

Lesson 34: Christian Science and Unity

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will examine the teachings and history of the group known as Christian Science. This has become a very popular cult to follow, with many well-known people becoming adherents. We will also take a brief look at the religion known as Unity.

Christian Science and Unity

Introduction

Topic 1: Answering the Christian Science Claims

Christ's Sacrifice

It's All In Your Head

Topic 2: Reaching the Christian Scientist

Perfection is Required

Topic 3: Unity

Introduction

We're going to look at Christian Science and Unity tonight, mostly Christian Science. As we've been going through, [and are] about to wrap up on Personal Evangelism, on how to witness to different groups of people. And I want us to get a background, a historical background, of Christian Science. And I'm going to go into Unity just a little bit. But we want to look at Christian Science. You know, it's not Christian and it's not scientific. It's not either one, and yet so many people believe that it is. It's very appealing. The founder of the group, Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy. She was born July 16, 1821 in New Hampshire, and was the youngest of six children. She was raised in strict Calvinism, but never won to the belief. But her health was very poor, and it interrupted her [formal] education, and she was semi-invalid for many, many years. George Glover, whom she married 1843, was the first of her three husbands. In less than a year after the marriage, he died, leaving with her an unborn child. Later, after the death of her mother and remarriage of her father, she married Daniel [Patterson]. [Patterson] was captured

and imprisoned during the Civil War. When he returned, he ran off with his neighbor's wife. Eventually he and Mary divorced. During all these years, she constantly suffered from one thing to another. Now while she was still married to Patterson, Mary heard of a man by the name of Quimby, who supposedly cured people without the use of medicines. She went to see Quimby when she was 41 years old, and during several weeks in Portland, Maine, she received relief, which she attributed to God working through Quimby. Quimby, of course, was an atheist, and Quimby denied, however, that God had anything to do with it, or that he had any special healing powers. So he denied it from the very beginning. Now Mr. Quimby died in 1866, when Mary was 45 years old, and Mary Baker Patterson began to portray herself as a healer. Shortly after Quimby's death, she fell on an icy street and injured herself. And she claimed that the doctor who examined her injury declared that it was fatal, though the physician's own testimony later denied this on oath. Some friends came to visit her and [her] supposedly impending death. She had them all leave the room while she read Matthew 9. While reading this portion of Scripture, she was immediately and completely healed, so she said. Now she began a school to teach others to heal. And anyway, she charged \$100-\$300 for a course lasting three weeks. During that time, she worked on her book, *Science and Health, the Key to the Scriptures*, which later became the textbook of the cult. When the book was ready for publication, she had to get help from her followers, for no one else would print it. She was married the third time to Asa Eddy in 1878. She organized and pastored the First Church of Scientist with 26 members. During this period, Mr. Eddy died of a bad heart. However, Mrs. Eddy declared he had not died, or he had died, but it was "arsenic poison mentally [administered] by their enemies". Now that's pretty far. Arsenic poison mentally administered by their enemies. Her later life was filled with sickness and nervousness, and she died in 1910.

QUESTION 1

Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy was a strict Calvinist before starting the Christian Science movement. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 2

Mary Baker Eddy based her teachings on a healing she received from an atheist. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 3

Mary Baker Eddy supposedly was healed from a "fatal" fall by reading: _____

- A. John 3
- B. Acts 2
- C. Matthew 9
- D. 1 Peter 1

QUESTION 4

Because of the "healing powers" of the Christian Science teachings, Mrs. Eddy was able to live out the remainder of her life peacefully and in good health. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 1: Answering the Christian Science Claims

Even though she claimed not to believe in the reality of death, she had to keep her appointment. Now if you look at our first verse, “It is appointed unto [men] once to die, but after this the judgment”. Every healer dies. That’s what destroys the healer’s philosophy. They say if you have enough faith, you won’t die. Well, Mary Baker [Glover] Patterson Eddy died. Now they claim—I don’t know if there’s any credence to this, any truth to this—but they claim she has a telephone in her casket, in case she wakes up from what she thought was not death, you know. Now there’s talk that that’s true, which I seriously doubt, that they put one in as soon as they could. But it’s appointed unto man once to die, and after this, the judgment. Everybody’s going to die. There’s no way around it. And of course, this verse right here does away with reincarnation and everything else. Then Genesis 2:7. “In addition to His creation, real or unreal, it is the truth or it is a lie concerning man and God. It must be a lie.” Now I’m quoting from Science and Health, page 524. “God presently curses the ground,” in other words, they don’t believe in the Creation as real or unreal. They believe that this whole creation is in your mind. It’s not really real.

A little boy came over to a house. A Christian Scientist was at the house. The [Christian Scientist] said, “How’s your mom?”

“Oh, my mom’s sick.”

The Christian Scientist said, “No, no, no, Sonny. Your mom’s not sick. She thinks she’s sick. [There’s] no such thing as sickness.”

About a week later, [the little boy] came over. “How’s your mom?”

“Now my mom thinks she’s dead.”

Now it makes a point, even though it’s kind of a sick joke. And it really is. But there is death, and there’s nothing sicker than people who try to change God’s ways. “The second chapter of Genesis contains a statement of this material view of God and the universe, a statement which is the exact opposite of scientific truth,” according to Mary Baker [Glover Patterson Eddy]. The next verse, you know, I’d like to show her, show anybody, is 2 Timothy 3:16. It says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” —all Scripture. You know, we have so many today who don’t believe in the Scriptures. They don’t believe that they’re the Word of God.

Assignment:

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16

QUESTION 5

What destroys the healer’s philosophy is that not everyone has enough faith to be healed. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 6

Every person has an appointment with death. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 7

All Scripture is profitable for: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. Doctrine
- B. Instruction
- C. Justifying your behavior
- D. Interpreting as you see fit
- E. Correction
- F. Reproof

Christ's Sacrifice

Let's look at Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began". Eternal life. [A] God Who cannot lie. Man can lie, but God cannot lie. I think look at Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." [He's] saying that God and the earth are different. We're going to see this a little bit later. I want you to be able to see it, as we see all these things coming. Now Christ's death for sin—"One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to debt of sin" Science and Health, page 23. This is again quoting from Science and Health, "That God's wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son is divinely unnatural." God wouldn't kill His own Son, as she would say. And then page 25, "The material blood of Jesus was no more able to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon the accursed tree than when it was flowing in His veins as He went daily about His Father's business." A direct slap [to] Jesus, saying that His blood could not pay for sin. Now, what does the Scripture say? Look at Hebrews 10:14, "For by one offering he [hath] perfected for ever them that are sanctified." "For by one offering he [hath] perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace". Isn't that something? What is that telling us? Let's look at Ephesians, I mean Isaiah 53:6 and 10, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; [and] the LORD [hath] laid [on] him the iniquity of us all. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou [shalt] make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand." No, you know life is real. Death is real. That's why no one's ever come back from the dead. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God".

Assignment:

Memorize Ephesians 1:7

QUESTION 8

God is not all; God and the earth are different. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 9

Mary Baker Eddy taught that it was "divinely unnatural" for God to vent His wrath upon His Son. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 11

If death were not real, people would "come back" from the dead all the time. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

It's All In Your Head

Now let me quote Science and Health again, page 475. "Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death." Okay, now let me read that again: "Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death." Now, sin. What do you call it? We don't like to call it sin. Sickness. You say, "But our minds affect sickness." That's true. I don't argue that. A person with a good outlook on life, a person who's got the right attitude, they'll pull through an operation somewhat better than a person somewhat better than someone who doesn't have it, a good outlook. Your mind controls a lot of things, but your mind—there is a sickness besides your mind. Yes, your mind can help you heal. Our minds are powerful, but they can only do it for so long, because everybody's going to die. In Ecclesiastes 7:20, it says, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." [The] old man is not incapable of sin. Well what do you call it? I believe man is very capable of sin. No, no. Oh yes. Well this will get you, this next thing: "The virgin mother conceived the idea of God and gave to her idea the name of Jesus or Savior." Science and Health, page 29. Jesus wasn't really born. That was the idea of Mary. She had that child. "Jesus was the offspring of Mary's self-conscious communion with God." Isn't that something? That's page 29 and 30. I'll give you another one. The angel—now this is what the Bible says—the angel, not Mary, said, if you'll look at Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David [a Saviour,] which is Christ the Lord." Notice the angel came and told them. Let's look at Acts 17:2-3, "And Paul, as his manner was, went [in] unto them, [and] three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered and risen [again] from the dead. And that [this Jesus, whom I [preach] unto you, is Christ." How important that is to be able to see that. Look at Matthew 1:20, "[But] while he thought on these things, [behold,] the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Isn't that something? He didn't say, "That baby that she's having, the Virgin Mary is having, is really just an idea of Mary"? That'd be the world's first clone, wouldn't it? No. Jesus was actually the baby of Mary, with God the Father being the Father. Look at 1:22 of Matthew, "[Now] all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken [of the Lord] by the prophet, [saying,] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted [is], God with us." See that difference? Let's look at Luke 1:31, "[And,] behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and [shalt] call his name Jesus." I think it's good that we can understand and know how to refute some of these arguments that people have.

QUESTION 12

According to Christian Science, man is incapable of: Answer: _____

- A. Sin
- B. Sickness
- C. Death
- D. Independent thought

QUESTION 13

According to Mary Baker Eddy, Jesus wasn't really born, He was just an idea of Mary's. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Topic 2: Reaching the Christian Scientist

You know, I want you to understand one of the main [premises] of the formula for Christian Science. In order to reach him intelligently, you need to understand a little bit of him. His basic approach to God's salvation can be summed up this way. This is very important that you understand this. This is their argument: God is Love. God is Life. Okay? God is Love. God is Life. God is Spirit. God is All. These are all true, except for the last. God is not All. Now God can do all, but God is not all. Let's keep going. Since God is Love, and God is All, there can be no hate. You see that? You get their reasoning? See, God's not all, though. That's where their [reasoning] breaks down. Since God is Love and God is All, there can be no hate. But God's not all. And if it's not hate, how do you define Hitler? Since God is Life and God is All, there can be no death. Then what is it? What happened to Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy? It doesn't make sense. There is death. Since God is Good and God is All, there can be no evil. Well, yes, God is Good, but God is not All. And there is evil. See that's where it breaks down. Since God is Spirit and God is All, there can be no matter. See if God is Spirit and God is All, there can be no matter. All that you're seeing is just a figment of your imagination. So they feel there will be no hatred, illness, sin, death, for the person who knows God aright. This is another form of pantheism. Now pantheism is the belief that God is everything. This is God. We're God. All of us are God. Every star is God. All matter—everything is God. Many of the Eastern religions are pantheist. They believe that God is everything. That's why you find some that would not allow a cow, a sacred cow, to ever be killed. Over in India, they're starving to death, but we're all part reincarnation, and everything is just kind of mix-match going on all the time. They need the cows to eat, but they let the cows alone. They won't kill them. That God is not a personality, but that all forces, manifestations, are God is strongly adhered to by the Christian Scientists. This formula governs all their thinking. Therefore you need to know how to answer from Scripture.

QUESTION 15

The Christian Science view of God is: *(Select all that apply.)*

Answer: _____

- A. God is Love
- B. God is Life
- C. God is Spirit
- D. God is All

QUESTION 16

If God is Good and God is all, then there could be no hate. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 17

The Christian Science philosophy is really just another form of:

Answer: _____

- A. Atheism
- B. Animism
- C. Pantheism
- D. Agnosticism

QUESTION 18

Christian Science strongly adheres to the belief that God is not a personality, but that all forces, all manifestations, are God. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Perfection is Required

Now, [I'll] just give you a few more. In Genesis 1:1—how do you answer that? “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Notice it doesn’t say God is the heavens and the earth, but He created the heavens and the earth. [The] next one is Isaiah 59:2, “[But] your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you”. Again, the truth is that God is separate from His creation. Numbers 23:19, “God is not a man, that he should lie”. Man lies. God does not. No thinking person really believes God is everything. I don’t believe any thinking person believes that, that God is everything. The most important thing to remember is that you must give the Christian Scientist the gospel. Often a person is attracted to this cult because he or she doesn’t want the belief that they are accountable for the sins that they have committed. Christian Science gives a convenient way out [for] such a person with a false sense of security. If he understood the gospel, that God loves sinners and has already made a complete payment for sin, He would perhaps respond and accept Christ as Savior. Now when you’re witnessing to Christian Scientists, you certainly want to be friendly and you want to be nice, and you want to be loving. One reason so many elderly people are Christian Scientist is that they fear death and what lies beyond. They do not know the love of God. The teachings of Christian Science that there is really no sin or death can calm their fears. But it’s a false calmness. That’s the problem. When we know Christ as Savior, we do not have to be afraid of death. As a group, you will find that Christian Scientists are lovely people that are trying to live the best kind of life they know how, even though [their] plan of salvation includes man’s good works for entrance into Heaven. Any time people have good works, then they’re doing away with what Christ did upon the cross. Now there’s nothing wrong with telling a person that you believe they’re living a good life. They’re a good person. But you want to go ahead and tell them that that won’t get them to Heaven. Since a Christian Scientist doesn’t believe that he is a sinner, an effective way to get across to him the truth that he needs a payment for what he has done wrong is to ask, “Are you perfect?” Most people quite readily admit that they are not perfect, and even most Christian Scientists will admit they’re not perfect. And when they see this, [you] need to point out that you need to be perfect to enter Heaven. Be sure to emphasize Scriptures like John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, [that] he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This gospel is good news, and we need to be able to explain that to them in a very clear way. “O Timothy,” 1 Timothy 6:20, “keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, [and] oppositions of science falsely so called. Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.”

QUESTION 19

In Scripture, God is shown to be separate from His creation. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 20

Often, the biggest attraction to Christian Science is the belief that a person is not _____ for the sins they have committed.

QUESTION 21

The most important thing to give the Christian Scientist is:

Answer: _____

- A. A Heaven tract
- B. Statistics on death
- C. The clear Gospel
- D. A hard time for their beliefs

QUESTION 22

While the teachings of Christian Science might calm a person's fears regarding sin and death, it is really a _____ calm.

QUESTION 23

When we know Christ as Savior, we can have a true peace about death. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

QUESTION 24

An effective way to get the Christian Scientist to see the truth is to kindly ask, "Are you perfect?" *True or False?*

Answer: _____

Unity

But I want to look at Unity. Unity was founded in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1889 by Charles Fillmore. The Fillmores were penniless. Charles suffered from numerous ailments, including a withered leg as the result of a childhood skating accident. Mrs. Fillmore had tuberculosis. They heard Dr. Weeks speak on "New Thought". After the lecture, Mrs. Fillmore reasoned that since we are all children of God—which is an error. We're not all children of God; we're all created by God, but we're not all children of God. We must be born into God's family—there must be a fixed divine law operating in her life. If she had faith in that law, all negative things of life, like sickness and poverty, would vanish. We have several people [who] believe that Hell is a negative thing. Robert Schuller believes that Hell is negative. He says, "I am very embarrassed when my Christian friends teach that there is an eternal Hell." He said, "There's never been [a] more negative thought." Well, no. Hell's not a negative thought. Hell's a reality. Hell is not a thought. After the discovery, the couple improved in health, and financial status. I'm not going to just trust someone that just "Johnny-Come-Lately," and all of a sudden, they seem to have all the answers. I'd be very careful. They thought their theory had been proven. In 1889, they decided to devote the rest of their lives to spreading the gospel and discovery. Thus the Unity school of Christianity began. But they believe in reincarnation of man. They believe God never performed miracles, that man is a part of God. We may be all like Christ now. They believe there is no evil. They believe that Heaven and Hell are states of the mind. A lot like Christian Science, but different, because they believe in reincarnation. Just remember, the main difference between Christian Science and Unity is reincarnation. The entire Bible is allegory, which some people kept Paul's instruction to be servants of God in mind. The servants of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. With meekness instructing those that oppose themselves. So anyway, that's all I'm going to cover on Unity. But in witnessing to any of

these people, always show love, and be kind. And try to show them how much you do care for them, and show them the Word of God. Always remember, no matter who you're witnessing to, it's always grace versus works. Grace versus works. If you believe in works at all, if you believe Jesus plus works, you're not going to make it to Heaven. When you believe that Jesus covered our sin debt. He covered it totally, and we can't do it to earn our own salvation. We trust Christ, then we have eternal life. That's why these two verses mean so much behind me, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; [and] that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Being able to see the difference. Whether you're talking to Unity or Christian Science, please emphasize the gospel.

QUESTION 25

Hell is: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: _____

- A. A negative thought
- B. A reality
- C. Eternal
- D. A state of the mind

QUESTION 26

Some of the Unity teachings are: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: _____

- A. Reincarnation of man
- B. God performed many miracles
- C. Man is a part of God
- D. Heaven and Hell are real
- E. Heaven and Hell are just states of the mind

QUESTION 27

The most important thing in witnessing will always be Grace vs. Works, and delivering that message with kindness and love. *True or False?*

Answer: _____

LESSON 34 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: False [She came from a Calvinist family but never embraced the belief.]

QUESTION 2: True [The atheist denied that God worked through him.]

QUESTION 3

C. Matthew 9

QUESTION 4: False [Her later life was filled with sickness and nervousness.]

QUESTION 5: False [What destroys their credibility is that they all die.]

QUESTION 6: True [10 out of 10 people die.]

QUESTION 7

A. Doctrine

B. Instruction

E. Correction

F. Reproof

QUESTION 8: True [See Matthew 24:35.]

QUESTION 9: True

QUESTION 11: True

QUESTION 12

A. Sin

B. Sickness

C. Death

QUESTION 13: True

QUESTION 15

A. God is Love

B. God is Life

C. God is Spirit

D. God is All

QUESTION 16: True [This philosophy breaks down when subjected to common sense.]

QUESTION 17

C. Pantheism

QUESTION 18: True [This formula governs all their thinking.]

QUESTION 19: True [See Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 59:2.]

QUESTION 20: accountable

QUESTION 21

C. The clear Gospel

QUESTION 22: *Your answer should be one of the following:*

false, fake

QUESTION 23: True

QUESTION 24: True [Most people will readily admit that they are not perfect; this can open the door to explain the Gospel.]

QUESTION 25

B. A reality

C. Eternal

QUESTION 26

A. Reincarnation of man

C. Man is a part of God

E. Heaven and Hell are just states of the mind

QUESTION 27: Tru