

TOPIC: What is the relationship of Christian Science to mainstream Christianity?

HYMNS 36 261 176

THE BIBLE (The New Revised Standard Version)

Isaiah 29

24... those who err in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will accept instruction.

Acts 10

1In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called.

2He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God.

3One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius."

4He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

5Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter;

6he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."

7When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him,

8and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

9About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

10He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

11He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners.

12In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air.

13Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."

14But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean."

15The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."

16This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

17Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.

18They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there.

19While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you.

20Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them."

21So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?"

22They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."

23So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him.

24The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

25On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him.

26But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal."

27And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled;

28and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.

29So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?"

30Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me.

31He said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

32Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.'

33Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

34Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,

46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,

47"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Proverbs 4

1Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight;

2for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 359:18-20

True Christianity is to be honored wherever found, but when shall we arrive at the goal which that word implies?

SH 174:17

The thunder of Sinai and the Sermon on the Mount are pursuing and will overtake the ages, rebuking in their course all error and proclaiming the kingdom of heaven on earth.

SH 272:3-8

The spiritual sense of truth must be gained before Truth can be understood. This sense is assimilated only as we are honest, unselfish, loving, and meek. In the soil of an "honest and good

heart” the seed must be sown; else it beareth not much fruit, for the swinish element in human nature uproots it.

SH 235:28

Clergymen, occupying the watchtowers of the world, should uplift the standard of Truth. They should so raise their hearers spiritually, that their listeners will love to grapple with a new, right idea and broaden their concepts. Love of Christianity, rather than love of popularity, should stimulate clerical labor and progress. Truth should emanate from the pulpit, but never be strangled there. A special privilege is vested in the ministry. How shall it be used? Sacredly, in the interests of humanity, not of sect.

SH 28:9

While respecting all that is good in the Church or out of it, one’s consecration to Christ is more on the ground of demonstration than of profession. In conscience, we cannot hold to beliefs outgrown; and by understanding more of the divine Principle of the deathless Christ, we are enabled to heal the sick and to triumph over sin.

SH 140:25-27

The Christian Science God is universal, eternal, divine Love, which changeth not and causeth no evil, disease, nor death.

SH 228:25

There is no power apart from God. Omnipotence has all-power, and to acknowledge any other power is to dishonor God. The humble Nazarene overthrew the supposition that sin, sickness, and death have power. He proved them powerless. It should have humbled the pride of the priests, when they saw the demonstration of Christianity excel the influence of their dead faith and ceremonies.

SH 142:4

Anciently the followers of Christ, or Truth, measured Christianity by its power over sickness, sin, and death; but modern religions generally omit all but one of these powers, — the power over sin. We must seek the undivided garment, the whole Christ, as our first proof of Christianity, for Christ, Truth, alone can furnish us with absolute evidence.

SH 95:28

Lulled by stupefying illusions, the world is asleep in the cradle of infancy, dreaming away the hours. Material sense does not unfold the facts of existence; but spiritual sense lifts human consciousness into eternal Truth. Humanity advances slowly out of sinning sense into spiritual understanding; unwillingness to learn all things rightly, binds Christendom with chains.

SH 145:31-5

The ancient Christians were healers. Why has this element of Christianity been lost? Because our systems of religion are governed more or less by our systems of medicine.

SH 134:14

Man-made doctrines are waning. They have not waxed strong in times of trouble. Devoid of the Christ-power, how can they illustrate the doctrines of Christ or the miracles of grace? Denial of the possibility of Christian healing robs Christianity of the very element, which gave it divine force and its astonishing and unequalled success in the first century.

SH 98:29-21

Beyond the frail premises of human beliefs, above the loosening grasp of creeds, the demonstration of Christian Mind-healing stands a revealed and practical Science. It is imperious throughout all ages as Christ’s revelation of Truth, of Life, and of Love, which remains inviolate for every man to understand and to practise.

SH 141:13-21

In healing the sick and sinning, Jesus elaborated the fact that the healing effect followed the understanding of the divine Principle and of the Christ-spirit which governed the corporeal Jesus. For this Principle there is no dynasty, no ecclesiastical monopoly. Its only crowned head is

immortal sovereignty. Its only priest is the spiritualized man. The Bible declares that all believers are made "kings and priests unto God."

SH 98:26-5

Mystery does not enshroud Christ's teachings, and they are not theoretical and fragmentary, but practical and complete; and being practical and complete, they are not deprived of their essential vitality.

The way through which immortality and life are learned is not ecclesiastical but Christian, not human but divine, not physical but metaphysical, not material but scientifically spiritual. Human philosophy, ethics, and superstition afford no demonstrable divine Principle by which mortals can escape from sin; yet to escape from sin, is what the Bible demands.

SH 126:32

If Christendom resists the author's application of the word Science to Christianity, or questions her use of the word Science, she will not therefore lose faith in Christianity, nor will Christianity lose its hold upon her. If God, the All-in-all, be the creator of the spiritual universe, including man, then everything entitled to a classification as truth, or Science, must be comprised in a knowledge or understanding of God, for there can be nothing beyond illimitable divinity.

SH 99: 22

I love mankind, and shall continue to labor and to endure.