

Ye are not in the flesh, but  
in the Spirit, if so be that the  
Spirit of God dwell in you.

—Romans 8:9



Christian Science Sentinel  
**Bible Lens**

**Matter**

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# Matter

## from the Golden Text

### Proverbs 23:5

*Will you set your eyes on that which is not?*

—New King James Version®

The fleeting nature of material riches is a common theme in Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. “Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,” translates one researcher. Spiritual treasure—the knowledge of God—is to be desired above all else: “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life” (Proverbs 22:4).

## from the Responsive Reading

### I Corinthians 1:20

*Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

—New King James Version®

Paul singles out respected voices of the day—intellectuals, experts in Jewish law, and popular orators—as those made foolish by God. The Greek verb *mōrainō*, rendered “make foolish,” is also the term used to describe salt that has lost its savor. The English word *moron* comes from the same root.

## from Section 1

### 1 | Ecclesiastes 1:1, 14

*The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.... I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

*Ekklesiastēs* in Greek (*qohelet* in Hebrew) provides the title to the book of Ecclesiastes. Both words generally mean “speaker in an assembly” and are commonly rendered *preacher* or *teacher*. Tradition names Solomon as the book’s author, but most sources consider Ecclesiastes to be the work of an unknown sage or group of philosophers.

Like Proverbs, Ecclesiastes presents instruction for finding wisdom and contentment. The Preacher ultimately sees no meaning in human experience, and speaks of the vanity—the senselessness—of life over two dozen times. Yet he concludes his writing with the charge, “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (12:13). (In the King James text, the word *duty* was added by translators; the original wording was “this is the whole of man.”)

## from Section 2

### 6 | I John 2:15, 16

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.... All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

According to one source, First John is not addressing those in danger of falling away from faithfulness to Christ, but believers who are otherwise exemplary in their Christian service. The writer is warning that if they are not alert to worldly attractions and desires, their hard-won spiritual understanding and commitment to Christ’s teachings will be eroded.

# An exploration of Bible citations from the *Christian Science Quarterly*® Bible Lessons

“...a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.” —Mary Baker Eddy

## from Section 3

### 9 | Luke 12:13, 14

*One of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?*

In asking Jesus to take on the role of judge, this man sees the Master in the traditional role of a synagogue elder called on to settle inheritance disputes in Jewish law. Hebrew practice held that the oldest son in a family received a double portion of his father's property when the father died; the case in these verses was apparently a dispute brought by a younger son.

Jesus uses this opportunity to warn against covetousness, illustrating his point about the fallacy of looking for good in material possessions with what has been called the “parable of the rich fool” (see vv. 16–21).

## from Section 6

### 16 | Exodus 23:1, 7

*Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.... Keep thee far from a false matter.*

From a section of Exodus known as the “Book of the Covenant” (see 20:22—23:33), these verses detail laws against giving false testimony. A commentary notes, “The laws in 23:1–9 rigorously and consistently voice the Mosaic commitment to justice as the norm for the community.”

## About the book of Proverbs

A collection of traditional Hebrew wisdom, the book of Proverbs is commonly attributed to King Solomon. Scholars believe this credit honorary, and ascribe most of these sayings to a circle of anonymous thinkers.

Proverbs is clearly intended to teach. It includes repeated use of the phrase “my son,” indicating a parent/child or teacher/student relationship, and its content provides guidance for a happy and God-centered life. Though its sayings often read as common sense or everyday observations, the book's underlying focus is God's government of the world and His people's obedience to His will. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (1:7) is its first message.

The language of Proverbs is often poetic—for instance: “Pleasant words are as an honeycomb” and “As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country” (16:24 and 25:25). Direct comparisons also give instruction: “Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith” (15:16). And although many statements are short and pithy, chapters 1–9 include longer discourses.

Proverbs is valued by many as a timeless anthology of teachings about the pursuit of true wisdom. “Throughout the book,” writes a commentator, “reverence for God and reliance on him are set forth as the path to life, prosperity and security.”

## Resources quoted in this issue

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# Supply as spiritual reflection

By L. Ivimy Gwalter

From the August 15, 1936, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

**M**an has supply because he reflects God. Christian Science is the glorious discovery of the great truth, namely, that man is the full and perfect expression of God. Such being the fact, man has nothing underived from God, nor can he, as God's reflection, be incomplete or lack in any degree that which God includes. Therefore, man manifests supply, and, furthermore, supply is wholly spiritual.

The human mind challenges this statement. So imbued is it with the belief that supply is material, and that it comes to the individual through material channels and toilsome effort rather than from within, through spiritual discernment and divine reflection, that it seems difficult for the human consciousness to accept the statement that in reflecting Life, man reflects all that constitutes Life. Like the man in Jesus' parable who pulled down his barns and built greater, and said to his soul, "Thou hast much goods laid up for many years," mortals seek security in material possessions, only to find them fleeting, insecure, and illusory. Then they believe themselves to be in lack. Every manifestation of lack is but an illusion of fear, of ignorance, or of sin.

Spiritual supply flows directly from God to man; or, more accurately stated, it coexists with God and man. It requires no human avenue or channel in order to be made manifest. Man in God's image can no more be separated from supply than he can be separated from God, for all that man has, all that man is, is the reflection of God.

When to human sense supply appears to be cut off or obstructed, either temporarily or permanently; when there appears to be no human source or avenue whatever through which supply can come, it will be made manifest when God is spiritually and

scientifically understood, as witness Jesus' demonstration of the loaves and fishes. Man is not a channel for God, but a manifestation of God. He is more than the recipient of good; he is the expression of good. Man is not something through which or to which God flows; he is the very expression or evidence of God.

Supply is not outlined or limited by the figures in a bankbook or the amount of a salary. Supply is as infinite and indivisible as God Himself. In all God's universe there is no such thing as lack.

Human reasoning looks anxiously ahead and says, At such and such a time my income, or part of it, may stop. God knows nothing about calendars, nothing about changes. Supply is continuous. The haunting fear of material supply and material lack will vanish before the scientific demonstration of man's relationship to God. In this relationship there is no stagnation, no obstruction, no unrequited, labored effort. Man reflects. He does not toil.

In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Man reflects infinity, and this reflection is the true idea of God" (p. 258). And she continues, "God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis." As each individual learns through Christian Science to appropriate this truth, and grows in the spiritual understanding of God to the point where he can demonstrate it, this statement will be found to epitomize the permanent, positive solution of the question of supply.

To read the entire article, which has been shortened to fit this page, go to [jsh.christianscience.com/supply-as-spiritual-reflection](http://jsh.christianscience.com/supply-as-spiritual-reflection).