# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: THE SCIENCE OF SALVATION

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Christian science: the science of salvation by Hermann S. Hering

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## **HERMANN S. HERING**

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A LECTURE BY

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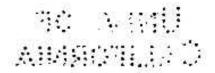
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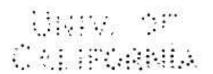
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# Christian Science: The Science of Salvation

ALL thoughtful people must admit that humanity's greatest need today is deliverance from the evils of this world, its sin, sorrow, suffering, sickness, mortality, and infidelity.

When we note the misery and wretchedness that still exist all about us, the distress and defeat pertaining to every walk and vocation of life, and the prevalent bondage to evil and materiality, it is very evident that humanity's need calls for something better than it has hitherto known, namely, that effectual apprehension of Scripture teaching which promises deliverance from disease and salvation from sin.

### THE PROMISE OF SALVATION

So important was this in the mind of our blessed Saviour Christ Jesus twenty centuries ago that he willingly endured the untold agonies of Gethsemane and the cross in fulfilling his mission of bringing deliverance, this salvation, to mankind. The Bible declares that Christ Jesus came to de-

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stroy the works of the devil, and the record of his life shows that he did destroy sin, disease, and death, that he taught his followers so to do, saying, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also," and that for about three centuries they demonstrated the truth of their master's teachings by doing these wonderful works.

The Bible declares that he came to bring full salvation from all evil. If we think for a moment what this world would be with this mission of our Saviour fulfilled in it, with all men living in accordance with his teachings and demonstrating them, and thus with all sin and misery removed from human experience (which would be an inevitable result), we would realize the great blessing such a salvation would bring, and how far short we have come in availing ourselves of the opportunities the Master labored and suffered to secure us; then we would have a full salvation here and now, even as the Bible declares, "Behold, now is the day of salvation." There must be some cause for this failure, this misunderstanding of the Bible teachings, and general neglect thereof, and we shall be interested to learn what Christian Science has to offer toward a solution of this great problem.

### SALVATION TO BE WORKED OUT

Christians believe that salvation is obtained through Christ. In order to be effective, salvation must have its underlying principle and its science. Science means exact, systematized, and demonstrable knowledge of facts, laws, and causes, while according to Smith's Bible Dictionary salvation means "deliverance from temporal evils and earthly destruction;" in other words, deliverance from evil—from sin, disease, and death. The science of salvation through Christ must therefore mean that demonstrable knowledge of divine Principle, the Christ Truth, which affords deliverance from all evil.

St. Paul admonishes us to work out our own salvation. This Scriptural command means far more than the common belief that salvation is assured by simply having belief or faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Such saving faith is vitally necessary, but it is only the beginning of our salvation—its spiritual basis.

Then must follow the working out of our deliverance from evil on this basis, our separation from sin, from the bondage of this world, from limitation, failure, sickness, disease, death.

"Saving faith," the recognition that Christ

Jesus is the Son of God and that he brought salvation to all mankind, includes not only the glad acceptance of what Jesus was and did, but of what he said we can and must do.

The disciples followed his example and did the works which he was doing, and which he commanded them to do. Their faith grew into an understanding of the Principle and law taught and demonstrated by Jesus, and they had thereby begun to work out their salvation from sin, disease and death. This same teaching and demonstration is available to all today, and our Christian duty as twentieth century disciples is to apply his Principle and get his results even as was done in his day and for three hundred years thereafter.

However strong a schoolboy's faith may be in his teacher, and however firm his belief that the teacher has solved or can solve any problem, the pupil will not gain the mastery of the subject without actually working it out and so gaining the understanding for himself.

If mere faith or belief in Jesus is all that is necessary in order to secure our salvation, why is the Bible so full of instructions, admonitions, and commands as to our part in the overcoming of evil; and why are so many promises in Revelation made to "him that overcometh," espe-

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son"? (Rev. 21:7.)

Working out our own salvation means to secure the mastery over the ills of this world and their causes, to destroy them by the demonstrable knowledge of God received through Christ Jesus, and to establish harmony, health, happiness, in every-day life. Hence our salvation is not fully worked out until we have dominion over all discord and everything that causes it. This necessarily includes dominion over matter and its laws, to which we are in such bondage, dominion over evil and its sensation, sin and sorrow, dominion even over death and its terrors. It means to attain to perfect harmonious living, to bring about God's kingdom on earth.

#### ESSENTIALS OF A SAVING POWER

What are the essentials or requirements of a power that is to free humanity from its misery? Obviously it must be a power that is able to reveal the cause of this misery and then to destroy that supposed cause. It must be a power that will destroy evil, all sin and sickness. It must be able