

How Can We Keep Our Communities and Our Children Safe from Violence?

(inspired by articles in *The Christian Science Monitor*)

February 13, 2013

Hymns: 33, 208, 347

The Bible

Psalms 55: 9, 11

I have seen violence and strife in the city.
Wickedness is in the midst thereof;

Job 5:3, 4 8, 19, 21

I have seen the foolish taking root:
His children are far from safety,
I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause;
He shall deliver thee in six troubles; yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.
Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of
destruction when it cometh.

Psalms 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of
the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome
pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth
shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at
noonday.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy
habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou
trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on
high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver
him, and shew him my salvation.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Isa. 59:1, 6-8

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands.

Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Isa. 54:13 great, 14 thou, 17 to ;

Great shall be the peace of thy children.

Thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;

Hos. 2:18

I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

II Cor. 10:4, 5

(. . . the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Gen. 6:5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14; 7:5, 17, 18; 8:1, 15-17, 21; 9:15

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them;

Make thee an ark of gopher wood;

And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commandest him.

And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

And God spake unto Noah, saying,

Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee,

and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake;

And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

I John 4:4-7

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

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.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Prov. 1:33

Whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Isa. 60:18, 21, 22

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders;

Thy people also shall be all righteous:

A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation:

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

96:11-15, 31

“The darkest hour precedes the dawn.”

This material world is even now becoming the arena for conflicting forces. On one side there will be discord and dismay; on the other side there will be Science and peace.

During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check.

They will aid in the ejection of error. They will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection.

239:11, 13, 24-27

The wicked man is not the ruler of his upright neighbor.

The watchword of Christian Science is Scriptural: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts."

Mortal mind is the acknowledged seat of human motives. It forms material concepts and produces every discordant action of the body. If action proceeds from the divine Mind, action is harmonious. If it comes from erring mortal mind, it is discordant and ends in sin, sickness, death.

104:30

Is it not clear that the human mind must move the body to a wicked act? Is not mortal mind the murderer? The hands, without mortal mind to direct them, could not commit a murder.

102: 18-20

The looms of crime, hidden in the dark recesses of mortal thought, are every hour weaving webs more complicated and subtle.

Mankind must learn that evil is not power. Its so-called despotism is but a phase of nothingness. Christian Science despoils the kingdom of evil, and pre-eminently promotes affection and virtue in families and therefore in the community.

464:23-26

The weapons of bigotry, ignorance, envy, fall before an honest heart.

201:9, 13 only, 17-18

Passions, selfishness, false appetites, hatred, fear, all sensuality, yield to spirituality, and the superabundance of being is on the side of God, good.

Let us disrobe error.

The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour in truth through flood-tides of Love.

494:19

Reason, rightly directed, serves to correct the errors of corporeal sense; but sin, sickness, and death will seem real (even as the experiences of the sleeping dream seem real) until the Science of man's eternal harmony breaks their illusion with the unbroken reality of scientific being.

518:13-19

God gives the lesser idea of Himself for a link to the greater, and in return, the higher always protects the lower. The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle, or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good.

61:4-11, 27

The good in human affections must have ascendancy over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happiness will never be won. The attainment of this celestial condition would improve our progeny, diminish crime, and give higher aims to ambition. Every valley of sin must be exalted, and every mountain of selfishness be brought low, that the highway of our God may be prepared in Science. Nothing unworthy of perpetuity should be transmitted to children.

289:8-20

A wicked mortal is not the idea of God. He is little else than the expression of error. To suppose that sin, lust, hatred, envy, hypocrisy, revenge, have life abiding in them, is a terrible mistake. Life and Life's idea, Truth and Truth's idea, never make men sick, sinful, or mortal.

The fact that the Christ, or Truth, overcame and still overcomes death proves the "king of terrors" to be but a mortal belief, or error, which Truth destroys with the spiritual evidences of Life; and this shows that what appears to the senses to be death is but a mortal illusion, for to the real man and the real universe there is no death-process.

563:3-7, 30-7

We may well be perplexed at human fear; and still more astounded at hatred, which lifts its hydra head, showing its horns in the many inventions of evil.

It is the animal instinct in mortals, which would impel them to devour each other and cast out devils through Beelzebub.

As of old, evil still charges the spiritual idea with error's own nature and methods. This malicious animal instinct, of which the dragon is the type, incites mortals to kill morally and physically even their fellow-mortals, and worse still, to charge the innocent with the crime.

568:1 only

Innocence and Truth overcome guilt and error.

572:6

"Love one another" (I John, iii.23), is the most simple and inspired counsel of the inspired writer. In Science we are children of God; but whatever is of material sense, or mortal, belongs not to his children, for materiality is the inverted image of spirituality.

581:8

ARK. Safety; the idea, or reflection, of Truth, proved to be as immortal as its Principle; the understanding of Spirit, destroying belief in matter.

589:8

JAPHET (Noah's son). A type of spiritual peace, flowing from the understanding that God is the divine Principle of all existence, and that man is His idea, the child of His care.

107:8-10

This apodictical Principle points to the revelation of Immanuel, "God with us,"—the sovereign ever-presence, delivering the children of men from every ill "that flesh is heir to."

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