



All thy works  
shall praise thee, O Lord.

—Psalms 145:10



Christian Science Sentinel  
Bible Lens

Man

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## from the Golden Text

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### Luke 17:21

*The kingdom of God is within you.*

Christ Jesus describes God's kingdom repeatedly, often through similes (see Matthew, chap. 13, for instance). Here he explains where this divine kingdom is to be found. A commentary notes: "The kingdom of God works in men's hearts; it is to produce not new things, but new people. It is not a revolution in material things that we are to look for, but a revolution in the hearts of men."

## from Section 1

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### 2 | Deuteronomy 7:6

*Thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

Israel's status as a people special to God is a strong theme in the Hebrew Bible. Exodus 19:5 promises, "If ye will obey my voice . . . , ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people." And the Psalmist writes, "The Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure" (Psalms 135:4).

Christian teachings powerfully expand the designation *chosen*, as the writer of Ephesians declares: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (2:19).

## from Section 3

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### 12 | II Kings 4:8

*It fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.*

Although the Shunammite's name is not known, this account portrays a woman who overcomes the submissiveness expected of females with assertiveness born of faith. One scholar suggests, "The Shunammite's life is an example of victorious living. Her peculiar charm is her serenity in moments of trial, her firmness in affliction, . . . and her unselfish endurance, amid anxiety and anguish."

## from Section 4

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### 13 | Hebrews 12:12, 13

*Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

Bible authorities disagree on the target audience of the book of Hebrews. Some think it's addressed to believers who have become weary of persecution or whose faith is faltering. Others identify its intended readership as those Jewish Christians still steeped in Judaic law without the fire of Christly vision. They are "in danger, not of apostasy," according to one scholar, "but of inattention, complacency, and drifting into unbelief."

# 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

Combining encouragement and exhortation, verses 12 and 13 echo part of a stirring Old Testament chapter about divine salvation: “Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees” (Isaiah 35:3).

## 15 | Matthew 9:2, 3

*Behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.*

Convinced that only God could forgive sins (an objection recorded in Mark 2:7 and Luke 5:21), the scribes focus on their laws rather than on the cure of the palsied man. Jesus refuses to separate the two, and demonstrates God’s forgiveness with healing.

“Be of good cheer” and “Be of good comfort” are reassurances common to the Master. In addition to this instance, he speaks them to his fearful disciples as he walks on the water (see Mark 6:50) and to the woman who touched his hem (see Luke 8:48). And he answers the disciples’ question about things to come, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

## from Section 5

## 18 | Matthew 10:7

*As ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

In the New Testament, the phrase “kingdom of heaven” appears only in the book of Matthew—more than thirty times—while the other Gospel writers use “kingdom of

God.” Most sources view the two phrases as equivalent.

*Kéryssō*, the verb translated *preach*, is repeated dozens of times in the New Testament. Related to the Greek word for *herald* (*kéryx*), it means to publish or proclaim. Because many people were illiterate, the disciples were to act as heralds bringing a spoken message.

## 22 | Colossians 3:2, 12, 14

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. . . . Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; . . . And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

The Christian community at Colossae (as well as at two neighboring cities, Laodicea and Hierapolis) is believed to have been founded by a close supporter of Paul called Epaphras. Referred to as “our dear fellow-servant” and “faithful minister of Christ” (see 1:7), Epaphras was a valued intermediary between Paul and the Colossian church.

Paul apparently never visited Colossae, and some commentators are unsure about his authorship of this letter. Many, however, think the epistle was written to express his deep concern and love even for a group of Christians he hadn’t met.

### Resources quoted in this issue

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

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# Our true family name

By Jeannie Ferber

From the May 4, 2015, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

Who wouldn't love to now understand the family of man in the way the Bible assures us we are made to be: "[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6)?

By definition today, a *family name* is the name all members of one family share in common. Surnames in the Western world are a relatively recent phenomenon, however. They came about in medieval times and often denoted people's occupation or the region in which they lived.

But history, even recent history, shows that surnames have sometimes segmented societies and unfairly stereotyped large groups of people. Even more mischievous is the claim that surnames tie us to a mortal history, when, in truth, we all have a name—an identity—that forever links us to God and reveals our eternal spiritual individuality.

In all her published writings, Mary Baker Eddy uses the term *family name* just once. She writes, "Man is the family name for all ideas,—the sons and daughters of God" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 515).

I think of this special family name as God saying to us: "You are a member of My family. I have made you to forever reflect the fullness of Life; to know and delight in all that is spiritual, beautiful, good, and true. Your place is secure and under the law of universal harmony." And all this has tremendous meaning and a practical effect when applied in our experience.

Years ago a lawsuit was brought against the company I worked for. I was asked to meet the woman bringing the suit to see if it could be settled out of court amicably. We

agreed to meet at a local restaurant. Before the meeting, I prayed earnestly to overcome an overwhelming sense of fear.

As I waited at a table, I noticed that the walls in the restaurant were mirrors and that, obviously, all the people in the room were reflected in them. It was a wonderful reminder of man's true spiritual identity as God's reflection. In a flash the thought came: "I can't be in the presence of God alone. I can't hear Truth alone. I can't feel the presence of Love alone. We are all reflecting God." This spiritual reflection is a law that includes all and holds all in unity. It is the basis of true harmony.

When the woman arrived, she said she wasn't feeling well and would have to leave in 15 minutes. As a result, we only ordered beverages. As soon as the waiter left, to my surprise the woman said, "Would you please tell me about God?"

The issue of the lawsuit never came up. When the waiter came back with our drinks, the woman suddenly said she wanted to order lunch. We stayed for more than an hour, talking about God and His healing presence. When we left, the woman mentioned that she was no longer ill and asked where she could get a copy of *Science and Health*. The lawsuit was dropped.

One name—*man*—belongs to us all. As we accept and understand this, we increasingly see more health and harmony in our experience—more love, truthfulness, goodness, and fullness of life expressed in the family of man.

To read the entire article, which has been shortened to fit this page, go to

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