

These mailings are inspired by Mary Baker Eddy's cogent comments in her article "Advice to Students":

"To know the what, when, and how of error, destroys error. The error that is seen aright as error, has received its death-blow; but never until then" (Mis. 299:2).

INFORMATION MAILING #56

FOCUS:

Uncovering error

A sampling of references from the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings relative to the necessity of uncovering error

Compiled February 2012

The information presented in these mailings is not the work of any one individual, but of many Christian Scientists. It represents the thinking of a broad spectrum of workers throughout the Field, who wish to share their knowledge and insights. The intent is never to harm, but always to bless.

This information mailing addresses a pervasive misconception in the Christian Science Field. It has to do with the extremely destructive belief that individual students of Christian Science do not have the right or the wisdom to distinguish between right and wrong, truth and error, when it comes to that which is suggested to them by the Christian Science Board of Directors.

The writings of Mary Baker Eddy, providing as they do, the “key” to the Scriptures, contradict that misconception and reveal the loyal student’s solemn duty to recognize and uncover error. The only way to ensure that the Science of Christ is kept pure for the generations to come is for students of Christian Science to follow the instructions of the Leader. Obedience to her statements prevents the student from straying individually or collectively in his branch church.

Many branch churches, following the Directors’ suggestions blindly, have corrupted their services by using Bible translations other than the King James Version (forgetting that it is the KJV through which Mrs. Eddy’s discovery came), by accepting sensual pop music in place of the high standards Mrs. Eddy set for music, and by agreeing to Lessons with other than six sections. The integrity of branch churches and The Mother Church is weakened by lowering the standards for membership – accepting those with questionable morals or those who indulge in alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or *materia medica*, none of which mix with Christian Science, according to Mrs. Eddy.

Any agreement with the legitimacy of a departure from Mary Baker Eddy’s design, whether it be subtle or glaring, causes a loss, to some degree, of the healing power that is available to those who are willing to practice with precision the Science she was chosen by God to reveal.

It is hoped that students will find the enclosed sampling of references on the subject of uncovering error instructional and inspirational in correcting the misconception that suggestions from headquarters cannot be challenged if the suggestions are antithetical to Mrs. Eddy’s writings.

**A SAMPLING OF REFERENCES
FROM THE BIBLE AND MRS. EDDY'S WRITINGS
RELATIVE TO THE NECESSITY OF UNCOVERING ERROR
(with notes by the compiler)**

THE BIBLE

“When he [your Advocate, or Comforter] comes, he will confute [disprove] the world, and show where wrong and right and judgement lie” (John 16:8, *The New English Bible*). *[Compiler's note: Christian Science, as the Comforter, shows each student what is right and what is wrong and how to judge between the two. Awakening to his God-given ability to discern between right and wrong, the student has the authority and responsibility to uncover whatever is wrong for the purpose of destroying it.]*

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). *[Compiler's note: The student has to recognize a devilish suggestion as such before he can be obedient to this Scriptural instruction and resist it. And resist it he must if he wants the devil to flee from him. It is the Comforter that enables that recognition.]*

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way....He said unto them, An enemy hath done this....Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matt. 13:24, 25, 28, 30). *[Compiler's note: By distinguishing between right and wrong, the Comforter enables the student to burn (uncover and destroy) the tares and gather (preserve) the wheat.*

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt. 7:13,14). *[Compiler's note: Avoiding the broad way and staying on the narrow way is the same as saying “no” to error and “yes” to truth, but the nature of the broad way must be discerned before one realizes the need to say “no” to it.]*

“The Lord said:...I will state my case against my people for all the wrong they have done in forsaking me, in burning sacrifices to other gods, worshipping the work of their own hands. Brace yourself, Jeremiah; stand up and speak to them. Tell them everything I bid you, do not let your spirit break at sight of them, or I will break you before their eyes. This day I make you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of bronze, to stand fast against the whole land, against the kings and princes of Judah, its priests and its people. They will make war on you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you and will keep you safe. This is the very word of the Lord” (Jer. 1:14, 16-19, *The New English Bible*). *[Compiler's note: Isn't this God's demand upon each student – to discern between right and wrong, to brace himself, stand up, and speak out against error?]*

“...the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth, and said to me, ‘I put my words into your mouth. This day I give you authority over nations and over kingdoms, to pull down and to uproot, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant’” (Jer. 1:9-10, *The New English Bible*). *[Compiler's note: This is Biblical authority for recognizing and uncovering any deviation from God's law as stated in Scripture and confirmed in the Key to the Scriptures. It is also the authority to rebuild and to plant.]*

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

“Jesus uncovered and rebuked sin before he cast it out” (*S&H* 6:23-24).

“Every Christian Scientist, every conscientious teacher of the Science of Mind-healing...feels morally obligated to open the eyes of his students that they may perceive the nature and methods of error of every sort, especially any subtle degree of evil, deceived and deceiving” (*S&H* 451:19-26).

“He, who understands in a sufficient degree the Principle of Mind-healing, points out to his student error as well as truth, the wrong as well as the right practice” (*S&H* 454:14-17).

“You uncover sin, not in order to injure, but in order to bless the corporeal man; and a right motive has its reward. Hidden sin is spiritual wickedness in high places. The masquerader in this Science thanks God that there is no evil, yet serves evil in the name of good” (*S&H* 453:18).

“Love fulfils the law of Christian Science, and nothing short of this divine Principle, understood and demonstrated, can ever furnish the vision of the Apocalypse, open the seven seals of error with Truth, or uncover the myriad illusions of sin, sickness, and death” (*S&H* 572:12-17).

“To prove scientifically the error or unreality of sin, you must first see the claim of sin, and then destroy it. Whereas, to prove scientifically the error or unreality of disease, you must mentally unsee the disease; then you will not feel it, and it is destroyed” (*S&H* 461:26).

“...God’s law uncovers so-called sin and its effects, only that Truth may annihilate all sense of evil and all power to sin” (*S&H* 540:14).

“A knowledge of error and of its operations must precede that understanding of Truth which destroys error, until the entire mortal, material error finally disappears, and the eternal verity, man created by and of Spirit, is understood and recognized as the true likeness of his Maker” (*S&H* 252:8).

“Expose and denounce the claims of evil and disease in all their forms, but realize no reality in them....To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion, and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its unreality....A sinner is afraid to cast the first stone. He may say, as a subterfuge, that evil is unreal, but to know it, he must demonstrate his statement. To assume that there are no claims of evil and yet to indulge them, is a moral offence” (*S&H* 447:20-2).

“Uncover error, and it turns the lie upon you. Until the fact concerning error – namely, its nothingness – appears, the moral demand will not be met, and the ability to make nothing of error will be wanting” (*S&H* 92:21-25).

“Evil which obtains in the bodily senses, but which the heart condemns, has no foundation; but if evil is uncondemned, it is undenied and nurtured. Under such circumstances, to say that there is no evil, is an evil in itself. When needed tell the truth concerning the lie. Evasion of Truth cripples integrity, and casts thee down from the pinnacle” (*S&H* 448:5).

“Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy” (*S&H* 542:9).

“Many are willing to open the eyes of the people to the power of good resident in divine Mind, but they are not so willing to point out the evil in human thought, and expose evil’s hidden mental ways of accomplishing iniquity. Why this backwardness, since exposure is necessary to ensure the avoidance of the evil? Because people like you better when you tell them their virtues than when you tell them their vices. It requires the spirit of our blessed Master to tell a man his faults, and so risk human displeasure for the sake of doing right and benefiting our race. Who is telling mankind of the foe in ambush? Is the informer one who sees the foe? If so, listen and be wise. Escape from evil, and designate those as unfaithful stewards who have seen the danger and yet have given no warning” (*S&H* 570:30-14).

PROSE WORKS

“Love unfolds marvellous good and uncovers hidden evil” (*My.* 288:2-3).

“It is scientific to abide in conscious harmony, in health-giving, deathless Truth and Love. To do this, mortals must first open their eyes to all the illusive forms, methods, and subtlety of error, in order that the illusion, error, may be destroyed; if this is not done, mortals will become the victims of error” (*Ret.* 64:24).

“I shall not forget the cost of investigating, for this age, the methods and power of error. While the ways, means, and potency of Truth had flowed into my consciousness as easily as dawns the morning light and shadows flee, the metaphysical mystery of error – its hidden paths, purpose, and fruits – at first defied me. I was saying all the time, ‘Come not thou into the secret’ – but at length took up the research according to God’s command” (*Mis.* 222:29).

“In my public works I lay bare the ability, in belief, of evil to break the Decalogue, – to murder, steal, commit adultery, and so on. Those who deny my wisdom or right to expose error, are either willing participants in wrong, afraid of its supposed power, or ignorant of it” (*Mis.* 335:16).

“Certain individuals entertain the notion that Christian Science Mind-healing should be two-sided, and only denounce error in general, – saying nothing, in particular, of error that is damning men. They are sticklers for a false, convenient peace, straining at gnats and swallowing camels. The unseen wrong to individuals and society they are too cowardly, too ignorant, or too wicked to uncover, and excuse themselves by denying that this evil exists. This mistaken way, of hiding sin in order to maintain harmony, has licensed evil, allowing it first to smoulder, and then break out in devouring flames. All that error asks is to be let alone; even as in Jesus’ time the unclean spirits cried out, ‘Let us alone; what have we to do with thee?’” (*My.* 210:19-11).

“Justice uncovers sin of every sort; and mercy demands that if you see the danger menacing others, you shall, *Deo volente*, inform them thereof. Only thus is the right practice of Mind-healing achieved, and the wrong practice discerned, disarmed, and destroyed” (*Mis.* 67:19).

“Divine Love, as unconscious as incapable of error, pursues the evil that hideth itself, strips off its disguises, and – behold the result: evil, uncovered, is self-destroyed. Christian Science never healed a patient without proving with mathematical certainty that error, when found out, is two-thirds destroyed, and the remaining third kills itself. Do men whine over a nest of serpents, and post around it placards warning people not to stir up these reptiles because they have stings? Christ said, ‘They shall take up serpents;’ and, ‘Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.’ The wisdom of a serpent is to hide itself. The wisdom of God, as revealed in Christian Science, brings the serpent out of its hole, handles it, and takes away its sting” (*Mis.* 209:32-14).

“The claims of evil become both less and more in Christian Science, than in human philosophies or creeds: *more*, because the evil that is hidden by dogma and human reason is uncovered by Science; and *less*, because evil, being thus uncovered, is found out, and exposure is nine points of destruction. Then appears the grand verity of Christian Science: namely, that evil has no claims and was never a claimant; for behold evil (or devil) is, as Jesus said, ‘a murderer from the beginning, and the truth abode not in him’” (No. 24:15).

“Because God is supreme and omnipotent, *materia medica*, hygiene, and animal magnetism are impotent; and their only supposed efficacy is in apparently deluding reason, denying revelation, and dethroning Deity. The tendency of mental healing is to uplift mankind; but this method perverted, is ‘Satan let loose.’ Hence the deep demand for the Science of psychology to meet sin, and uncover it; thus to annihilate hallucination” (Mis. 3:25).

“To allow sin of any sort is anomalous in Christian Scientists, claiming, as they do, that good is infinite, All. Our Master, in his definition of Satan as a liar from the beginning, attested the absolute powerlessness – yea, nothingness – of evil: since a lie, being without foundation in fact, is merely a falsity; spiritually, literally, it *is nothing*” (Mis. 108:4).

“Not to know that a false claim is false, is to be in danger of believing it; hence the utility of knowing evil aright, then reducing its claim to its proper denominator, – nobody and nothing” (Mis. 108:11-14).

“When unconscious of a mistake, one thinks he is not mistaken; but this false consciousness does not change the fact, or its results; suffering and mistakes recur until one is awake to their cause and character. To know the what, when, and how of error, destroys error. The error that is seen aright as error, has received its death-blow; but never until then” (Mis. 298:28).

“This uncovering and punishing of sin must, will come, at some date, to the rescue of humanity. The teacher of divine metaphysics should impart to his students the general knowledge that he has gained from instruction, observation, and mental practice” (Mis. 293:6).

“The teacher in Christian Science who does not specially instruct his pupils how to guard against evil and its silent modes, and to be able, through Christ, the living Truth, to protect themselves therefrom, is committing an offense against God and humanity” (Mis. 114:30-2).

“Let us follow the example of Jesus, the master Metaphysician, and gain sufficient knowledge of error to destroy it with Truth” (Ret. 55:3-5).

“The tender mother, guided by love, faithful to her instincts, and adhering to the imperative rules of Science, asks herself: Can I teach my child the correct numeration of numbers and never name a cipher? Knowing that she cannot do this in mathematics, she should know that it cannot be done in metaphysics, and so she should definitely name the error, uncover it, and teach truth scientifically” (My. 235:6).

“When God bids one uncover iniquity, in order to exterminate it, one should lay it bare; and divine Love will bless this endeavor and those whom it reaches. ‘Nothing is hid that shall not be revealed.’ It is only a question of time when God shall reveal His rod, and show the plan of battle. Error, left to itself, accumulates” (Mis. 348:8-14).

“Error found out is two-thirds destroyed, and the last third pierces itself, for the remainder only stimulates and gives scope to higher demonstration” (Mis. 355:13-16).

“Christian Scientists cannot watch too sedulously, or bar their doors too closely, or pray to God too fervently, for deliverance from the claims of evil. Thus doing, Scientists will silence evil suggestions, uncover their methods, and stop their hidden influence upon the lives of mortals” (*Mis.* 114:21-26).

“When human sense is quickened to behold aright the error, – the error of regarding Life, Truth, Love as material and not spiritual, or as both material and spiritual, – it is able for the first time to discern the Science of good. But it must first see the error of its present erroneous course, to be able to behold the facts of Truth outside of the error; and, *vice versa*, when it discovers the truth, this uncovers the error and quickens the true consciousness of God, good” (*Mis.* 352:3-11).

“...the knowledge of one’s self, the proper knowledge of evil and its subtle workings wherein evil seems as real as good, is indispensable; since that which is truly conceived of, we can handle; but the misconception of what we need to know of evil, – or the conception of it at all as something real, – costs much. Sin needs only to be known for what it is not; then we are its master, not servant” (*Mis.* 108:18-25).

“The only difference between the healing of sin and the healing of sickness is, that sin must be *uncovered* before it can be destroyed, and the moral sense be aroused to reject the sense of error; while sickness must be covered with the veil of harmony, and the consciousness be allowed to rejoice in the sense that it has nothing to mourn over, but something to forget” (*Mis.* 352:28).

“Examine yourselves, and see what, and how much, sin claims of you; and how much of this claim you admit as valid, or comply with. The knowledge of evil that brings on repentance is the most hopeful stage of mortal mentality. Even a mild mistake must be seen as a mistake, in order to be corrected; how much more, then, should one’s sins be seen and repented of, before they can be reduced to their native nothingness!” (*Mis.* 109:8).

“Three cardinal points must be gained before poor humanity is regenerated and Christian Science is demonstrated: (1) A proper sense of sin; (2) repentance; (3) the understanding of good” (*Mis.* 107:14).

“The evil-doer receives no encouragement from my declaration that evil is unreal, when I declare that he must awake from his belief in this awful unreality, repent and forsake it, in order to understand and demonstrate its unreality. Error uncondemned is not nullified. We must condemn the claim of error in every phase in order to prove it false, therefore unreal” (*'01* 14:30).

“To lose the sense of sin we must first detect the claim of sin; hold it invalid, give it the lie, and then we get the victory, sin disappears, and its unreality is proven. So long as we indulge the presence or believe in the power of sin, it sticks to us and has power over us. Again: To assume there is no reality in sin, and yet commit sin, is sin itself, that clings fast to iniquity. The Publican’s wail won his humble desire, while the Pharisee’s self-righteousness crucified Jesus. Do Christian Scientists believe that evil exists? We answer, Yes and No! Yes, inasmuch as we do know that evil, as a false claim, false entity, and utter falsity, does exist in thought; and No, as something that enjoys, suffers, or is *real*” (*'01* 13:27-10).

What can we do?

The preceding references offer overwhelming proof that the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings give every Christian Scientist the authority to believe that he has the right and the duty to recognize an error and expose it. Those references also encourage sincere students to speak out against an error for the purpose of demonstrating its nothingness. Both the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy make it clear that to neglect to do so subjects the individual to the error he should be correcting. In other words, he becomes the victim.

Our Leader, while instructing her followers to uncover error, lovingly points out the difficulty in carrying this out because of the hidden and subtle ways of error (that are so apparent today). For example, she warns:

“The serpentine form stands for subtlety, winding its way amidst all evil, but doing this in the name of good. Its sting is spoken of by Paul, when he refers to ‘spiritual wickedness in high places’” (*S&H* 563:27-30).

And Mrs. Eddy tells us how bad evil will seem before it is ripe for destruction:

“In the Apocalypse, when nearing its doom, this evil increases and becomes the great red dragon, swollen with sin, inflamed with war against spirituality, and ripe for destruction. It is full of lust and hate, loathing the brightness of divine glory” (*S&H* 565:1).

She also describes how the evil operates in order to deceive:

“A lie has only one chance of successful deception, – to be accounted true. Evil seeks to fasten all error upon God, and so make the lie seem part of eternal Truth” (*Un.* 17:1).

And she shows the process that precedes the disappearance of evil from our lives:

“Because God is Spirit, evil becomes more apparent and obnoxious proportionately as we advance spiritually, until it disappears from our lives” (*S&H* 207:2-4).

Given the current situation in the Christian Science Church, it seems essential to know specifically how to apply the concept of recognizing and uncovering error. Any edict coming out from the church headquarters that changes Mary Baker Eddy's design for church should, according to Mrs. Eddy's instruction, be uncovered and challenged by individual students of Christian Science, as well as by branch churches. Mrs. Eddy says, “The time for thinkers has come.” That could not mean to follow unthinkingly a Board of Directors, such as one would follow a pope.

For example, one of the latest suggestions offered by the Christian Science Board of Directors to the Field is that the Readers in churches can now read from the full-text *Quarterly* instead of from the books. This is a direct violation of the *Manual*, which says: “The Readers shall not read from copies or manuscripts, but from the books” (Art. III, Sect. 4). The sophisticated reason given for this new permission given to Readers to read from the full text is that in Mrs. Eddy's day, “copies or manuscripts” meant handwritten copies, but now copies are electronic with no room for mistakes. The alert student of Christian Science sees through that sophistry, uncovers it, and refuses to accept the lie for himself or his branch church. He will do all in his power, including losing friends and popularity, to keep his branch church free from that corruption on the basis that Mary Baker Eddy's words in the *Manual* are written for eternity and mean exactly what they say – that the Reader will not read from

copies. He will read from books. An e-book is not a book. It is an e-book. Mrs. Eddy was the final revelator of the “final revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental healing” (*S&H* 107:5). Anyone who knows that fact does not in any way manipulate the meaning of her words.

Another example of a wrong is the current suggestion by the Christian Science Board of Directors that weddings can now be held in Christian Science churches. This error is based on sophistical “evidence” in the Mary Baker Eddy library. Why has this “evidence” suddenly come forth and has not been found for the last 100 years? The alert Christian Science student asks that question, challenges the claim on the basis of reason and logic, and then makes the effort to find the overwhelming factual evidence in earlier documents from the Church and in Mary Baker Eddy’s history that prove the suggestion to be antithetical to Mrs. Eddy’s design for church.

There are dozens of other examples of corruption of Mary Baker Eddy’s design for her church and movement that could be given here. One that very few students have picked up on and resisted is the diverging from the number of sections (six) in the Lesson-Sermon left by Mary Baker Eddy. Because so few have seen the error of that and uncovered it, Mrs. Eddy’s prophecy has come to pass. She says: “This mistaken way, of hiding sin in order to maintain harmony, has licensed evil, allowing it first to smoulder, and then break out in devouring flames. All that error asks is to be let alone...” (*My*. 211:6-9). In the upcoming *Quarterly* (April-June 2012), nine of the thirteen Lessons are non-six-section Lessons. The alert student should know the Biblical base – the symbol – for the six sections, the history of the Bible Lesson Committee, and the fact that Mrs. Eddy approved the six sections in 1904, which stayed that way until she passed. That had to mean that she intended it to be that way forever. Whoever would make the decision to change her plan with the stupid excuse that she didn’t specifically write down somewhere that the Lesson had to be in six sections should be challenged, not only for the undermining of the stability represented in the consistent use of six sections, but for the mortal sense of ego such a change represents. Imagine feeling that you know better than Mary Baker Eddy – “the appointed agent of the divine Being” (see *Christian Science Sentinel*, August 31, 1907, p. 1004)!

For all practical purposes, time is running out. By that is meant that Mary Baker Eddy’s revelation is now almost totally obscured – its scientific and pure Christian nature having been slowly eroded away for the last thirty to forty years. Mrs. Eddy’s loyal followers (those who know that she is “the appointed agent of the divine Being” who brought the “final revelation” to humanity) must be actively obeying the Leader’s instructions to uncover error – specifically in this case, the error involved in the changes being imposed on the Field by the Christian Science Board of Directors. If this is not done, the enemy (that which Mrs. Eddy describes as “large numbers, in desperate malice” who have “sworn enmity against the lives of our standard-bearers” – see *Mis*. 177:8) will win, and Christian Science as it has been known for the last 100 years will be to human sense eclipsed (see *Mis*. 105:20), and a counterfeit – that is, an organization with the name “Christian Science” but without its scientific or its pure Christian nature – will be all that remains, and future generations will be deprived of the knowledge of God that heals.

Warning: Do not be tempted by the taunting of the enemy that twists Jesus’ words by saying that you cannot judge – that it is not Christian to judge. Keep always in thought the Master’s instruction “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). Of course, destructive criticism is indefensible, but being able to distinguish between right and wrong is judging “righteous judgment.” Jesus set the true Christian and scientific example of judging “righteous judgment” when he repeatedly called the Pharisees “hypocrites.” Would today’s “namby-pamby” Christian Scientists scold Jesus for judging in that way? (To appreciate Mrs. Eddy’s use of the term “namby-pamby,” see *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, third series, p. 89.)