



Ye are all the children of God
by faith in Christ Jesus.

—Galatians 3:26



Christian Science Sentinel
Bible Lens

Mind

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from the Responsive Reading

Proverbs 4:20, 21

Attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

To retain wisdom “in the midst of thine heart” alludes to life practice, not simply to rote memorization. While the law and the prophets present God’s requirements and judgment, explains a scholar, “wisdom seeks by observation, experience, and reflection to know things in their essence and reality.” The ultimate reward of seeking God’s wisdom is life and health (see v. 22).

from Section 1

3 | Psalms 33:9

He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Many researchers observe the connection of this verse with Genesis 1—“Let there be ... and there was ...” Some note that dropping the word *done*, added by later translators, better expresses the immediacy of God’s Word: He spoke and it *was*.

from Section 2

6 | Genesis 41:46, 48

Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.... And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities.

Because of Egypt’s dry climate, grain could be stored for several years. Early granaries discovered in 2008 in the southern part of the country were round and very large (18–21 feet or 5.5–6.5 meters in diameter). They were made of mud bricks and dated to circa 1630–1520 BC. Though Joseph’s dates are not certain, this span is within the time frame some sources place Joseph in Egypt.

from Section 3

12 | Matthew 7:24, 25

Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

In his conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares that even those who obey God will face challenging times—the house built on rock experiences the same storm as the one built on sand. Yet he assures his listeners that God’s faithful followers will endure tribulation and overcome it.

from Section 4

15 | Luke 19:1, 2

Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchæus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

Unique to Luke’s Gospel, this story unfolds as Jesus travels from Galilee to Jerusalem.

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

Jericho, where he meets Zacchaeus, is his last stop before the holy city. Earlier on this trip, the Master had healed ten lepers (see 17:12–16, 19, citation 19). His interchange with Zacchaeus restores another kind of outcast—a Jew who is hated for his occupation.

Because they worked for Rome, publicans (Hebrew revenue agents) were viewed as traitors by other Jews. And they were resented for the additional money they regularly demanded for their own enrichment. Commentators relate the phrase “and he was rich” to Jesus’ words in the preceding chapter: “It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (18:25). Zacchaeus’ reformation was notable because of both his riches and his character.

The tree Zacchaeus chose, the sycamore fig, is a hardy tree with low-spreading branches that grows up to 45 feet (14 meters) tall. His running to climb the tree, likely viewed as unseemly for a man of rank, illustrated his single-minded desire to see Jesus.

from Section 5

19 | Luke 17:12, 13

As he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

After reporting that the ten lepers have been healed and that only one has returned to thank Jesus and praise God, Luke notes that this man is a Samaritan—and Jesus calls him a stranger (see vv. 15–18).

Samaritans were considered enemies of the Jews. Although they shared a common heritage, animosity broke out between the two groups after the Babylonian exile when the Jews rejected the Samaritans as a mixed-race people. In the ensuing years hostile acts were perpetrated by both sides, separate worship centers were established, and Samaritan territory was avoided by traveling Jews.

Given this history, Jesus’ friendly attitude toward Samaritans is striking—not only here but also in his choice of a Samaritan as a model of compassion and his conversation with a Samaritan woman (see Luke 10:25–37; John 4:7–26).

21 | Acts 10:34, 35

God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

The term *nation* (Greek, *ethnos*)—alluding to a tribe or people—is frequently translated *Gentiles* in the New Testament. Peter’s words, following his meeting with the Gentile Cornelius, acknowledge that Christian teachings apply to everyone. Although the Israelites were designated as God’s chosen from early times, barriers of ethnicity and exclusivity are clearly exposed as baseless.

Paul echoes Peter’s assertion in his letter to the Romans: “There is no respect of persons with God” (Romans 2:11).

Resources quoted in this issue

RR: Gehman, Henry Snyder, ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1970.

Intelligence gaps? God can help.

By Alma Chico Green

From the April 3, 2000, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

I had just started a new job and, of course, I was trying to be competent and reliable. One morning, my boss, who was hurrying to leave for a business appointment, quickly dictated to me a long report filled with unfamiliar words. Because I couldn't keep up with him, I had to leave many gaps in my notes, but I didn't dare admit my failure. He had to present the report to a committee that same evening.

After he left, my heart sank. The report included so much technical language that I knew I couldn't rely on guesswork to supply the missing words. I felt like the biblical king Jehoshaphat. When faced with superior enemy forces, he cried out to God, saying, "We have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (II Chronicles 20:12). Ultimately, Jehoshaphat's enemy was defeated.

Like that king, I prayed. I remembered that there was a lunch-hour talk on Christian Science in the downtown area that day. I figured I couldn't possibly attend the talk and still complete the report on time. Nevertheless, I decided to go.

One point the speaker discussed was that God created the true selfhood of each one of us in His image and likeness. Therefore, we are in reality the reflection of our Father-Mother God. We naturally reflect Godlike qualities, the speaker pointed out, such as intelligence, wisdom, discernment, and understanding. Bring God into all of our activities, was the message I took away from the talk. And I started doing just that. I acknowledged that because I, too, was the child of God, I could express these qualities. I rejected the fear that I could be inaccurate and confused.

When I returned to my typewriter, I prayed to be guided through the work that lay before me. Like an angel fluttering down on my desk, three words came into my thought: accurate, clear, and good. I immediately accepted them as a message from God. I recognized that activity which proceeds from God, the all-wise Mind, could not include mistakes. As I continued to pray, I remembered every missing word, and there were no gaps in the completed report.

A short time later my boss called me into his office. I stood waiting while he slowly read the report. When he finished, he smiled and said, "This is so accurate, clear, and good." I was speechless, but happily returned his smile. I felt like the singers who went before Jehoshaphat's army, saying, "Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever" (II Chronicles 20:21).

Answers

are simply truths
already known
to infinite Mind—
and newly revealed
to individual consciousness.

By Vicki Furgatch

From the October 1978 issue of
The Christian Science Journal

To learn more about the *Christian Science*
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