

Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist – Chicago, Illinois, USA  
Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Subject: **God's Being**

In *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy writes “Man is the expression of God’s being.” (470:23) What is the nature of God’s being? What does that mean for you and me? These readings explore these questions and more.

**Hymns: 83 269 342**

**Part 1 – God’s being**

Gen. 1:26-27 God, 31 (to 1st .) (NKJV)

God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

SH 470:21-23, 24

God is the creator of man, and, the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect. If there ever was a moment when man did not express the divine perfection, then there was a moment when man did not express God, and consequently a time when Deity was unexpressed — that is, without entity. If man has lost perfection, then he has lost his perfect Principle, the divine Mind. If man ever existed without this perfect Principle or Mind, then man’s existence was a myth.

SH 470:23-24

Man is the expression of God’s being.

SH 481:3-4

God’s being is infinity, freedom, harmony, and boundless bliss.

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**Part II - Infinity**

Eccl. 3:14, 15 to ; (NRSV)

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is;

Ps. 139:1, 7-10, 17, 18 (NKJV)

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend into heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
And Your right hand shall hold me.  
How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!  
If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
When I awake, I am still with You.

SH 288:27-28

Science reveals the glorious possibilities of immortal man, forever unlimited by the mortal senses.

SH 249:12-16

Mind is not the author of matter, and the creator of ideas is not the creator of illusions. Either there is no omnipotence, or omnipotence is the only power. God is the infinite, and infinity never began, will never end, and includes nothing unlike God.

SH 258:9-12

Man is more than a material form with a mind inside, which must escape from its environments in order to be immortal. Man reflects infinity, and this reflection is the true idea of God.

SH 469:21-24

We bury the sense of infinitude, when we admit that, although God is infinite, evil has a place in this infinity, for evil can have no place, where all space is filled with God.

SH 17:14-15

*For God is infinite, all-power, all Life, Truth, Love, over all, and All.*

### **Part III - Freedom**

Luke 13: 11-17 (NRSV)

And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

SH 494:30-13

Our Master cast out devils (evils) and healed the sick. It should be said of his followers also, that they cast fear and all evil out of themselves and others and heal the sick. God will heal the sick through man, whenever man is governed by God. Truth casts out error now as surely as it did

nineteen centuries ago. All of Truth is not understood; hence its healing power is not fully demonstrated.

If sickness is true or the idea of Truth, you cannot destroy sickness, and it would be absurd to try. Then classify sickness and error as our Master did, when he spoke of the sick, "whom Satan hath bound," and find a sovereign antidote for error in the life-giving power of Truth acting on human belief, a power which opens the prison doors to such as are bound, and sets the captive free physically and morally.

SH 227:16

God made man free. Paul said, "I was free born." All men should be free. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Love and Truth make free, but evil and error lead into captivity.

#### **Part IV - Harmony**

Mark 5:25-29, 34 (NEB)

Among them was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years; and in spite of long treatment by many doctors, on which she had spent all she had, there had been no improvement; on the contrary, she had grown worse. She had heard what people were saying about Jesus, so she came up from behind in the crowd and touched his cloak; for she said to herself, 'If I touch even his clothes, I shall be cured.' And there and then the source of her hemorrhages dried up and she knew in herself that she was cured of her trouble. He said to her, 'My daughter, your faith has cured you. Go in peace, free for ever from this trouble.'

SH 304:20

Harmony in man is as beautiful as in music, and discord is unnatural, unreal.

SH 186:17-24

Evil is self-assertive. It says: "I am a real entity, overmastering good." This falsehood should strip evil of all pretensions. The only power of evil is to destroy itself. It can never destroy one iota of good. Every attempt of evil to destroy good is a failure, and only aids in peremptorily punishing the evil-doer. If we concede the same reality to discord as to harmony, discord has as lasting a claim upon us as has harmony.

SH 276:12

The realization that all inharmony is unreal brings objects and thoughts into human view in their true light, and presents them as beautiful and immortal. Harmony in man is as real and immortal as in music. Discord is unreal and mortal.

SH 232:3

Many theories relative to God and man neither make man harmonious nor God lovable. The beliefs we commonly entertain about happiness and life afford no scatheless and permanent evidence of either. Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science.

SH 304:16-18

Harmony is produced by its Principle, is controlled by it and abides with it. Divine Principle is the Life of man.

SH 169:27-28

Only the action of Truth, Life, and Love can give harmony.

### **Part V - Boundless Bliss**

Ps. 146:1-3, 5 (NLT)

Praise the Lord!

Let all that I am praise the Lord.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

Don't put your confidence in powerful people;

there is no help for you there.

But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Prov. 3:13-15 (NLT)

Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,

the one who gains understanding.

For wisdom is more profitable than silver,

and her wages are better than gold.

Wisdom is more precious than rubies;

nothing you desire can compare with her.

Acts 3:1-8 (NRSV)

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

SH 337:7-10

For true happiness, man must harmonize with his Principle, divine Love; the Son must be in accord with the Father, in conformity with Christ.

SH 57:18

Happiness is spiritual, born of Truth and Love. It is unselfish; therefore it cannot exist alone, but requires all mankind to share it.

SH 58:7-11

Unselfish ambition, noble life-motives, and purity, — these constituents of thought, mingling, constitute individually and collectively true happiness, strength, and permanence.

SH 60:29-1

Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul. Higher enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal man.

SH 470:23-24

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SH 481:3-4

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***From Concord Express - A Christian Science Study Resource: The King James Version of the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's published writings***