



## **A Message Regarding Individual Responsibility and Finances**

Christian Scientists prove daily that, when they turn to God in prayer and listen quietly for Mind's angel messages, answers to challenging questions are revealed to them. The teachings of Christian Science assure them that divine Love is adequate to cover all the demands of human experience. Yet, when facing financial issues relating to the future, fear may threaten their demonstration of spiritual strength. Christian Scientists have an opportunity to prove that God's ever-present guidance enables them to plan adequately for their needs and prepares them to handle expected and unexpected financial demands with dominion.

### **First Things First**

*"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* Exodus 20:3

The First Commandment is a firm basis from which to make decisions. Obeying this command requires a willingness to think and act humbly, intelligently, and gratefully, allowing the abundance of Mind's ideas to be expressed in one's life. Obedience to the First Commandment lays the foundation for tomorrow's experience to unfold harmoniously. It means refusing to reach decisions through limited, selfish human reasoning and it opens thought to the possibility of experiencing the fullness of heavenly-mindedness now.

### **Holding Steadfastly to the Spiritual Idea of Man**

Honoring God in accordance with Moses' Decalogue includes realizing the spiritual truth about man. Abundant supply relates directly to the nature of man as the child of God, not to the working of human affairs. Each individual is responsible for discovering and demonstrating the kingdom of God within. As one comes to know himself as God knows man, pictures of poverty, incapacity, and suffering are powerless to influence and misguide thought, for God's idea is safe and wise. Intelligent planning is evidence of man's eternal perfection and keeps human experience in line with Truth.

### **Alertness Required**

Christian Science makes clear that divine Love is omnipotent and omnipresent and shows how to prove the practicality of this truth. Individuals have choices in determining the use of their incomes. One choice is to discipline themselves to put aside funds for expected and unexpected uses. Every individual's standard of living should allow for a regular savings program. One should be alert to reject the temptations to indulge in short-sighted spending, expecting that others — even the United States government — will supply care and financial aid in an hour of need. Such temptations would keep one from fully demonstrating his dependency on God.

Relying completely on God removes the fear that one will lose something through using savings and income to meet current needs. Becoming dependent on other individuals or organizations, so that an estate can be left to heirs, is not in keeping with the First Commandment.

Demonstrating self-completeness is a manifestation of self-discipline and of God's control in human affairs. Leaning on God, appreciating Love's abundance on a daily basis, involves utilizing one's income wisely in all its forms. This discipline precludes the expectation that others will provide for one in an hour of need.

## **Beginning Rightly**

Christian Scientists have an opportunity to demonstrate the highest spiritual sense of right — reliance on God, not people, institutions, or organizations. Prayer reveals progressive steps that can be taken, enabling one to act wisely and consistently with the theology of Christian Science. Spiritual understanding renders human thought foreseeing, prudent, resourceful, and alert, thus permitting: an honest review of one's income, expenditures, and period of retirement; a frank discussion about finances; knowing the source of income after retirement; saving according to a plan; knowing what benefits are available; and anticipating the tax consequences of one's planning decisions.

These steps unfold naturally when prayer frees one from beliefs of worry, lack or limitation. One then remains confident that man, as the idea of God, is never impoverished in any way. Order permeates spiritual creation. This order manifests itself in human experience in a better job of managing assets, better planning for retirement, in having personal and legal matters in order, and in being prepared to make necessary changes in living accommodations at retirement.

Fiduciary responsibility starts with turning to God. Love for God brings discipline of thought and action. Rejoicing that Love's provision for each of His children is complete, one can make decisions that will result in God's government of his total human experience.

## **Faith with Understanding Assures Confidence**

*"in quietness and confidence shall be your strength:"* Isaiah 30:15

Many options come before thought when considering the future, but these need not confuse nor undermine confidence. Prayer increases clarity, reveals intelligence, and eliminates fear, doubt, and personal opinion. The recognition of God's presence and of one's unchanging reflection of Mind illumines the pathway through the maze of insurance plans, health care, and attorney directives. This planning presents an opportunity to rise with spiritual strength into quietness and confidence, proving freedom from confusion and fear when faced with major decisions. Reflecting God's omniscience in this activity will result in a deep sense of gratitude and rejoicing.

## **A Timely Message**

The following words, written years ago by Annie Knott, interest us as we consider current trends pressuring welfare decisions:

*Christian Scientists the world over have another reminder that they must arouse themselves as never before to prove by demonstrations the priceless teachings of their beloved Leader. This [Mrs. Eddy] has always urged them to do, but human tendency often leads us to rely upon another to work out our problems for us, and so far as this is yielded to we lay needless burdens upon others, and miss temporarily the unfoldment of our own spiritual capacities.*

The purpose of this pamphlet is to alert Christian Scientists to the relevance of the above statement to this age.

Who are the "others" of today? Could they be government agencies, insurance companies, family members, or benevolent organizations? Does such reliance deprive Christian Scientists of making the inspired demonstrations their religion empowers them to make? The Principle Foundation invites you to think about these

questions and to ponder the implications of the teachings of Christian Science in relation to financial planning issues.

### **Alertness Required**

We live in an age where every alternative but prayer is advanced as the solution to beliefs associated with retirement, aging, or incapacitating situations. An “entitlement” mentality is fostered by political campaigns, government programs, and aggressive insurance promotions. They invite us to misplace our trust by relying on some power other than God for our welfare.

If Christian Scientists are not alert, they respond to these invitations in one of two ways:

- they get trapped into embracing worldly solutions, or
- they ignore the issue entirely.

Only when Christian Scientists are alert to prayerfully approach these larger claims and impositions of materiality will there be true progress and resolution, both individually and collectively. The world will then feel the benefits that come from bringing a spiritual perspective and love to these aspects of human experience.

### **A Call for Spiritual Self-Reliance**

Christian Scientists have been charged with leading the way in developing the highest spiritual sense of self-reliance — that is, reliance on God rather than false reliance on people, institutions, or organizations. It is time for Christian Scientists to rouse themselves and take prayerful action to identify solutions that are consistent with the theology of Christian Science and that express wisdom, economy and brotherly love.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Christian Science teaches that man, God’s reflection, is spiritual, perfect, and complete in every way. This fact of being forms the basis for all Christian Science healing and demands demonstration in every season of human experience.

In Revelation 22 we read, *“on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”*

John’s vision implies that the tree of life yields abundant fruit in every season. Individual Christian Scientists in this age have the opportunity to understand and prove this great fact as they work out their total human experience. As in every other activity, they need to be watchful in order not to be diverted by competing claims for their attention, no matter how subtle or appealing. Looking only to God for direction in these important decisions, they will find unique and deeply satisfying answers.

Tributes from the Press: Editorial Comments on the Life and Work of Mary Baker Eddy, copyright 1993.

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This pamphlet is another reminder to Christian Scientists to prepare for financial situations that would challenge man's self-completeness and freedom. Prayer and obedience to God bring a continuing unfoldment of blessings to one's life.

Each individual is responsible for discovering and demonstrating the kingdom of God within.

The mission of The Principle Foundation is to realize God's control over every facet of our lives.

*These two words in Scripture suggest the sweetest similes to be found in any language — rock and feathers: "Upon this rock I will build my church;" "He shall cover thee with his feathers."*

Mary Baker Eddy,  
Miscellaneous Writings, page 263

### **A Reminder to the Self-Employed**

When a Christian Scientist makes a decision to be self-employed, he also makes a commitment to the continuing spiritual demonstration of self-reliance, whether he realizes it or not. He must be especially practical and prayerful in planning for the long-term provision of his needs.

### **The Need for Selfless Demonstration**

Perfect balance of supply and demand is a spiritual fact. When there appears to be an imbalance in an individual's experience, an opportunity exists to prayerfully correct the problem. Frequently, more self-discipline is called for in adjusting one's spending and savings habits. At times we indulge our wants rather than satisfy our needs. These actions are selfish and hinder spiritual progress.

### **Considering Alternatives**

Options that one should conscientiously consider include:

- establishing an individual savings account and retirement fund;
- executing a power of attorney form;
- identifying a health care proxy and writing a health care advance directive that specifies Christian Science care and treatment as one's choice;
- planning for sufficient financial security in the event of extenuating circumstances.

If you need help in thinking through any of the above alternatives as they apply to you, The Principle Foundation stands ready to offer assistance. You may call us at 800.826.7756 for confidential consultation.

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