

Wednesday, January 8, 2014
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: "Joy is self-sustained"—really? Based on passage from Miscellaneous Writings by Mary Baker Eddy page 209, line 28

HYMNS 357 275 438

THE BIBLE (New Living Bible)

Is 16

15 You will be a joy to all generations, for I will make you so.

Jude 1

24 all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.

25 Yes, glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to him, in the beginning, now, and forevermore

Ps 27

4 The one thing I ask of the LORD -- the thing I seek most -- is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

5 For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

6 Then I will hold my head high, above my enemies who surround me. At his Tabernacle I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the LORD with music.

Is 35

1 The desert will blossom with flowers.

2 Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel's pastures and the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.

3 With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees.

4 Say to those who are afraid, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you."

5 And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf.

6 The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will shout and sing! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the desert.

8 And a main road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness.

9 Lions will not lurk along its course, and there will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will follow it.

10 Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return to Jerusalem, singing songs of everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be overcome with joy and gladness.

John 13

1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He now showed the disciples the full extent of his love.

26 Jesus said

John 16

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

14 He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me.

15 All that the Father has is mine; this is what I mean when I say that the Spirit will reveal to you whatever he receives from me.

16 "In just a little while I will be gone, and you won't see me anymore. Then, just a little while after that, you will see me again."

20 Truly, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, ... You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy when you see me again.

22 You have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

Phil 4

1 Dear brothers and sisters, I love you and long to see you, for you are my joy and the reward for my work. So please stay true to the Lord, my dear friends.

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again -- rejoice!

6Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

7If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. 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.

9Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

12I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

18... I have all I need -- more than I need!

19And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Ps 16

8I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

9No wonder my heart is filled with joy, and my mouth shouts his praises! My body rests in safety.

10For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your godly one to rot in the grave.

11You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 76:22-26

The sinless joy, — the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, possessing unlimited divine beauty and goodness without a single bodily pleasure or pain, —constitutes the only veritable, indestructible man, whose being is spiritual.

SH 40:31-41:7

The nature of Christianity is peaceful and blessed, but in order to enter into the kingdom, the anchor of hope must be cast beyond the veil of matter into the Shekinah into which Jesus has passed before us; and this advance beyond matter must come through the joys and triumphs of the righteous as well as through their sorrows and afflictions. Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being.

SH 20:14-32

Jesus bore our infirmities; he knew the error of mortal belief, and "with his stripes [the rejection of error] we are healed." "Despised and rejected of men," returning blessing for cursing, he taught mortals the opposite of themselves, even the nature of God; and when error felt the power of Truth, the scourge and the cross awaited the great Teacher. Yet he swerved not, well knowing that to obey the divine order and trust God, saves retracing and traversing anew the path from sin to holiness. Material belief is slow to acknowledge what the spiritual fact implies. The truth is the centre of all religion. It commands sure entrance into the realm of Love. St. Paul wrote, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us;" that is, let us put aside material self and sense, and seek the divine Principle and Science of all healing.

SH 14:16-22

Sorrow is turned into joy when the body is controlled by spiritual Life, Truth, and Love.

Hence the hope of the promise Jesus bestows: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; . . . because I go unto my Father," — [because the Ego is absent from the body, and present with Truth and Love.]

SH 242:6-8

Denial of the claims of matter is a great step towards the joys of Spirit, towards human freedom and the final triumph over the body.

SH 265:23-30

Who that has felt the loss of human peace has not gained stronger desires for spiritual joy?

The aspiration after heavenly good comes even before we discover what belongs to wisdom and Love. The loss of earthly hopes and pleasures brightens the ascending path of many a heart.

The pains of sense quickly inform us that the pleasures of sense are mortal and that joy is spiritual.

SH 265:31-266:5

The pains of sense are salutary, if they wrench away false pleasurable beliefs and transplant the affections from sense to Soul, where the creations of God are good, "rejoicing the heart." Such is the sword of Science, with which Truth decapitates error, materiality giving place to man's higher individuality and destiny.

SH 298:19-20

When the real is attained, which is announced by Science, joy is no longer a trembler, nor is hope a cheat.

SH 107:15-108:11

Feeling so perpetually the false consciousness that life inheres in the body, yet remembering that in reality God is our Life, we may well tremble in the prospect of those days in which we must say, "I have no pleasure in them." Whence came to me this heavenly conviction, — a conviction antagonistic to the testimony of the physical senses? According to St. Paul, it was "the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power." It was the divine law of Life and Love, unfolding to me the demonstrable fact that matter possesses neither sensation nor life; that human experiences show the falsity of all material things; and that immortal cravings, "the price of learning love," establish the truism that the only sufferer is mortal mind, for the divine Mind cannot suffer.

SH 304:9-14

This is the doctrine of Christian Science: that divine Love cannot be deprived of its manifestation, or object; that joy cannot be turned into sorrow, for sorrow is not the master of joy; that good can never produce evil; that matter can never produce mind nor life result in death.

SH 377:3-5

If grief causes suffering, convince the sufferer that affliction is often the source of joy, and that he should rejoice always in ever-present Love.

SH 21:9-14

If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. He constantly turns away from material sense, and looks towards the imperishable things of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the start, and gain a little each day in the right direction, till at last he finishes his course with joy.

SH 66:11-16

Spiritual development germinates not from seed sown in the soil of material hopes, but when these decay, Love propagates anew the higher joys of Spirit, which have no taint of earth. Each successive stage of experience unfolds new views of divine goodness and love.