

Wednesday, June 18, 2014
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: How does civilization have authority over brutality?

HYMNS: 206 396 29

THE BIBLE NRSV

Ps. 25:15-21

15My eyes are ever toward the Lord, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

16Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.

17The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

18... And forgive all my sins.

19Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred.

20Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.

21Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

Judg. 15:1-10, 12 (to 1st .), 13-15

1in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in.

2Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead."

3And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!"

4Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

5When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

6Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

7Samson said to them, ... "I will surely take revenge on you, ...

8So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; ...

9Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah,

10And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us."

13And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him ...

14When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him... and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

15He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

Prov. 12:3, 5-7, 13-15, 17-19, 28

3A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.

5The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

6The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

7The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.

13The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will come through trouble.

14A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

15The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

17He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

18There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

19The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment. In the way of righteousness *is* life; and *in* the pathway *thereof there is* no death.

28In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.

Luke 4: 14-22

14Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

15And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

16So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

17And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

19To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

20Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

21And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

22So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.

And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

28So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

30Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

Ps. 92:4-9

4For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

5O Lord, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.

6A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this.

7When the wicked spring up like grass, And when all the workers of iniquity flourish, It is that they may be destroyed forever.

8But You, Lord, are on high forevermore.

9For behold, Your enemies, O Lord, For behold, Your enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 63:5

In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not, like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor does he pass through material conditions prior to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ultimate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the law of his being.

SH 512:25

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 172:32-16

When we admit that matter (heart, blood, brain, acting through the five physical senses) constitutes man, we fail to see how anatomy can distinguish between humanity and the brute, or determine when man is really *man* and has progressed farther than his animal progenitors.

What is termed matter manifests nothing but a material mentality. Neither the substance nor the manifestation of Spirit is obtainable through matter. Spirit is positive. Matter is Spirit's contrary, the

absence of Spirit. For positive Spirit to pass through a negative condition would be Spirit's destruction.

SH 542:8

Truth causes sin to betray itself, and sets upon error the mark of the beast. Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy.

SH 327:8

What a pitiful sight is malice, finding pleasure in revenge! Evil is sometimes a man's highest conception of right, until his grasp on good grows stronger. Then he loses pleasure in wickedness, and it becomes his torment. The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning. There is no other way. Sin is the image of the beast to be effaced by the sweat of agony. It is a moral madness which rushes forth to clamor with midnight and tempest.

SH 567:18-5

That false claim — that ancient belief, that old serpent whose name is devil (evil), claiming that there is intelligence in matter either to benefit or to injure men — is pure delusion, the red dragon; and it is cast out by Christ, Truth, the spiritual idea, and so proved to be powerless. The words "cast unto the earth" show the dragon to be nothingness, dust to dust; and therefore, in his pretence of being a talker, he must be a lie from the beginning. His angels, or messages, are cast out with their author. The beast and the false prophets are lust and hypocrisy. These wolves in sheep's clothing are detected and killed by innocence, the Lamb of Love.

Divine Science shows how the Lamb slays the wolf. Innocence and Truth overcome guilt and error. Ever since the foundation of the world, ever since error would establish material belief, evil has tried to slay the Lamb; but Science is able to destroy this lie, called evil.

SH 67:18

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 51:6

Jesus could have withdrawn himself from his enemies. He had power to lay down a human sense of life for his spiritual identity in the likeness of the divine; but he allowed men to attempt the destruction of the mortal body in order that he might furnish the proof of immortal life. Nothing could kill this Life of man. Jesus could give his temporal life into his enemies' hands; but when his earth-mission was accomplished, his spiritual life, indestructible and eternal, was found forever the same. He knew that matter had no life and that real Life is God; therefore he could no more be separated from his spiritual Life than God could be extinguished.

SH 188:8

Passion, depraved appetites, dishonesty, envy, hatred, revenge ripen into action, only to pass from shame and woe to their final punishment.

SH 174:9-14

The footsteps of thought, rising above material standpoints, are slow, and portend a long night to the traveller; but the angels of His presence — the spiritual intuitions that tell us when "the night is far spent, the day is at hand" — are our guardians in the gloom.

SH 450:29

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.