

Wednesday Noon and Evening Meetings  
October 3, 2018  
"CHURCH"

The Bible

Hymns: 3, 176, 293

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Psalms 127

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:  
And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant  
riches. Proverbs 24

For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And  
Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those  
things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house;  
whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the  
hope firm unto the end. Hebrews 3

God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, hath raised us  
up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in  
the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his  
kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through  
faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a  
fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their  
synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had  
been brought up and as the custom was, he went into the synagogue on the  
sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the  
book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the  
place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath  
anointed me to preach the gospel of the poor, he hath sent me to heal the  
brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight  
to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable  
year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister,  
and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in synagogue were fastened  
on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your  
ears.

And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice. Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee. Luke 4

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John, the Baptist: some, Elias; and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He said unto them, but whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Psalms 90

## **Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy**

Our church is built on the divine Principle, Love. We can unite with this church only as we are newborn of Spirit, as we reach the Life which is Truth and the Truth which is Life by bringing forth the fruits of Love,--casting out error and healing the sick. Page 35

Christianity as Jesus taught it was not a creed, nor a system of ceremonies, nor a special gift from a ritualistic Jehovah; but it was the demonstration of divine Love casting out error and healing the sick, not merely in the name of Christ, or Truth, but in demonstration of Truth, as must be the case in the cycles of divine light.

Page 135

Jesus established his church and maintained his mission on a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing. He taught his followers that his religion had a divine Principle, which would cast out error and heal both the sick and the sinning. He claimed no intelligence, action, nor life separate from God. Despite the persecution this brought upon him, he used his divine power to save men both bodily and spiritually.

The question then as now was How did Jesus heal the sick? His answer to this question the world rejected. He appealed to his students: "Whom do men say that I, the son of man, am?" Page 136

With his usual impetuosity, Simon replied for his brethren, and his reply set forth a great fact: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living god!" That is: The Messiah is what thou hast declared,—Christ, the spirit of God, of Truth, Life, and Love, which heals mentally. This assertion elicited from Jesus the benediction, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven;" that is, Love hath shown thee the way of Life!

Before this the impetuous disciple had been called only by his common names, Simon Bar-jona, or son of Jona; but now the Master gave him a spiritual name in these words: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock (the meaning of the Greek word *petros*, or *stone* I will build my church; and the gates of hell (*hades*, the *under-world*, or the *grave*) shall not prevail against it." In other words, Jesus purposed founding his society, not on the personal Peter as a mortal, but on the God-power which lay behind Peter's confession of the true Messiah. Page 137-138

Jesus established in the Christian era the precedent for all Christianity, theology, and healing. Christians are under as direct orders now, as they were then, to be Christlike, to possess the Christ-spirit, to follow the Christ-example, and to heal the sick as well as the sinning. Page 138

Christianity will never be based on a divine Principle and so found to be unerring, until its absolute Science is reached. When this is accomplished, neither pride, prejudice, bigotry, nor envy can wash away its foundation, for it is built upon the rock, Christ. Page 484

The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin.

One's aim, a point beyond faith, should be to find the footsteps of Truth, the way to health and holiness. We should strive to reach the Horeb height where God is revealed; and the corner-stone of all spiritual building is purity. The baptism of Spirit, washing the body of all the impurities of flesh, signifies that the pure in heart see God and are approaching spiritual Life and its demonstration. Page 241

ROCK: Spiritual foundation: Truth. Page 593

JESUS: The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality. Page 589

CHRIST: The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error. Page 583

CHURCH: The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.

The Church is that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, thereby casting out devils, or error, and healing the sick. Page 583

Tom Sims, 1<sup>st</sup> Reader