

Christian Scientists maintain that God is the only Mind and Life.

In a leaflet entitled: *The Real and the Unreal*, the Christian Scientist S. J. Hanna writes: "We wish it distinctly understood that our textbook does not treat sin, sickness, and death lightly, as some seem to think. On the contrary, it teaches that humanly speaking they are to be overcome and destroyed as Jesus and his disciples overcame and destroyed them. It teaches that it was a solemn mission of Jesus and his disciples to prove the unreality of sin, sickness, and death by destroying them, and that it is the duty of Jesus' followers in all ages to strive to learn the divine law by virtue of which he did this, and having learned it to practice it in the interests of suffering and dying humanity.

"Mental healing" in this case, according to their theory, would consist of getting rid of the idea of sin, sickness, and death. But as a matter of fact, the idea is not identical with sin, sickness, and death; and therefore even if you succeed in ignoring sin, the sin remains, unless it is repented for and forgiven. Mrs. Eddy tried hard to ignore death, but in spite of this Mary Baker Eddy passed away on December 3, 1910. By that time, her church was growing nationally and internationally, and her best-selling book was in the process of being translated for the first time (into German). Hundreds of tributes appeared in newspapers around the world, including *The Boston Globe*, which wrote, "She did a wonderful - an extraordinary work in the world and there is no doubt that she was a powerful influence for good."

The fallacy of their reasoning is apparent. They advise people to fight a phantom, to destroy something unreal, and to look upon actual things and occurrences as mere delusions of mind.

Under the guise of mind, they idolize the body. Their literature does not treat virtue, on

how to serve God, self-denial, penance, or anything whatsoever which brings the soul nearer to God. The whole lesson taught by them is: idolize your body; take care of the body, but avoid the physician and refuse medicine; be your own doctor by concentrating your thoughts upon the idea, that sin, sickness, death, and matter is all a delusion; or as the foundress of Christian Science put it: "Ehen the Science of Being is understood, every man will be his own physician, and Truth will be the universal panacea." (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 38).

Their tenets are anti-Christian and absolutely materialistic. All they retain of Christianity is the name, and that is a misnomer. Sacraments and other means of grace are unknown to their teaching.

The Church has about 2300 branch congregations in 60 countries. There are about 1600 congregations in the US and about 60 in Canada. They operate Christian Science Reading Rooms where the public is invited to read the Bible and literature published by the Church.

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Pamphlet 148

## **Church of Christ, Scientist**

### **Background, History, and beliefs.**



***Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)***

The denomination, which calls itself the Church of Christ, Scientist, is neither Christian nor scientific in spite of the fact it has come to be known Christian Science. It was founded by the late Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy. Her maiden name was Baker; the other names she acquired by marrying Mr. Glover, then Mr. Patterson, from whom she was divorced and during whose lifetime she became the wife of Mr. Eddy.

Mary Baker Eddy was an influential American author, teacher, and religious leader, noted for her innovative ideas about spirituality and health, which she named Christian Science. She articulated those ideas in her major work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, first published in 1875. Four years later she founded the Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, which today has branch churches and societies around the world. Her students ordained her. In 1908 she launched *The Christian Science Monitor*, a leading international newspaper, the recipient, to date, of seven Pulitzer Prizes.

Eddy would build her Church on the strength of this healing work by both herself as well as over four thousands students that she

taught at her Massachusetts Metaphysical College in Boston, Massachusetts between the years 1882 and 1889. These students spread across the country practicing healing by her teachings. Through the auspices of her church, she would authorize these students to list themselves as Christian Science Practitioners in her church's official monthly organ, the *Christian Science Journal*.

In 1908, at the age of 87, she founded The Christian Science Monitor, a daily newspaper devoted to balance. She also founded the *Christian Science Journal* in 1883, a monthly magazine focused chiefly on the church audience; the *Christian Science Sentinel* in 1898, a weekly religious periodical written for a more general public audience, and the *Herald of Christian Science*, a religious magazine with editions in non-English languages, for children, and in English-Braille. She died December 10, 1910.

In 1921, on the 100th anniversary of Mrs Eddy's birth, a 100 ton, 11 foot high granite pyramid was dedicated on the site of her birthplace in Bow, New Hampshire. A gift from the Masons, the only other religious society church members are permitted to join, it was later dynamited by order of the Mother Church Board of Directors. As with Mrs Eddy's home in Pleasant View, which they also demolished, the board feared that it was becoming a place of pilgrimage. Although Mrs Eddy cultivated personal praise in her lifetime for various reasons, including for publicity and fund raising, Christian Science theology shuns both the cult of personality and religious reliquaries.

According to one of their publications, "Christian Science is a Christian denomination based on the teachings and works of Christ Jesus. The Church was founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy, with this purpose: ". . . to commemorate the word and works of our

*Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing."* (From the *Manual of The Mother Church* by Mary Baker Eddy)

Christian Scientists do not have an organizational creed. However, the following is a brief exposition of the important points, or tenets, of the religion as given in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy (p. 496):

1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.
4. We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure."

Seeking and finding God is central to the practice of Christian Science. God is understood as the all-loving, omnipotent Father-Mother, and Christ Jesus as His Son. Jesus' human life

characterized the kind of sonship that Christian Scientists believe is provable for all as the children of God. He is seen as the Exemplar, the Way-shower. The divine nature he expressed is the Christ, and the Christ-God's expression of Himself-is eternal and ever-present. Understanding man's pure, indestructible relationship with God is what results in regeneration and healing.

From the contents of this book as well as from articles in the *Christian Science Sentinel* the *Christian Science Monitor*, and other publications, we infer that the "Christian Scientists'" great hobby is "mental healing;" i.e., getting rid of the idea that there is really such a thing as matter, sickness, sin, and the consequences of the same.

"Christian Scientists do not believe in the Blessed Trinity: they do not that there are three distinct persons in one God. They deny the divinity of Christ, whom they divide into two persons. Angels are not considered spirits among them, but only divine messages, instead of messengers. They deny the creation of man, the maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the future resurrection of all men as well as the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ignoring on this topic both history and Scripture. Original sin, death, and hell are branded as delusions.

*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* contains the following sentence in the 169<sup>th</sup> Edition, page 140, "Man is neither young or old. He has neither birth nor death." On page 107 we read: "The sensation of sickness and sin exists only in belief"; and on page 172: "If God is admitted to be only the Mind and Life there ceases to be any opportunity for sin and death."