



WIDE HORIZON, INC.
A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING FACILITY

Home and Heaven through the Lens of Science

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Some time ago, I purchased an inexpensive pair of sunglasses from the store to use when the days were especially bright. The lenses were tinted pink — and when I wore them, everything took on a rosy glow. Our dear Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, writes in several places of the “lens of Science.” For example, we read in *Miscellaneous Writings* that: “The lens of Science magnifies the divine power to human sight; and we then see the supremacy of Spirit and the nothingness of matter.”¹ Again, she admonishes: “Let us look through the lens of Science, not of `self`”² And, in speaking of the “Wisemen” who were led to behold the infant Jesus, she writes: “Their highest human concept of the man Jesus, that portrayed him as the only Son of God, . . . will become so magnified to human sense, by means of the lens of Science, as to reveal man collectively, as individually, to be the son [or child] of God.”³

Aren't we grateful that those of us here today can look through “lens of Science” as we consider together what it means to “come home” in order to experience the heaven which is within us all? Hymn 278 in the *Christian Science Hymnal* puts it this way: “Pilgrim on earth, home and heaven are within thee, Heir of the ages and child of the day. Cared for, watched over, beloved and protected, Walk thou with courage each step of the way.”⁴ That's certainly what Mrs. Eddy did, leaning on the “sustaining Infinite” each step of the way.

If we dwell mentally in the “secret place of the Most High,” then won't we “abide (safely and securely) under the Shadow of the Almighty?” as the Psalmist puts it? I know you're familiar with these verses: “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”⁵

Let me tell you a little bit about my human journey. Both my mother and grandmother

¹ *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 194

² *Ibid.*, p. 299

³ *Ibid.*, p. 164

⁴ *Christian Science Hymnal*, 278

⁵ Psalm 91:9-11

were devoted Christian Scientists — my grandmother even sharing a practitioner’s office in Kansas City with several others. They were both students of Dr. John M. Tutt, who in turn was a student of Adam H. Dickey. My mother had been told when in high school that she could never bear children. So my parents had been married for over 10 years when I arrived.

The most noteworthy healings in my experience were these: In the summer before I entered the fourth grade, I came down with a severe case of polio and was paralyzed from my armpits down. The Christian Science practitioner on the case was a student of Louise Knight Wheatley Cook Hovnanian, a member of Sixth Church in Kansas City which we attended. The healing came gradually over the next several months, but it was complete. I remember clearly my dad taking me to school in a wagon, carrying me up the stairs to my desk in the classroom, and then returning to get me at the end of the day. My fourth grade teacher, Miss Bell, took up the study of Christian Science as a result. The other healing was related to my third pregnancy. Our other two children were then ages 4 and 6 and had arrived most happily. But this time, something was quite wrong, and I was very uncomfortable. My husband at that time was unemployed. The company where he had been a lead engineer was sold. It was then that he patented one of the earliest inventions of an auto air bag, and our third child arrived safely. He was soon hired by a company in Michigan as its Chief Engineer. In all, I’ve lived in over 15 different locations, but have especially loved Colorado, where my grandparents would spend the summers to escape the heat in Kansas City. In other words, I’ve had to prove what I’m imparting to you today.

I remarried in 1994 and moved to California, where my husband and I belonged to First Church in Pasadena — a very large beautiful edifice of which the branch church in Boulder, Colorado is a smaller version. My second marriage was a great blessing — my partner having left an office as Vice President at the FMC Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, in order to go into the public practice of Christian Science, and then become a Christian Science teacher. Yes, the “material, mortal history is but the record of dreams, not of man’s real existence...” as our Leader says.⁶ But it can be full of lessons and blessings. She goes on to declare that “The heavenly intent of earth’s shadows is to chasten the affections, to rebuke human consciousness and turn it gladly from a material, false sense of life and happiness to spiritual joy and true estimate of being.”⁷ She also insists that “Earth’s preparatory school should be improved to the utmost.”⁸ And that’s what we’re all endeavoring to do.

It was while I was still living in California that I served a 9-year term on the Board of Arden Wood, the Christian Science nursing facility in San Francisco. There I gained a great appreciation for the work of Christian Science nurses in their support of those who are seeking healing through spiritual means. And I witnessed many wonderful healings! Today, as you may know, Arden Wood, like Chestnut Hill outside Boston, also has an active residential program that

⁶ *Retrospection and Introspection*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 21

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 21

⁸ *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 486

is meeting the needs of individuals for a sense of home, of belonging, and of spiritual support. (By the way, Wide Horizon also offers this support with its Supervised Residential Living program in Horizon House which has five beautifully decorated private rooms in a homelike setting.)

What is home? Not a building. Not a location. I feel it's a clear sense of God with us. An assurance that we have a place — an abiding place and purpose — that is uniquely ours. Yes, it often but not always incorporates family — and members of a church can feel like family. In mathematics, the 3 can't take the place of the 4 or the 14. Just so, we each have our own value and utility or function. We all need an expanded view of family — embracing not only those who by reason of material generation can be considered family but those who share like ideals or who love, as we do, this Truth of Being Jesus lived and Mary Baker Eddy rediscovered. Jesus put it this way: "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."⁹

Sometimes but not always we can feel closer to fellow Christian Scientists than we do to biological parents or siblings. In any event, closeness has to rest on shared ideals, a common purpose, on similar interests and commitments. It's hard when someone whose need you've met or who you have helped in some way, proves to be critical or even hostile. That's when Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount is relevant. We read in the Gospel of Matthew: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."¹⁰ To me, that's what it means to crown every cross.

How can we be "at home" or feel at home wherever we are? It means more than simply sharing ideals or commitments, or even feeling comforted and needed. It means recognizing that we all have one common divine Source. In *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, Mrs. Eddy is quoted as defining home as "your calm, sacred retreat."¹¹ She told her students that "the home of the Christian Scientist is in the understanding of God, his affections and interests are there, and his abiding place is there."¹² Just as we are all challenged to rise from a narrow sense of relationship to the larger concept of "one Father with His universal family held in the gospel of Love,"¹³ so we must grow from a limited sense of home as a location or familiar place to that uplifted sense of home as a power "where sense has no claims and Soul satisfies."¹⁴

Home is our sense of God with us — our abiding consciousness of a divine presence and power. This consciousness is immovable. It is healing, sustaining, restoring. Others feel it and are blessed by it. As we know, multitudes of the weary and sick and homeless felt at home with

⁹ Matthew 12:50

¹⁰ Ibid., 5:43-44

¹¹ *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, First Series*, p. 50

¹² Ibid., p. 82

¹³ *Science and Health*, p. 576

¹⁴ *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*, p. 156

Christ Jesus — felt comforted, secure, at peace in his presence. Yet, there were states of thought not at peace with Jesus. “His spirituality separated him from sensuousness and caused the selfish materialist to hate him,”¹⁵ writes our Leader. Cold indifference, arrogance, self-righteousness, pride, hypocrisy — these mental states could never be at home with the Christ. Indeed, these conditions of mortal thought have no home in any of us. This is a warning for us, to do as Mrs. Eddy clearly advises and “stand porter at the door”¹⁶ of our thinking — admitting to our mental household only those angels we love to companion with.

In a religious article from *The Christian Science Monitor* some years back entitled, “What are you letting in?” the author had this to say: “We’re very careful whom we let into our homes. We certainly wouldn’t let in, for example, someone we suspect is determined to harm us, or even the family dog, if he is muddy and king-sized, and we have just had the living room carpet cleaned. And yet, think of the king-sized, muddy, and detrimental thoughts we allow in—thoughts like fear, jealousy, greed [and we might add, of impatience, criticism, and irritation.] If we allow such intruders in, then we have a mental housecleaning to do. And haven’t we all learned that we best keep up daily with chores, not letting them pile up until a major clean-up is needed?”

By the way, feminists today have much to say about the passive role women in general have been conditioned to play as unpaid domestic servants. How Christian Science elevates our thinking on this issue! Mental housekeeping becomes an important task for everyone—for every individual, inasmuch as it determines the harmony of each one’s experience.

Isn’t it clear that one must first be at home with himself before he can feel at home with others? When we feel comfortable, satisfied, at peace with ourselves, then we can impart this feeling to others. But how do we attain this feeling? What is the secret of self-acceptance — that genuine self-esteem that enables us to esteem others? What enables us to be at peace with ourselves — free of regret, remorse, disappointment, self-condemnation, guilt, unhappy memories, unfulfilled yearnings? Christian Science shows us the way. It’s through spiritual self-recognition. We need to daily identify ourselves as God’s own loved ideas — complete, perfect, immortal — and thus “ratify this union [with our Maker] predestined from all eternity,” as our Leader puts it.¹⁷

We need to get out of matter and into Spirit so far that we see ourselves as God sees us and know that we have no human history, are subject to no human laws, pass through no mortal stages, suffer no grievous loss, no impairment, no discord, no end or ultimate death. How wonderful it is to establish in ourselves such a vibrant joy, such an unalterable peace, such a serene power that others feel instantly at home with us. We have the means, revealed in Christian Science, to do this.

Many years ago in *The Christian Science Monitor* there appeared a little piece entitled: “Adelaide Jewell: Her Story.” It was about an elderly Vermont woman from whom the world had taken most everything. She lived in different places, with different folks in the community or

¹⁵ *Science and Health*, p. 51

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 392

¹⁷ *Unity of Good*, p. 17

sometimes in their barns and chicken houses, always helping out, always giving good for what she received. On one occasion when Mrs. Jewell was occupying an empty house, her friend asked, “Don’t you find it a bit lonely, away over there all by yourself?” “Well, yes,” she replied. “The first night I found it was, and I thought I couldn’t stand it, but I got right out of bed when that old dark Lonesome talked to me, and I just said a hundred times, Ain’t God here? Yes! Ain’t that enough? Yes! And I tell you one thing, that old scamp ain’t dared show his face since that night. I just found out if ya can find something to be grateful fer, there ain’t nothing the matter no where.” That would be a good lesson for all of us to follow!

This account brought to mind two things Mrs. Eddy says pertinent to our subject today: “The discipline of the flesh is designed to turn one, like a weary traveler, to the home of Love.”¹⁸ She also writes: “Thus founded upon the rock of Christ, when storm and tempest beat against this sure foundation, you, safely sheltered in the strong tower of hope, faith and Love, are God’s nestlings: and He will hide you in His feathers till the storm has passed. Into His haven of Soul there enters no element of earth to cast out angels, to silence the right intuition which guides you safely home.”¹⁹

Now, the rest of the talk will focus on the Kingdom of Heaven. Where is it? Like home, it is within each of us. It’s not a place but a state of consciousness. Mrs. Eddy defines the Kingdom of Heaven as, “The reign of harmony in divine Science; the realm of unerring, eternal, and omnipotent Mind; the atmosphere of Spirit, where Soul is supreme.”²⁰

You’ll recall that Jesus’ ministry began with his being tempted of the devil three times: 1) to turn stones into bread (to concede that man is materially rather than spiritually sustained); 2) to cast himself down from the temple (that life is in matter to be destroyed by matter); and 3) to worship Satan in return for all the kingdoms of the world (the false belief that there is a power other than God and a reward greater than the kingdom of heaven.)

As we know, Jesus strongly rebuked Satan or the tempter and began his ministry by preaching that “the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”²¹ Then follows his familiar “Sermon on the Mount” — a potent outline of what it means that the Kingdom of Heaven is not a place in the hereafter, but a state of consciousness within each of us.²² When the Pharisees demanded of Jesus when the Kingdom of God should come, he responded: “The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or lo there! For behold the kingdom of God is within you.”²³

To emphasize this essential point, I’ll repeat that God’s Kingdom or the Kingdom of Heaven is God’s reign within each of us. That means we’re not governed by matter, by material

¹⁸ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 84

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 152

²⁰ *Science and Health*, p. 590

²¹ Matthew 4:1-17

²² *Ibid.*, chapters 5 to 7

²³ Luke 17:20-21

circumstances or by any false sense of things — by fear, worry, anxiety, disappointment, distress of any sort. We're always safely under God's control. (In fact, the very first address I gave to my own Association of students in 1979 was on the subject of "Control.")

This means the harmony, order, peace, justice, security, progress we identify with God's Kingdom or government is right at hand. We experience this kingdom in the measure that we obey God's law and acknowledge no other power. If something seems wrong, we can know with confidence that the divine Mind will set it right, just as certainly as light will dispel darkness or the law of mathematics will correct a mistake. How reassuring it is to know there is a divine purpose being worked out in each of us—and for humanity as a whole. And happily, God takes us "all the way"—never part way. Let's never forget that "The only power of evil is to destroy itself. It can never destroy one iota of good."²⁴

I'd like to talk briefly about supply and its inexhaustible, spiritual nature. It ties in with God's Kingdom. I'm sure you're familiar with Paul's statement: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."²⁵ And with Mrs. Eddy's assurance: "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies." She continues, "Never ask for tomorrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment. What a glorious inheritance is given to us through the understanding of omnipresent Love! More we cannot ask: more we do not want: more we cannot have."²⁶ A sense of inevitable lack is often coupled with age or retirement. Certainly not in Mrs. Eddy's experience! When she writes of age, it is generally in reference to the times in which we live, as in her comment that "We live in an age of Love's divine adventure to be All-in-all."²⁷ Does God's goodness recede? Certainly not! Added years can only bring added opportunities for spiritual growth and demonstration.

In *Miscellaneous Writings*, we read: "What is the kingdom of heaven? The abode of Spirit, the realm of the real. No matter is there, no night is there—nothing that maketh or worketh a lie. Is this kingdom afar off? No. It is ever-present here."²⁸ Then in a Sunday Service on July Fourth, she declared: "Never was there a more solemn and imperious call than God makes to us all, right here, for fervent devotion and an absolute consecration to the greatest and holiest of all causes. The hour is come...The powers of evil are leagued together in secret conspiracy against the Lord and against His Christ...Will you be equally in earnest for the Truth? Will you doff your lavender-kid zeal and become real and consecrated warriors? Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death? Answer at once and

²⁴ *Science and Health*, p. 186

²⁵ Philippians 4:19

²⁶ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.307

²⁷ *The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.158

²⁸ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.174

practically, and answer aright! ”²⁹

I’m confident you’re clear that the Kingdom of Heaven is not a place or a destination. It’s the consciousness of God’s ever-presence and absolute control. In a talk given at Arden Wood in February 2016, the speaker pointed out that today only about 20% of Americans regularly attend church. He indicated that across all denominations, some 8,000 churches close every year in the United States. Are then spiritual standards and values no longer central to vast numbers of our citizens? Has the hospital, not the church, become the focus in most communities?

And yet, in Christian Science we understand health to be a condition of thought, not body. We have learned that everything goes from the inward to the outward—that well-being, right activity, freedom, longevity have everything to do with our relationship to our Maker. We’ve seen and proved that so-called physical problems are not conditions of matter but are simply human beliefs that we can choose to accept or NOT accept. We have also learned that health, wholeness, harmony, right activity are not dependent on matter or material circumstances but on the goodness or spirituality of our thinking. The really wonderful thing is that none of us can be tested “above that we are able.” Why not? Because our ability is God-derived and limitless!

Does an infinite Mind manifest itself in a lot of little minds or in an infinite array of ideas? Obviously, in countless ideas which each expresses the nature and capabilities of their origin! If our focus is on infinite as opposed to finite, on unceasing abundance as opposed to limitation or lack, on unalterable harmony as opposed to discord, on ever-unfolding life as opposed to end or death, then we’ll experience more of heaven within. And that will then manifest as heaven and harmony without. Here’s how Mrs. Eddy puts it: “He who gains self-knowledge, self-control, and the kingdom of heaven within himself, within his own consciousness, is saved through Christ, Truth.”³⁰

What does Mrs. Eddy mean “to unself mortality?”³¹ To me it implies that we abandon the notion of a self that is materially defined or circumscribed within certain calendar limits. But it also implies that in everything we do we abandon self—that is, let go of a materially circumscribed sense of ourselves—or anyone, including self-will, self-importance, self-absorption, or sheer selfishness. It also involves forgiveness, as well as compassion. What’s the difference between sympathy and compassion? Simply that compassion means staying out of the dream and helping to break it, whereas human sympathy often means getting into another’s dream. After all, if the material mortal history is a “record of dreams” as Mrs. Eddy says, then why would we want to retain, ruminate over, be sorrowful or even resentful over events in that history? In her *Message for 1902*, Mrs. Eddy writes this: “Jesus was compassionate, true, faithful to rebuke, ready to forgive. He said, ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.’” She continues: “No estrangement, no emulation, no deceit enters into the heart

²⁹ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.177

³⁰ *Miscellany*, p. 161

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 161

that loves as Jesus loved.” She adds: “The Christian Scientist cherishes no resentment; he knows that would harm him more than all the malice of his foes. Brethren, even as Jesus forgave, forgive thou. I say it with joy, – no person can commit an offense against me that I cannot forgive.” She then asks: “Are earth’s pleasures, its ties and its treasures, taken away from you? ... A danger besets thy path?—a spiritual behest, in reversion, awaits you.” She answers: “The great Master triumphed in furnace fires. Then, Christian Scientists, trust, and trusting, you will find divine Science glorifies the cross and crowns the association with our Saviour in his life of love.”³²

According to our Leader, our only real record is in heaven. Of course, we can be grateful for lessons learned, for mistakes corrected, for inspiration gained. We can be confident we won’t have to repeat those lessons. I feel the demand on each of us today is to think beyond merely personal concerns or challenges to larger world issues. After all, the same law in mathematics applies equally to small numbers or to mega-millions. So the same truths we turn to and apply to our individual needs are also applicable to world needs. Why? Because these truths are universal! And because the same law governs microcosm and macrocosm—the infinitesimal and the infinite! If something isn’t right or isn’t in accord with the law of God it can’t really exist. It has to give way to the truth of being just like a mistake in arithmetic has to yield to the fact.

There’s a lot of talk today about the environment. We know that the mental environment is vastly more important—and that it determines the outward or physical environment. Mrs. Eddy says this: “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.”³³ Again she writes: “Spirit acts through the Science of Mind, never causing man to till the ground, but making him superior to the soil. Knowledge of this lifts man above the sod, above earth and its environments, to conscious spiritual harmony and eternal being.”³⁴

How can we best help to cleanse the outward environment? By bringing every thought into obedience to the Christ! We know that everything goes from the inward to the outward. Mrs. Eddy comments: “In our immature sense of spiritual things, let us say of the beauties of the sensuous universe: ‘I love your promise, and shall know, sometime, the spiritual reality and substance of form, light, and color of what I now through you discern dimly; and knowing this, I shall be satisfied.’”³⁵

Because we “live, move, and have our being in God,”³⁶ and because both home and heaven are within us, we already dwell in “the secret place of the most High.”³⁷ This inward place of harmony, order, beauty, right activity within is inevitably manifest without. Not only do we each “live, move, and have our being in God,” but we’re confident that “God is working His purpose

³² *Message for 1902*, pp. 18-19

³³ *Science and Health*, p. 258

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 520

³⁵ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 87

³⁶ Acts 17:28

³⁷ Psalm 91:1

out as year succeeds to year,”³⁸ and that the divine purpose is not only good but inevitable. There really is no power apart from God and no other place to be than the heaven already within each of us.

When we choose to look through the lens of Science — to see as God sees, to “...discern the spiritual fact of whatever the senses behold,...”³⁹ as Mrs. Eddy puts it — then we’ll be sure to experience the good that alone is real. If, as we read in Genesis: “God saw everything the he had made, and, behold, it was very good,” then shouldn’t we also see good as the only real?⁴⁰ Shouldn’t we follow our Leader’s admonition to “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true....” Then she assures us, “... you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts.”⁴¹ She continues: “Fixing your gaze on the realities supernal, you will rise to the spiritual consciousness of being...”⁴² We can’t escape the fact that “To begin rightly is to end rightly.”⁴³ When we begin with God as the only Cause, we can experience good as the only effect. And that’s what heaven is!

³⁸ *Hymnal*, 82

³⁹ *Science and Health*, p. 585

⁴⁰ Genesis 1:31

⁴¹ *Science and Health*, p. 261

⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 261

⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 262

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1. *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 395
2. *Ibid.*, p. 299
3. *Ibid.*, p. 164
4. *Christian Science Hymnal*, 278
5. Psalms 91:9-11
6. *Retrospection and Introspection*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 21
7. *Ibid.*, p. 21
8. *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 486
9. Matthew 12:50
10. Matthew 5:43-44
11. *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, First Series*, p.50
12. *Ibid.*, p.82
13. *Science and Health*, p.576
14. *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*, p. 156
15. *Science and Health*, p. 51
16. *Ibid.*, p. 392
17. *Unity of Good*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 17
18. *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 84
19. *Ibid.*, p. 152
20. *Science and Health*, p. 590
21. Matthew 4: 1-17
22. *Ibid.*, chapters 5 to 7
23. Luke 17:20-21
24. *Science and Health*, p. 186
25. Philippians 4:19
26. *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 307
27. *The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.158
28. *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.174
29. *Ibid.*, p.177
30. *Miscellany*, p. 161
31. *Ibid.*, p. 161
32. *Message for 1902*, pp. 18-19
33. *Science and Health*, p. 258
34. *Ibid.*, p. 520
35. *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 87
36. Acts 17:28
37. Psalm 91:1
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39. *Science and Health*, p. 585
40. Genesis 1:31
41. *Science and Health*, p. 261
42. *Ibid.*, p. 261
43. *Ibid.*, p. 262

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