

Wednesday, September 25, 2013  
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: In response to the shootings in Kenya and Chicago: how do we neutralize the belief of an animal nature in man?

HYMNS 44 232 382

THE BIBLE (The New Living Translation)

## **II Cor 7**

let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete purity because we fear God.

## **Genesis 34**

**1**One day Dinah, Leah's daughter, went to visit some of the young women who lived in the area.

**2**But when the local prince, Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, saw her, he took her and raped her.

**3**But Shechem's love for Dinah was strong, and he tried to win her affection.

**4**He even spoke to his father about it. "Get this girl for me," he demanded. "I want to marry her."

**5**Word soon reached Jacob that his daughter had been defiled, but his sons were out in the fields herding cattle so he did nothing until they returned.

**6**Meanwhile, Hamor, Shechem's father, came out to discuss the matter with Jacob.

**7**He arrived just as Jacob's sons were coming in from the fields. They were shocked and furious that their sister had been raped. Shechem had done a disgraceful thing against Jacob's family, a thing that should never have been done.

**8**Hamor told Jacob and his sons, "My son Shechem is truly in love with your daughter, and he longs for her to be his wife. Please let him marry her."

**9**We invite you to let your daughters marry our sons, and we will give our daughters as wives for your young men.

**10**And you may live among us; the land is open to you! Settle here and trade with us. You are free to acquire property among us."

**11**Then Shechem addressed Dinah's father and brothers. "Please be kind to me, and let me have her as my wife," he begged. "I will give whatever you require."

**12**No matter what dowry or gift you demand, I will pay it -- only give me the girl as my wife."

**13**But Dinah's brothers deceived Shechem and Hamor because of what Shechem had done to their sister.

**14**They said to them, "We couldn't possibly allow this, because you aren't circumcised. It would be a disgrace for her to marry a man like you!"

**15**But here is a solution. If every man among you will be circumcised like we are,

**16**we will intermarry with you and live here and unite with you to become one people.

**17**Otherwise we will take her and be on our way."

**18**Hamor and Shechem gladly agreed,

**19**and Shechem lost no time in acting on this request, for he wanted Dinah desperately. Shechem was a highly respected member of his family,

**20**and he appeared with his father before the town leaders to present this proposal.

**21**"Those men are our friends," they said. "Let's invite them to live here among us and ply their trade. For the land is large enough to hold them, and we can intermarry with them."

**22**But they will consider staying here only on one condition. Every one of us men must be circumcised, just as they are.

**23**But if we do this, all their flocks and possessions will become ours. Come, let's agree to this so they will settle here among us."

**24**So all the men agreed and were circumcised.

**25**But three days later, when their wounds were still sore, two of Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi, took their swords, entered the town without opposition, and slaughtered every man there, **26**including Hamor and Shechem. They rescued Dinah from Shechem's house and returned to their camp. **27**Then all of Jacob's sons plundered the town because their sister had been defiled there. **28**They seized all the flocks and herds and donkeys -- everything they could lay their hands on, both inside the town and outside in the fields. **29**They also took all the women and children and wealth of every kind. **30**Afterward Jacob said to Levi and Simeon, "You have made me stink among all the people of this land -- among all the Canaanites and Perizzites. We are so few that they will come and crush us.

### **Genesis 35**

**1**God said to Jacob, "Now move on to Bethel and settle there..."

### **II Cor 1**

**1**This letter is from Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our dear brother Timothy. We are writing to God's church in Corinth and to all the Christians throughout Greece.

### **II Cor 4**

**2**We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone, and we do not distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that.

**8**We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit.

**9**We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.

### **II Cor 5**

**20**We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!"

### **James 4**

**5**What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful ?

**6**He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble."

**7**So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

**8**Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites.

**9**Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.

**10**When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor.

### **Phil. 4**

**8**Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

## SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 67:18-24

The notion that animal natures can possibly give force to character is too absurd for consideration, when we remember that through spiritual ascendancy our Lord and Master healed the sick, raised the dead, and commanded even the winds and waves to obey him. Grace and Truth are potent beyond all other means and methods.

SH 450:29-451:7

Knowing the claim of animal magnetism, that all evil combines in the belief of life, substance, and intelligence in matter, electricity, animal nature, and organic life, who will deny that these are the errors which Truth must and will annihilate? Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate. They must renounce aggression, oppression and the pride of power. Christianity, with the crown of Love upon her brow, must be their queen of life.

SH 451:19-9

Every Christian Scientist, every conscientious teacher of the Science of Mind-healing, knows that human will is not Christian Science, and he must recognize this in order to defend himself from the influence of human will. He feels morally obligated to open the eyes of his students that they may perceive the nature and methods of error of every sort, especially any subtle degree of evil, deceived and deceiving. All mental malpractice arises from ignorance or malice aforethought.

It is the injurious action of one mortal mind controlling another from wrong motives, and it is practised either with a mistaken or a wicked purpose.

Show your student that mental malpractice tends to blast moral sense, health, and the human life. Instruct him how to bar the door of his thought against this seeming power, — a task not difficult, when one understands that evil has in reality no power. Incorrect reasoning leads to practical error. The wrong thought should be arrested before it has a chance to manifest itself.

SH 452:12-17; 453:14-15, 18-20

Walking in the light, we are accustomed to the light and require it; we cannot see in darkness.

But eyes accustomed to darkness are pained by the light. When error confronts you, withhold not the rebuke or the explanation which destroys error. Never breathe an immoral atmosphere unless in the attempt to purify it. Better is the frugal intellectual repast with contentment and virtue, than the luxury of learning with egotism and vice. Teach your student that he must know himself before he can know others and minister to human needs. You uncover sin, not in order to injure, but in order to bless the corporeal man; and a right motive has its reward.

SH 22:31-23:5

Revenge is inadmissible. Wrath which is only appeased is not destroyed, but partially indulged.

Wisdom and Love may require many sacrifices of self to save us from sin. One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part.

SH 512:25-513:3

Mortal mind inverts the true likeness, and confers animal names and natures upon its own misconceptions. Ignorant of the origin and operations of mortal mind, — that is, ignorant of itself, — this so-called mind puts forth its own qualities, and claims God as their author; albeit God is ignorant of the existence of both this mortal mentality, so-called, and its claim, for the claim usurps the deific prerogatives and is an attempted infringement on infinity

SH 527:28-528:8

Is the Supreme Being retrograding, and is man giving up his dignity? Was it requisite for the formation of man that dust should become sentient, when all being is the reflection of the eternal Mind, and the record declares that God has already created man, both male and female? That Adam gave the name and nature of animals, is solely mythological and material. It cannot be true that man was ordered to create man anew in partnership with God; this supposition was a dream, a myth.

SH 512:21-25

From the infinite elements of the one Mind emanate all form, color, quality, and quantity, and these are mental, both primarily and secondarily. Their spiritual nature is discerned only through the spiritual senses.

SH 288:31-289:13

The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's existence as a child of God comes to light. Truth demonstrated is eternal life. Mortal man can never rise from the temporal *debris* of error, belief in sin, sickness, and death, until he learns that God is the only Life. The belief that life and sensation are in the body should be overcome by the understanding of what

constitutes man as the image of God. Then Spirit will have overcome the flesh. A wicked mortal is not the idea of God. He is little else than the expression of error. To suppose that sin, lust, hatred, envy, hypocrisy, revenge, have life abiding in them, is a terrible mistake. Life and Life's idea, Truth and Truth's idea, never make men sick, sinful, or mortal.

SH 35:30-36:9

The design of Love is to reform the sinner.

SH 323:6-9

Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks of Science.

SH 371:27-30

The necessity for uplifting the race is father to the fact that Mind can do it; for Mind can impart purity instead of impurity, strength instead of weakness, and health instead of disease.