

WEDNESDAY READINGS

OCTOBER 20, 2021



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John 3:1–13

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.

John 1:12, 13

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

I Pet. 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

- 14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"
- 16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.
- 25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

41 Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.

47 “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. 48 “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?”

52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

Ps. 8:2

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

John 19:1, 6, 29, 30, 38–40

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *him*. ...

When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him. ...

Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. ...

... ¶ And after this Joseph of Arimathæa, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the

Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

Heb. 5:1, 13, 14

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: ...

For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I Pet. 1:13, 14, 23

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ...

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Mark 4:28 first

... first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.



SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES BY MARY BAKER EDDY

SH 552:13–19

Human experience in mortal life, which starts from an egg, corresponds with that of Job, when he says, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Mortals must emerge from this notion of material life as all-in-all. They must peck open their shells with Christian Science, and look outward and upward.

Emergence
of mortals

SH 274:3–7, 9

Unnecessary knowledge gained from the five senses is only temporal, — the conception of mortal mind, the offspring of sense, not of Soul, Spirit, — and symbolizes all that is evil and perishable. ... Ideas, on the contrary, are born of Spirit, and are not mere inferences drawn from material premises.

Material
knowledge
illusiv

SH 170:3–4

Modes of matter form neither a moral nor a spiritual system.

SH 295:25–28, 31

All that is called mortal thought is made up of error. The theoretical mind is matter, named *brain*, or *material consciousness*, the exact opposite of real Mind, or Spirit. ... Thus error theorizes that spirit is born of matter and returns to matter, and that man has a resurrection from dust; whereas Science unfolds the eternal verity, that man is the spiritual, eternal reflection of God.

Brainology
a myth

SH 28:32–1

There is too much animal courage in society and not sufficient moral courage.

SH 327:23–24

Moral courage is requisite to meet the wrong and to proclaim the right.

SH 593:9

RESURRECTION. Spiritualization of thought; a new and higher idea of immortality, or spiritual existence; material belief yielding to spiritual understanding.

SH 350:6–10

To understand all our Master's sayings as recorded in the New Testament, sayings infinitely important, his followers must grow into that stature of manhood in Christ Jesus which enables them to interpret his spiritual meaning.

Both words
and works

SH 76:32–1; 77:2

The recognition of Spirit and of infinity comes not suddenly here or hereafter. ... Neither do other mortals accomplish the change from error to truth at a single bound.

SH 485:14–24

Emerge gently from matter into Spirit. Think not to thwart the spiritual ultimate of all things, but come naturally into Spirit through better health and morals and as the result of spiritual growth. Not death, but the understanding of Life, makes man immortal. The belief that life can be in matter or soul in body, and that man springs from dust or from an egg, is the result of the mortal error which Christ, or Truth, destroys by fulfilling the spiritual law of being, in which man is perfect, even as the "Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Scientific
translations

SH 249:6–8

Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor material power as able to destroy.

Renewed
selfhood

SH 233:1

Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. These proofs consist solely in the destruction of sin, sickness, and death by the power of Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them. This is an element of progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.

Profession
and proof

SH 324:4–5

The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress.

SH 67:32–2

The epoch approaches when the understanding of the truth of being will be the basis of true religion.

SH 162:9

The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind.

SH 288:31–1

The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's real existence as a child of God comes to light.

SH 289:31–32

Man is not the offspring of flesh, but of Spirit, — of Life, not of matter.

 HYMNS
92
543
356

Hymn. 92:1–4

Happy the man who knows / His Master to obey; / Whose life of love and labor flows, / Where God points out the way.

Rising to every task, / Soon as the word is given, / He doth not wait nor question ask / When orders come from heaven.

God's will he makes his own, / And nothing can him stay; / His feet are shod for God alone, / And God alone obey.

Give us, O God, this mind, / Which waits but Thy command, / And doth its highest pleasure find / In Thy great work to stand.

Words: THOMAS COGSWELL UPHAM, ADAPTED

Music: Herbert S. Oakeley

Hymn. 543:1–3

O Jesus, our dear Master, / Your works, now understood, / Reveal their full effulgence / Through love and brotherhood. / Today Christ's precious Science / Your healing power makes plain: / With joy may all obey you / And cast out sin and pain.

The Christ, eternal manhood, / As God's own Son beloved, / A tender ever-presence / Within each heart is proved. / O God, our Father-Mother, / Your name we see expressed / By man, who in Your Science / Is perfect, holy, blessed.

O Science, God-sent message / To tired humanity, / You are Love's revelation / Of Truth that makes us free. / Your kingdom, God, within us / Shows forth Love's sweet control. / God's idea, man, rejoices; / We know the reign of Soul.

Words: MARGARET GLENN MATTERS, ALT.
Music: James R. Corbett

Hymn. 356:1-3

To Thee, O God, we bring our adoration, / To Love divine, in whom we live and move; / For Thou hast shown to us our perfect selfhood / In Thy loved Son, whom Jesus came to prove.

We are Thy children, Thou our Father-Mother, / And we would ever follow Thy behest: / Help us to understand Thy holy counsel, / For in obedience lies our active rest.

We, now redeemed through Love, return to Zion, / Singing to Thee our deeply grateful praise; / For we are Christ's, and Christ is Thine, O Father: / His joy remains in us through endless days.

Words: NELLIE B. MACE
Music: Thomas C. L. Pritchard