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## BIBLE STUDY.

IN the fifth chapter of John's gospel we find a lengthy discourse by Christ Jesus on the subject of life as spiritually understood, and this teaching follows the account of the remarkable healing of a man who had for thirty-eight years been a helpless sufferer. After the healing, when Jesus again met him, he bade him "sin no more," lest a worse thing come upon him. We are also told that so far from rejoicing over the healing of this man, those who heard of it persecuted Jesus, "and sought to slay him." This blind antagonism to Truth, however, only served as an opportunity for the Master to reveal the true meaning of life, and its entire separation from sin and death.

Jesus doubtless spoke to those who were familiar with the Old Testament, for he said to them: "Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me, that ye may have life" (Rev. Ver.). Those who are today searching the Scriptures in the light of divine Science are seeking life as Jesus presented it, life which is not subject to sin, disease, or death, and what is more, they are finding it in the ratio of their spirituality. Respecting the Bible, our revered Leader says: "The Scriptures are very sacred. Our aim must be to have them understood spiritually," to which she adds: "Inspired thought relinquishes a material, sensual, and mortal theory of the universe, and adopts the spiritual and immortal" (Science and Health, p. 547).

In establishing the Lesson-Sermons, the purpose of our Leader was to enable all who were willing to accept the truth of being, as taught in Christian Science, to "lay hold on eternal life," and this can be done only as we rise above material belief and grasp the spiritual fact. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the word of Truth as therein set forth should be "uncontaminated and unfettered by human hypotheses" (*Quarterly*, explanatory note). It should be readily seen that the less we depend upon any so-called "Bible helps" in the study of the Lesson-Sermon, the better will be the results in every case. It is safe to say that none of these books were prepared from the view-point of the allness of Spirit and spiritual law, consequently they cannot aid us in demonstrating the unreality of matter and mortal belief, and they may lead us to depend upon the letter, rather than upon the spirit which "giveth life."

This should not, however, be taken as a general condemnation of all study of books on Scriptural exegesis, but as a plea for the study of the Lesson-Sermon under the guidance of the Spirit of truth. Many years ago Mrs. Eddy decided that the Authorized Version of the Bible, known as the King James Version, should be used at all our services, because it expressed the truth with sufficient clearness to enable every earnest student to demonstrate its power. It is true that the authorized revision of the Bible, representing the consecrated work of scholarly men for many years, gives in certain passages a better sense of the original, but its agreement with the King James, in the majority of cases, would make unauthorized and differing versions of very uncertain value, even for private study, except a few which adhere very closely to the original text.

It is true that there are many interesting and scholarly works on the various books of the Bible, which in explaining the habits and customs of other days show the reason for many human experiences which are different in their external settings from our own. The great fact remains, however, that we must come to Life to find the life which is "entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living" (Science and Health, p. 14). What we most need is the spiritual vision which penetrates the veil of sense and discovers "the deep things of God," and this recalls Jesus' statement that if "thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

ANNIE M. KNOTT.

## AMONG THE CHURCHES.

## CURRENT NOTES.

NEWTON, MASS.—First Church of Christ, Scientist, Newton, Mass., was granted a charter Jan. 23, 1913, the charter membership of the organization being made up of members of The Mother Church who for the most part had been attending services in Boston. Services are being held in Player's hall, Washington street, West Newton, which has been newly and tastefully decorated. The first service was held Feb. 2, 1913, when the seating capacity of the hall, about four hundred and fifty, was taxed. The size of the congregation at each service since would indicate that the community is much interested in the healing message of Christian Science. Pleasant rooms have been provided for the rapidly growing Sunday school, and the church will maintain a reading-room at 297 Walnut street, opposite Masonic building, Newtonville.—*Correspondence*.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.—Our Sunday and Wednesday evening meetings have been crowded since the last lectures, for many strangers are coming in, and we have opened the reading-room on Thursday from seven till nine in the evening. The attendant of the reading-room brought under my notice three cases of healing within the last two months as the result of the reading of the literature. The first was that of a man with an internal trouble pronounced incurable by six doctors, who was advised to read a wonderful book of the Christian Scientists. He called and was shown into the reading-room, where he read for about twenty minutes and found that something had happened. He got up to go out, when the attendant asked, "Don't you feel well?" and he answered, "I was in a desperate condition when I came in, but this wonderful book has healed me." So the attendant lent him a copy of Science and Health to take home. The second case was that of one suffering from rheumatism, who borrowed the book from the lending library and came in and reported that he was free from all suffering. The third case, a woman suffering from spinal trouble of seven years' standing, which was getting worse, was healed by reading an article in the *Sentinel*. Surely it is time the world awakened sufficiently out of its dream to give Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science credit for being able to do what *materia medica* has failed to accomplish!—*Correspondence*.

KALAMAZOO, MICH.—The Christian Scientists of Kalamazoo are planning to erect on their lot facing Bronson park, at the corner of South and Park streets, a handsome structure costing about fifty thousand dollars. The Christian Science organization started in Kalamazoo in 1896, and the first meetings were held in a private home. The number increased rapidly, and soon the meetings were held in Parson's business college. The site now occupied was purchased in 1902. The congregation has outgrown the seating capacity of the present building, making necessary the new structure. The main auditorium will seat 566 people. *Kalamazoo Gazette*.

ATLANTA, GA.—During 1912 there were sent out by the local literature committee: 147 *Journals*, 1,357 *Sentinels*, 4,505 *Monitors*, 2 magazines, 14 lectures, 13 pamphlets, 8 copies of "Life of Mary Baker Eddy," a total of 6,046, or an increase of 1,294 over the year 1911. Annual subscriptions to the *Journal* were placed at Carnegie library and Federal prison; subscriptions to the *Sentinel* were placed at Piedmont hotel and Federal prison; and five *Monitor* subscriptions donated by the Sunday school were placed at the Y. W. C. A., Federal prison, Piedmont hotel, and boys' industrial farm.—*Correspondence*.