

February 23rd: Readings on Grace

Feb 23 2022



The Bible

1. John 1:1, 14–17

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
 15 ¶ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.
 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
 17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

2. Gen. 1:1–5, 26, 27, 31 (to 1st .)

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
 4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
 26 ¶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
 27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. ...

3. Ps. 37:23, 24, 26, 27, 37–40

- 23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.
 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth *him with* his hand.
 26 *He is* ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed *is* blessed.
 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.
 37 Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that man is* peace.
 38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.
 39 But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the Lord: *he is* their strength in the time of

trouble.

40 And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

4. Luke 2:41–52

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not *of it*.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

5. Matt. 13:33

33 ¶ Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

6. I Cor. 12:1, 4–6

1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7. Eph. 2:4–8 God

4 ... God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his*

kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

- 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

8. Ps. 45:2

- 2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

 Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures by MBE

1. SH 4:3–5

- 3 What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds.

2. SH 478:24

- 24 From beginning to end, whatever is mortal is composed of material human beliefs and of nothing else. That only is real which reflects God. St. Paul said, “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, . . . I conferred not with flesh and blood.”

3. SH 333:16–23

- XIII. The advent of Jesus of Nazareth marked the first century of the Christian era, but the Christ is without beginning of years or end of days. Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth.

The divine
Principle
and idea

4. SH 494:15

- 15 The miracle of grace is no miracle to Love. Jesus demonstrated the inability of corporeality, as well as the infinite ability of Spirit, thus helping erring human sense to flee from its own convictions and seek safety in divine Science. Reason, rightly directed, serves to correct the errors of corporeal sense; but sin, sickness, and death will seem real (even as the ex-

Reason
and Science

periences of the sleeping dream seem real) until the Science of man's eternal harmony breaks their illusion with
 24 the unbroken reality of scientific being.

5. SH 117:29–9

Jesus bade his disciples beware of the leaven of the
 30 Pharisees and of the Sadducees, which he defined as human doctrines. His parable of the
 “leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures
 1 of meal, till the whole was leavened,” impels the inference that the spiritual leaven signifies the Science of Christ
 3 and its spiritual interpretation, — an inference far above the merely ecclesiastical and formal applications of the illustration.

Leaven
of Truth

6 Did not this parable point a moral with a prophecy, foretelling the second appearing in the flesh of the Christ, Truth, hidden in sacred secrecy from the visible
 9 world?

6. SH 27:22

Jesus sent forth seventy students at one time, but only eleven left a desirable historic record. Tradition credits
 24 him with two or three hundred other disciples who have left no name. “Many are called, but few are chosen.” They fell away from grace because
 27 they never truly understood their Master's instruction.

Recreant
disciples

7. SH 108:3

3 According to St. Paul, it was “the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.” It was the divine law of Life and Love, unfolding to me
 6 the demonstrable fact that matter possesses neither sensation nor life; that human experiences show the falsity of all material things; and that immortal cravings, “the
 9 price of learning love,” establish the truism that the only sufferer is mortal mind, for the divine Mind cannot suffer.

8. SH 263:7–14

When mortal man blends his thoughts of existence with the spiritual and works only as God works,
 9 he will no longer grope in the dark and cling

to earth because he has not tasted heaven.

Carnal beliefs defraud us. They make man an involuntary hypocrite, — producing evil when he would create good, forming deformity when he would outline grace and beauty, injuring those whom he would bless.

Mortal man
a mis-creator

9. SH 118:10–25

Ages pass, but this leaven of Truth is ever at work. It must destroy the entire mass of error, and so be eternally glorified in man's spiritual freedom.

In their spiritual significance, Science, Theology, and Medicine are means of divine thought, which include spiritual laws emanating from the invisible and infinite power and grace. The parable may import that these spiritual laws, perverted by a perverse material sense of law, are metaphysically presented as three measures of meal, — that is, three modes of mortal thought. In all mortal forms of thought, dust is dignified as the natural status of men and things, and modes of material motion are honored with the name of *laws*. This continues until the leaven of Spirit changes the whole of mortal thought, as yeast changes the chemical properties of meal.

The divine
and human
contrasted

10. SH 247:19

Comeliness and grace are independent of matter. Being possesses its qualities before they are perceived humanly. Beauty is a thing of life, which dwells forever in the eternal Mind and reflects the charms of His goodness in expression, form, outline, and color. It is Love which paints the petal with myriad hues, glances in the warm sunbeam, arches the cloud with the bow of beauty, blazons the night with starry gems, and covers earth with loveliness.

The divine
loveliness

11. SH 17:5

Give us grace for to-day; feed the famished affections;

 Hymns

1. Hymn. 51:1

Eternal Mind the Potter is,
 And thought th' eternal clay:
 The hand that fashions is divine,
 His works pass not away.
 Man is the noblest work of God,
 His beauty, power and grace,
 Immortal; perfect as his Mind
 Reflected face to face.

Words: MARY ALICE DAYTON

Music: Louis Spohr

2. Hymn. 430:1

A grateful heart a garden is,
 Where there is always room
 For every lovely, Godlike grace
 To come to perfect bloom.

Words: ETHEL WASGATT DENNIS, ALT.

Music: James R. Corbett

3. Hymn. 589:3 (to 2nd .)

Jesus' grace revealed God's goodness,
 Giving hope to all the world.
 Love is the light that burns within us—
 Let the life of Christ shine bright. ...

Words: JANET HEGARTY

Music: James H. Hegarty

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