

Background: *Wednesday evening meetings in Christian Science churches include readings from the King James Version of The Bible and passages from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. Then, the congregation is invited to participate and share accounts of healing and spiritual insights. The meetings also include prayer and hymn singing from the "Christian Science Hymnal."*

The Bible is central to Christian Science. "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" is a companion to the Bible that explains the scientific system of Christian healing. You can find out more about Christian Science and spiritual healing at <http://www.christianscience.com>, a website of The Christian Science Publishing Society, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Readings Topic: Choose to Serve God

The Bible

1. Ps 97:1, 6-7

1 The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

7 Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

2. Dan 6:1-7, 9-12 (to ;), 13-17 (to 1st ;) 18-23, 25-28

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

4 ¶ Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 ¶ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree;

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den;

18 ¶ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

25 ¶ Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

3. Ex 20:1-5 (to:)

1 And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

4. Luke 16:13

13 ¶ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

5. Matt 24: 1 (to :), 4-5, 23-24

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple:

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

6. II Thess 2: 3 (to :), 15-17 stand

3 Let no man deceive you by any means:

15 stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

7. Deut 7: 9 the Lord, 11, 13 (to :), 14 (to :)

9 the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee:

14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people:

8. Joshua 24:15 choose

15 choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures

1. 346:30- 2 (to .)

30 We cannot serve both

God and mammon at the same time; but is not this what frail mortals are trying to do? Paul says:

1 "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh."

2. 167:20-26 *The flesh and*, 30-31

The flesh and

21 Spirit can no more unite in action, than good can coincide with evil. It is not wise to take a halt-

24 equally with Spirit and matter, Truth and error. There is but one way — namely, God and His idea — which leads to spiritual being.

30 Only through radical reliance on Truth can scientific healing power be realized.

3. 145:16-17, 25

Scientific healing has this advantage over other methods, — that in it Truth controls error.

27 Other methods undertake to oppose error with error, and thus they increase the antagonism of one form of matter towards other forms of matter or error, and the warfare between Spirit and the flesh goes on. By this antagonism mortal mind must continually weaken its own assumed power.

4. 168:4-10, 15-23

If the scales are evenly adjusted, the removal of a single weight from either scale gives preponderance to the opposite. Whatever influence you cast on the side of matter, you take away from Mind, which would otherwise outweigh all else. Your belief militates against your health, when it ought to be enlisted on the side of health.

15 Because man-made systems insist that man becomes sick and useless, suffers and dies, all in consonance with the laws of God, are we to believe it? Are

18 we to believe an authority which denies God's spiritual command relating to perfection, — an authority which Jesus proved to be false? He did the will of the

21 Father. He healed sickness in defiance of what is called material law, but in accordance with God's law, the law of Mind.

5. 30:30-1

30 We cannot choose for
ourselves, but must work out our salvation in the way
Jesus taught. In meekness and might, he was found
1 preaching the gospel to the poor.

6. 52:1-2

1 From early boyhood he was about his "Father's busi-
ness."

7. 19:29-1

Jesus urged the commandment, "Thou shalt have no
30 other gods before me," which may be ren-
dered: Thou shalt have no belief of Life as
mortal; thou shalt not know evil, for there is one Life, —
1 even God, good.

8. 191:4

As mortals give up the delusion that there is more than
one Mind, more than one God, man in God's likeness will
6 appear, and this eternal man will include in that likeness
no material element.

9. 182:9, 18-26

We cannot obey both physi-
ology and Spirit, for one absolutely destroys the other,
and one or the other must be supreme in the affections.
12 It is impossible to work from two standpoints. If we
attempt it, we shall presently "hold to the one, and
despise the other."

18 Mind's government of the body must supersede the so-
called laws of matter. Obedience to material law pre-
vents full obedience to spiritual law, — the law
21 which overcomes material conditions and puts
matter under the feet of Mind. Mortals entreat the di-
vine Mind to heal the sick, and forthwith shut out the aid
24 of Mind by using material means, thus working against
themselves and their prayers and denying man's God-
given ability to demonstrate Mind's sacred power.

30 To admit that sickness is a condition over which God
has no control, is to presuppose that omnipotent power
is powerless on some occasions.

10. 387:27

27 The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs
of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed
on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent
30 Mind, who gives man faith and understanding
whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but
from bodily suffering.

11. 384: 3-6

3 We should relieve our minds from the depressing thought
that we have transgressed a material law and must of
necessity pay the penalty. Let us reassure
6 ourselves with the law of Love.

12. 514:26-28

Understanding the control which Love held over all,
27 Daniel felt safe in the lions' den, and Paul proved the
viper to be harmless.

13. 360:13-18

Dear reader, which mind-picture or externalized thought
shall be real to you, — the material or the spiritual?
15 Both you cannot have. You are bringing out Choose ye
your own ideal. This ideal is either temporal to-day
or eternal. Either Spirit or matter is your model. If you
18 try to have two models, then you practically have none.

14. 467:13

Having no other gods,
turning to no other but the one perfect Mind to guide
15 him, man is the likeness of God, pure and eternal, hav-
ing that Mind which was also in Christ.

15. 182:30-4

The law of Christ, or
1 Truth, makes all things possible to Spirit; but the so-
called laws of matter would render Spirit of no avail, and
3 demand obedience to materialistic codes, thus departing
from the basis of one God, one lawmaker.

16. 167:17

To have
18 one God and avail yourself of the power of Spirit, you
must love God supremely.

Hymns

Hymn 258

James Russell Lowell
Adapted

TON-Y-BOTEL
Welsh Hymn Melody

Of to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side.
A great cause, God's new Messiah,
Shows to each the bloom or blight,
So can choice be made by all men
Twixt the darkness and the light.

New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient creeds uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of Truth,
And serenely down the future
See the thought of men incline
To the side of perfect justice
And to God's supreme design.

Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis Truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow
Keeping watch above His own.

Hymn 324

Frances R. Havergal
Adapted

THEODORA
Arr. from G. F. Haendel

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my every thought, to use
In the way that Thou shalt choose.
Take my love; O Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
I am Thine, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Hymn 396

Mrs. Vokes
Adapted

CARLISLE
Charles Lockhart

Ye messengers of Christ,
His sovereign voice obey;
Arise, and follow where he leads,
And peace attend your way.

The Master whom ye serve
Will needful strength bestow;
Depending on his promised aid,
With sacred courage go.

In vain shall evil strive,
And hell in vain oppose;
The cause is God's and will prevail,
In spite of all His foes.