



The Lord shall be unto  
thee an everlasting light,  
and thy God thy glory.

—Isaiah 60:19



Christian Science Sentinel  
**Bible Lens**

**Soul and  
Body**

**November 16–  
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# Soul and Body

## from Section 1

### 2 | Exodus 33:9

*It came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.*

Cloudy pillars occur repeatedly during the Israelites' flight from Egypt. As with light, this phenomenon came to represent God's presence among them. And clouds often accompanied divine appearances (see examples in Numbers 12:5; I Kings 8:10, 11; Matthew 17:5, Citation 14).

Moses' tabernacle at this meeting would have been a humble tent rather than a more formal structure for worship.

## from Section 3

### 8 | I John 4:1, 6

*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. . . . We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

Here the author reminds the beloved—those who know God and follow Christly teachings—that their spiritual understanding empowers them to detect and reject false doctrine.

"Spirit of truth" is viewed as a reference to the Holy Spirit or Comforter (see John 14:16, 17). *Error* is a translation of the

Greek word *planē*, which means roaming or going astray—including wandering from the path of virtue and truth.

## from Section 4

### 10 | Matthew 5:1, 2

*Seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him; and he opened his mouth, and taught them.*

"When he was set" depicts the Master's sitting down in the traditional position of teacher. And "he opened his mouth" is more than an introduction—it signals a formal or heartfelt saying. A scholar notes, "... the very use of this phrase indicates that the material in the Sermon on the Mount is no chance piece of teaching. It is the grave and solemn utterance of the central things; it is the opening of Jesus' heart and mind...."

### 10 | Matthew 5:48

*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Christ Jesus' exhortation concludes his instruction about love for others, including enemies (see vv. 38–47). In this context, the maturity signified by the Greek word translated *perfect* (*teleios*) implies the willingness to love completely and without reservation.

As one source points out, "... a man is perfect if he realizes the purpose for which he was created and sent into the world. . . . *Man was created to be like God*. The characteristic of God is this universal benevolence, this



# 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

unconquerable goodwill. . . . To put it at its simplest, the man who cares most for men is the most perfect man.”

## 11 | Matthew 7:29

*[Jesus] taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Scribes were originally copyists who acted as clerks for their governments or temples. In postexilic Israel, these men became essential to the work of compiling Hebrew Scripture. Over time their influence increased greatly to encompass interpretation and teaching. Not surprisingly, Jesus regularly spurned their limited explanations of sacred texts. In turn they joined the Pharisees in opposing his ministry (see Matthew 23:1–33; Luke 6:7; 11:53, 54).

### from Section 5

## 13 | John 13:31

*Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.*

Jesus speaks these words immediately after he identifies Judas as his betrayer (see v. 30). The Master is already aware of his impending passion: “Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father” (v. 1). Now the final events leading to his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension are set in motion—and the Master acknowledges the divine glory they will manifest.

“Son of man” connotes Jesus’ humanity as Savior of mankind. It is his most common way of identifying himself, and no one else addresses him this way. He rarely calls himself “Son of God,” though he commends Pe-

ter’s recognition of this divine status (see Matthew 16:16–19).

### from Section 6

## 17 | Revelation 21:2, 22

*I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. . . . And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

In ancient Judah the Temple at Jerusalem was the focal point of Jewish worship, and in Ezekiel’s prophecies it is the centerpiece of the city (see Ezekiel, chaps. 41–48). So the absence of a temple in New Jerusalem might have seemed incomprehensible to some followers of Christ. But John reveals God’s presence as no longer defined by a sacred space in a physical structure—His presence is the temple.

Jesus had cleansed the Temple and then predicted its destruction (see Matthew 21:12, 13; 24:1, 2). His assertion to a Samaritan woman clarifies his meaning and foreshadows the Revelator’s vision: “The hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. . . . But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth” (John 4:21, 23).

#### Resources quoted in this issue

**Cit. 10:** Barclay, William. *The Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Matthew*, Vol. 1. Edinburgh: Saint Andrew, 1955. Revised and updated by Saint Andrew, 2001. Reprinted as *The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Matthew*, Vol. 1. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001–04.

# Temple

By Julio Rivas

From the February 2009 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*

As I sat suffering from back pain, severely restricted in my movements, Mary Baker Eddy's spiritual explanation of the word *temple* gave me something to pray with. I knew it well, but I was seeking new insights.

Of course, I reasoned, a finite material body cannot be the dwelling place of its complete opposite, infinite Spirit. Christian Science metaphysics makes clear that matter and Spirit never mingle because matter is an illusion of the human mind. Spirit, God, is the only reality.

As we grasp and are changed by even the smallest spiritual epiphany, we are healed. And this spiritually based healing is a life-altering experience. Our human consciousness, sentiments, and bodily conditions are re-engineered by Spirit's perfection-enforcing laws.

Understanding the spiritual meaning of the word *temple* can dematerialize our vision of who we are. It helps us comprehend that we are infinitely more than just mortal personalities stuffed into skin-sacks of material elements. It's exhilarating to realize that we are *incorporeal* expressions of divine Life. This burgeoning conviction unleashes tremendous healing power throughout the human system.

The restorative and transformational effects on our lives that result from a more spiritual sense of *body/temple* show us that we're realizing more of our Soul-derived identity. More than we imagined possible, we are liberated from the restrictions and failures of matter-concepts. We then experience harmonizing effects in a multiplicity of ways. The repercussions of this mental shift reach deeply into our lives and into the lives of those people we pray for.

Although a matter-obfuscated mind makes it hard to see, to a Spirit-instructed consciousness it becomes obvious that our being, or body, is a perfect arrangement of the divine Mind's eternal ideas. The inner workings of Mind, Spirit, comprise the spiritual elements and forces of which incorporeal man is made. This nonmaterial individuality is the eternal superstructure of Truth.

After thinking about these ideas, I was inspired by new revelations. I stood up effortlessly and without pain. The alterative effects of the Holy Spirit made me forget that some minutes before I had been suffering. I was healed and went out for a jog! Every moment of free movement was an expression of gratitude and honor to divine law. I knew better than before that my true being is a super-construct of Mind. A temple—a holy shrine—to God.

## Thought for every day

May matter-focused views of  
living fade.

May Soul-derived perceptions  
shine forth, clear.

May thought in angel vestments  
be arrayed

Today, and every day throughout  
the year.

By Joseph W. Paddock  
From the June 22, 1981, issue of the  
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