

Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist – Chicago IL (USA)

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Subject: **Just the facts, ma'am**

Just as television's Police Sgt. Joe Friday instructed those whom he was questioning to stick to the facts with his catchphrase "Just the facts, ma'am", Mary Baker Eddy instructs us to stick with the facts of being. What are the facts of being? How can we learn them and adhere to them? What can we expect when we do this? This week's readings explore these questions.

**Hymns: 482 585 459** (All from *Christian Science Hymnal, Hymns 430-603*)

The Bible readings are from the New King James Version, the New Revised Standard Version and the New International Version.

### **Part 1 - What are the spiritual facts of being?**

**Gen. 1:1, 26 (to :), 27 (to ;), 31 (to .)** (NKJV)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him;

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good.

**Matt. 5:48** (NRSV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**SH 207:27**

The spiritual reality is the scientific fact in all things. The spiritual fact, repeated in the action of man and the whole universe, is harmonious and is the ideal of Truth. Spiritual facts are not inverted; the opposite discord, which bears no resemblance to spirituality, is not real. The only evidence of this inversion is obtained from suppositional error, which affords no proof of God, Spirit, or of the spiritual creation. Material sense defines all things materially, and has a finite sense of the infinite.

**SH 289:29 Spirit**

Spirit and all things spiritual are the real and eternal.

**SH 200:16**

The great truth in the Science of being, that the real man was, is, and ever shall be perfect, is incontrovertible; for if man is the image, reflection, of God, he is neither inverted nor subverted, but upright and Godlike.

**SH 302:14**

Continuing our definition of man, let us remember that harmonious and immortal man has existed forever, and is always beyond and above the mortal illusion of any life, substance, and intelligence as existent in matter. This statement is based on fact, not fable. The Science of being reveals man as perfect, even as the Father is perfect, because the Soul, or Mind, of the spiritual man is God, the divine Principle of all being, and because this real man is governed by Soul instead of sense, by the law of Spirit, not by the so-called laws of matter.

## **Part 2 - How can we become better acquainted with the facts of being?**

### ***John 8:31, 32* (NRSV)**

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

### ***Ps. 86:11* (NIV)**

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

### ***Prov. 4:5, 7* (NRSV)**

Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.  
The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight.

### ***Ps. 25:4, 5* (NRSV)**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

### ***SH 495:25–31***

Question. — How can I progress most rapidly in the understanding of Christian Science? Answer. — Study thoroughly the letter and imbibe the spirit. Adhere to the divine Principle of Christian Science and follow the behests of God, abiding steadfastly in wisdom, Truth, and Love.

### ***SH 316:3***

The real man being linked by Science to his Maker, mortals need only turn from sin and lose sight of mortal selfhood to find Christ, the real man and his relation to God, and to recognize the divine sonship. Christ, Truth, was demonstrated through Jesus to prove the power of Spirit over the flesh, — to show that Truth is made manifest by its effects upon the human mind and body, healing sickness and destroying sin.

### ***SH 471:13–20***

The facts of divine Science should be admitted, — although the evidence as to these facts is not supported by evil, by matter, or by material sense, — because the evidence that God and man coexist is fully sustained by spiritual sense. Man is, and forever has been, God's reflection. God is infinite, therefore ever present, and there is no other power nor presence. Hence the spirituality of the universe is the only fact of creation.

### ***SH 428:22***

The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man is, not shall be, perfect and immortal. We must hold forever the consciousness of existence, and sooner or later, through Christ and Christian Science, we must master sin and death. The evidence of man's immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.

### ***SH 505:16–17, 20***

Spirit imparts the understanding which uplifts consciousness and leads into all truth. ... Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good. Understanding is the line of demarcation between the real and unreal. Spiritual understanding unfolds Mind, — Life, Truth, and Love, — and demonstrates the divine sense, giving the spiritual proof of the universe in Christian Science.

### ***SH 129:7***

If you wish to know the spiritual fact, you can discover it by reversing the material fable, be the fable pro or con, — be it in accord with your preconceptions or utterly contrary to them.

### **Part 3 - Why is it important to stick with the facts?**

#### ***II Kings 4:8 (to second ), 17–22, 25, 26, 32, 33, 35–37 (NRSV)***

One day Elisha was passing through Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, The woman conceived and bore a son at that season, in due time, as Elisha had declared to her. When the child was older, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. He complained to his father, “Oh, my head, my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” He carried him and brought him to his mother; the child sat on her lap until noon, and he died. She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, closed the door on him, and left. Then she called to her husband, and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again.”

So she set out, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, “Look, there is the Shunammite woman; run at once to meet her, and say to her, Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is the child all right?” She answered, “It is all right.”

When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and closed the door on the two of them, and prayed to the Lord.

He got down, walked once to and fro in the room, then got up again and bent over him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite woman.” So he called her. When she came to him, he said, “Take your son.” She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took her son and left.

#### ***SH 418:5-9***

Stick to the truth of being in contradistinction to the error that life, substance, or intelligence can be in matter. Plead with an honest conviction of truth and a clear perception of the unchanging, unerring, and certain effect of divine Science.

#### ***SH 492:3***

For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence. In reality there is no other existence, since Life cannot be united to its unlikeness, mortality.

#### ***SH 419:4***

Your true course is to destroy the foe, and leave the field to God, Life, Truth, and Love, remembering that God and His ideas alone are real and harmonious.

#### ***SH 127:16***

Christian Science reveals God, not as the author of sin, sickness, and death, but as divine Principle, Supreme Being, Mind, exempt from all evil. It teaches that matter is the falsity, not the fact, of existence; that nerves, brain, stomach, lungs, and so forth, have — as matter — no intelligence, life, nor sensation.

#### ***SH 289:25***

The spiritual fact and the material belief of things are contradictions; but the spiritual is true, and therefore the material must be untrue. Life is not in matter.

Therefore it cannot be said to pass out of matter. Matter and death are mortal illusions. Spirit and all things spiritual are the real and eternal.

#### ***SH 472:24 All***

All reality is in God and His creation, harmonious and eternal. That which He creates is good, and He makes all that is made. Therefore

the only reality of sin, sickness, or death is the awful fact that unrealities seem real to human, erring belief, until God strips off their disguise. They are not true, because they are not of God. We learn in Christian Science that all inharmony of mortal mind or body is illusion, possessing neither reality nor identity though seeming to be real and identical.

#### ***Part 4 - Conclusion***

***Gen. 1:27 God (to ;), 31 (to .) (NKJV)***

God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him;  
And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good.

***SH 207:27-31***

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