



Peace Haven is pleased to share these references from an inspirational, online talk given by Chestnut Booth, C.S., on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

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## “Sweet Immunity”

by Chestnut Booth, C.S.

### 1) *Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy both promise us immunity from disease:*

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19)

In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mrs. Eddy introduces her trial allegory by saying that it’s “. . . an allegory in which the plea of Christian Science heals the sick” (S&H 430:15-16). She later quotes Christ Jesus’ promise of immunity as one of the three foundational Bible passages that mortal man’s defense attorney, Christian Science, refers to as the Rights of Man (see S&H 438: 1-6):

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion. [Gen. 1:26]

Behold, I give unto you power . . . over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. [Luke 10:19]

If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. [John 8:51]

“The star that looked lovingly down on the manger of our Lord, lends its resplendent light to this hour: the light of Truth, to cheer, guide, and bless man as he reaches forth for the infant idea of divine perfection dawning upon human imperfection, — that calms man’s fears, bears his burdens, beckons him on to Truth and Love and the sweet immunity these bring from sin, sickness, and death” (Mis. 320:9-16).

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**2. *We can heal infectious disease by knowing the truth about all God’s creatures—the tiny ones as well as the big ones.***

“All of God’s creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible.” (S&H 514:28–30)

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isa. 11:6–9)

“This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected. These ideas range from the infinitesimal to infinity . . .” (S&H 502:29)

“Love giveth to the least spiritual idea might, immortality, and goodness, which shine through all as the blossom shines through the bud.” (S&H 518:19–21)

“‘Love thine enemies’ is identical with ‘Thou hast no enemies.’” (Mis. 9:9–10)

“He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. . . . neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. . . . the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.” (Job 5:19, 22, 23)



**3) *Never waste a challenge! Take pleasure in the necessities of this challenge!***

“. . . I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” (II Cor. 12:10)

“The apostle Paul insists on the rare rule in Christian Science that we have chosen for a text; a rule that is susceptible of proof, and is applicable to every stage and state of human existence. The divine Science of this rule is quite as remote from the general comprehension of mankind as are the so-called miracles of our Master, and for the sole reason that it is their basis. . . . Christians today should be able to say, with the sweet sincerity of the apostle, “I take pleasure in infirmities,” — I enjoy the touch of weakness, pain, and all suffering of the flesh, because it compels me to seek the remedy for it, and to find happiness, apart from the personal senses.” (Mis. 200:11–17, 20–25)

“The very circumstance, which your suffering sense deems wrathful and afflictive, Love can make an angel entertained unawares.” (S&H 574:27–30)

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3 continued) – *Never waste a challenge! Take pleasure in the necessities of this challenge!*

“The ‘secret place,’ whereof David sang, is unquestionably man’s spiritual state in God’s own image and likeness, even the inner sanctuary of divine Science, in which mortals do not enter without a struggle or sharp experience, and in which they put off the human for the divine.” (*My* 244:15–19)

“. . . I kiss the cross, and wake to know / A world more bright.” (*Mis.* 397:3-4)

“O make me glad for every scalding tear, / For hope deferred, ingratitude, disdain! / Wait, and love more for every hate, and fear / No ill,—since God is good, and loss is gain.” (*Mis.* 389:14-17)

“. . . I will follow and rejoice / All the rugged way.” (*Mis.* 398:3-4)

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;” (*James* 1:2)

“The greatest wrong is but a supposititious opposite of the highest right.” (*S&H* 368:1–2)

“Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. . . . This is an element of progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.” (*S&H* 233:1–2, 5)



#### **4) *Christian Scientists have a job to do: Stop the contagion.***

“At a time of contagious disease, Christian Scientists endeavor to rise in consciousness to the true sense of the omnipotence of Life, Truth, and Love, and this great fact in Christian Science realized will stop a contagion.” (*My* 116:2-5)



#### **5) *What makes disease catching? And what prevents it? Mrs. Eddy’s article “Contagion” has the answers.***

“Common consent is contagious, and it makes disease catching.” (*Mis.* 228:28-29)

“People believe in infectious and contagious diseases, and that any one is liable to have them under certain predisposing or exciting causes. This mental state prepares one to have any disease whenever there appear the circumstances which he believes produce it.” (*Mis.* 228:30–4)

“A calm, Christian state of mind is a better preventive of contagion than a drug, or than any other possible sanative method; and the “perfect Love” that “casteth out fear” is a sure defense.” (*Mis.* 229:24-28)



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## 6) **We can be law-abiding, good neighbors while also being mentally independent.**

“I believe in obeying the laws of the land.” (*My* 220:12 (only))

“Rather than quarrel over vaccination, I recommend, if the law demand, that an individual submit to this process, that he obey the law, and then appeal to the gospel to save him from bad physical results.” (*My* 219:29–1)

“I say, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.’ . . . Where vaccination is compulsory, let your children be vaccinated, and see that your mind is in such a state that by your prayers vaccination will do the children no harm. So long as Christian Scientists obey the laws, I do not suppose their mental reservations will be thought to matter much.” (*My* 344:25 (only), 30–5)

“If you believe that you are sick, should you say, ‘I am sick’? No, but you should tell your belief sometimes, if this be requisite to protect others.” (*S&H* 461:16–18)

“Honesty is spiritual power.” (*S&H* 453:16 only)

“The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love.” (*S&H* 367:3-9)

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## 7) **While we comply with the health departments’ best practices to lessen our neighbors’ fears, we don’t rely on them for our own health. For that we have a spiritual best practice!**

“You would never think that flannel” [or masks or social distancing or hand washing] “was better for warding off pulmonary disease than the controlling Mind, if you understood the Science of being.” (*S&H* 63:1)

“It is well to be calm in sickness; to be hopeful is still better; but to understand that sickness is not real and that Truth can destroy its seeming reality, is best of all, for this understanding is the universal and perfect remedy.” (*S&H* 393:32-4)

“Stand porter at the door of thought. Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously. When the condition is present which you say induces disease, whether it be air, exercise, heredity, contagion, or accident, then perform your office as porter and shut out these unhealthy thoughts and fears. Exclude from mortal mind the offending errors; then the body cannot suffer from them.” (*S&H* 392:24–32)

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## 8) *You can have confidence in God's protection.*

“Truth handles the most malignant contagion with perfect assurance.” (S&H 176:31-32)

“It is proverbial that Florence Nightingale and other philanthropists engaged in humane labors have been able to undergo without sinking fatigues and exposures which ordinary people could not endure. The explanation lies in the support which they derived from the divine law, rising above the human. The spiritual demand, quelling the material, supplies energy and endurance surpassing all other aids, and forestalls the penalty which our beliefs would attach to our best deeds.” (S&H 385:1–11)

“Whatever it is your duty to do, you can do without harm to yourself.” (S&H 385:17–18)

“. . . — one cannot suffer as the result of any labor of love, but grows stronger because of it.” (S&H 387:23–24 one)

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