you ready?" If not, why not?

Conclusion

Yes, some things we cannot escape! Yet, we can come through anything successfully when we are in Christ. Are you in Him? (**Eph. 1:7-13; Gal. 3:26-27**)

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

BAPTISM - URGENT AND ESSENTIAL

By David Riggs

In New Testament times people were baptized as soon as they heard the gospel and had faith in Christ (**Acts 2:41; 8:35-39; 16:30-34**). There were no postponements or delays; there was no such thing as waiting for a "baptismal day." It was always "straightway," "the same day," "the same hour of the night," etc. They thought baptism was urgent and essential.

Furthermore, the inspired men of the New Testament did not take baptism lightly. They never poked fun at it saying, "There's no power in the water," neither did they accuse some of trusting in "water salvation." They taught that Jesus made atonement for sin in His death, and they commanded all to believe, repent, and be baptized in order to receive the benefits of His death (**Rom. 6:3-4**). They viewed baptism as an act of faith in and submission to Jesus Christ, the Savior, who has all authority (**Matt. 28:18-20**).

All would freely admit that there is no power in the water of baptism. The power is of the Lord. Jesus healed a blind man by anointing his eyes and saying, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." (**John 9:6-7**). The blind man did not object by saying, "There is no power in the water." He knew that the power was of the Lord and he needed to obey to receive the blessing. Likewise, there is no power in the water of baptism, but one must go to the water to receive the blessing. To be cleansed of leprosy, Naaman was told, "Go and wash in Jordan seven times..." (**2 Kings 5:10**). There was no power in the water of Jordan, but if Naaman had not obeyed, he would not have been cleansed. Similarly, if one does not obey in baptism, he will not be

cleansed.

One is not lost just because he is not baptized. He is lost because he is a sinner. If someone who can't swim falls into a lake and a boat is sent, but he won't get into the boat, is he drowning because he won't get into the boat? No, he is drowning because he is in the water. Likewise, one is not lost just because he is not baptized, but because he is in sin. Just as the boat is the means of rescue and one must get into it, the gospel is the means of salvation and must be obeyed (baptism included) to rescue from sin.

Who has the right today to label baptism as "non-essential" or in anyway minimize any of the commands of Christ? Aren't all of the commands of the Lord essential? He said, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (**Luke 6:46**). As Lord, He has the right to make baptism an important step in the plan. He is the Savior and His will must become our's. He is the "author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (**Heb. 5:9**).

If when baptized, you put one Christ (**Gal. 3:27**), wash away sins (**Acts 22:16**), have remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), are saved (**Mark 16:16**), benefit from Christ's death (**Rom. 6:3-4**), enter the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:13**), what is your condition without baptism? Why not repent and be immersed in the name of Christ for the remission of sins? Let no man deceive you. Humbly obey the gospel today.

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs> ♦

THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. "By their fruits ye shall know them," (**Matthew 7:20**). ♦

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) .

FIVE FIRSTS TO SUCCESS

1. Give God the **FIRST HOUR** of the day.
2. Give God the **FIRST DAY** of the week.
3. Give God the **FIRST PORTION** of your pay.
4. Give God the **FIRST CONSIDERATION** in every decision.
5. Give God the **FIRST PLACE** in your heart. And it really works, too. ♦

*Truth is truth even if no one believes it.
Error is error if everyone believes it.*

*Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and
He will give you a crown in the Life to come.*

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313



Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com