

SPIRITICITY April 1945

Beloved of God, greeting:

The four Gospels could be called a biography of the advent and life of Jesus Christ, written long after the actual experience of his coming. The whole New Testament came out of the religion, while in a formative process, of a group of people in that era. The wise man learns how to read it aright.

Five W's might apply to the primary news event:

When? is pretty well established in that we mark time from the advent.

Where? is historically established.

Who? is dogmatically explained by the oldest phase of the Christian religion when it declares, Jesus Christ is God, and Very God.

What? can be explained as spiritual phenomena still expanding; also, still applicable, practicable, and practical.

Why? as a response from On High to preserve the race in an emergency; a divine transfusion.

How? can be added, for the whole phenomenon can be understood only by those who become adept in an exercise of the Higher Intelligence which permeated Jesus.

He came that man might be brought to remembrance of his Divine Origin. When? Now; Where? Here; Who? Christ in me and in all; What? God in action; Why? Because God is the life of man; How? By operation of the principle: God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Sincerely yours,
A. J. Truesdell

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KNOW YOUR RELIGION

What is religion? A satisfactory answer cannot be arrived at if the attention is fixed on the various denominations, any one of which is a society of individuals called by the same name; as, a denomination of Christians. The so-called great religions are those which are standardized under social pressure. But mass conformity to certain outstanding religions does not guarantee that each person involved has religion, or is religious.

It is not enough that individuals know some of the facts about a religion; such as, the architecture of its temples, its ecclesiastical organization, doctrines, ritual, or moral precepts. These are, at best, but the outer accouterments and are easily described. Its core cannot be examined so freely and be put into popular language. A religion must be participated in, felt, in order to be understood even in a small degree.

As no one can devise a language of his own, so no one can make a religion for himself. Man's religions are slow developments of group life and common experiences. Judaism, Christianity, Mohammedism, Brahmanism, Buddhism: all have grown from man's attempt to search out answers to basic questions in heart and mind. His religions are admixtures of idealism and realism.

A religion is a specific systematic effort designed to conserve and enhance certain values. The degree of advancement of the religion and of the civilization in which it appears determine and comprise its values. There are natural religions and there are ethical religions.

In the natural religions the values usually sought are those that tend to fill concrete, tangible, practical wants of the family or clan. Religious ceremonials to obtain food, water, protection from the elements, oracular decisions, and to guarantee long life, health, riches, and posterity, have long attracted the attention of man. His response is mostly mechanical, and he cares little about understanding the mythical explanations of the ritual; but, by his performance he believes proper results will be obtained. In the natural religions a man counts little as a person; he is un-self-conscious. All values concern the welfare of the group or clan.

In ethical religions, the thinking man begins to lose sight of material goods as the complete essentials of life and seeks his fundamental values in a pure heart and a noble life. Moral conduct is refined and must be conserved. He concerns himself with overcoming his sinful nature which not only harms him in this present life but threatens to dog him in his future life and spoil his chances for supreme contentment.

So, the ethical religions are usually religions of redemption and attempt to show the way out of mortal sinfulness. Escape may be provided by a prescribed course of conduct or by devotion to a Savior-God.

In ethical religions man's soul achieves inestimable worth. He realizes that he must cooperate with it in not only paying homage to his God, but that he is also responsible for his attitudes and actions toward his fellow man. He becomes a self-conscious, trustworthy entity.

In the natural religions, explanations in the form of myths, which are handed down from generation to generation, are readily accepted by the uncritical primitive mind. These stories eventually transform into doctrines which are the products of reason in the ethical religions. Often such doctrines jell into dogma which must be believed without question and which become requisite to salvation in a given religion.

In these trying days of disturbed interrelations and destroyed enterprises we hear the cry: More religion is what man needs! Does any person making the statement know what he is saying? More of the same religions might not be so bad, but more of the same interpretations of those religions would.

Is man suffering a dearth of religion or is he confused, disillusioned, benighted, and burdened by being forced to believe and practice interpretations that fall far short of his own conclusions. Would more of the same kind of old religions observance save the race from the terrors that beset by night or the arrows that fly by day? We think not.

Man has made all of the known religions. They subsist off him. Whatever man makes usually becomes a snare and a delusion. The popular concepts of religion hold man in bondage to threats and promises. Good people by the millions are caught in the vice-like grip of fears, hates, lusts, loves, and enticements of their religions leanings.

The church has become the symbol of religion. Forgetting that it is only a symbol, man is drawn, through his desires and hopes, into a maze into which no light is allowed to infiltrate save the weak reflections of ritualistic ceremonies which promote lack of originality or independence. Blind to the goal, he sees only what he is permitted to see - the way pointed out for him by his religions mentors. And that way is guarded by the high fence of institutional self-interest.

For questions, the seeker receives sharp reprimands; or, if answered, is driven to cover under rapid-fire and verbose argument. Naturally, to hide his ignorance, he apologizes and retreats.

The Master didn't do that. Jesus Christ uncovered the primary principle in Judaism: belief in one God, and in the mission of the Jews to teach the Fatherhood of God, as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead of being blinded by the tenets formulated by the priesthood, he declared what he knew to be the fundamental principle in his religion.

He applied the Fatherhood of God to himself, literally. Hear a few of his declarations:

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

The Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth.

The Father judgeth no man.

As the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.

Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

My Father ... is greater than all. I and my Father are one.

I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

My Father is greater than I.

He not only concluded that God was his Father, but he included all mankind: OUR FATHER, which art in heaven. All mankind then, are brothers. He added this principle to the first, and the Christian religion accents these two. Those in high places, claiming to be Christian, sometimes lose sight of these

primaries, and think of God as the Father of only those in their particular fold. Paul was wiser. He wrote to the Ephesians:

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and though all, and in you all.

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Excerpts from letters received:

You, and all the things your have been to me in the past years, are very precious and I know the God you have shown me will ever be with me to lead me on. And, as we know, the ministry is something that cannot be expressed with our words; but for it I am thankful. It has given me wisdom, health, plenty, and above all, a wonderful peace and security that makes me very humble and grateful. CMJ - Fort Stockton, Texas.

Thank you for the deeply interesting letter. WEC - Santa Ana, Texas

I give thanks that everything is coming along fine with me; I have no worries of any kind. I wish you both the very best of everything always. CW - Mohnton, Pennsylvania

Your letter and meditations received and I have been following your instruction every day. HH - Jamestown, New York

I am grateful in knowing I have such good friends in truth as you. AB - Bainbridge, Maryland

Your letter reached me at the right time and helped me to overcome a few obstacles. GC - LaCrosse, Wisconsin

SPIRITICITY April 1945

Dear Friend:

We live in many worlds at the same time. While each world seems separate from all the others in its field of action, they impinge upon each other. Let us name a few of these worlds in which we abide: a material world, a physical world, a mental world, and an emotional world. Then, there is our social world, our church world, our political world, and our world of commerce. And, most important of all, the world of Spirit, the only real realm in which all the others exist.

We live, move, and are in all of these worlds at one and the same time, but are conscious, perhaps, of only one at a given time, according to the objective that attracts and holds the attention of our mind. Whatever we consider places us instantly in the world that coordinates with it.

Some people claim that man has no control over his thoughts, emotions, or inclinations. We know this, however: man does have full and absolute control over where he chooses to fix the attention of his mind. No matter what the pull of forces around him he can direct his attention toward whatever objective he selects regardless of the clamor set up. If he is sunk in abject negation he

can, while in the experience, lift his vision toward that to which he aspires. The set of his mind will act as a draw-string to pull him out of unpleasantness and place his feet in paths of peace. His state, whatever it is, is witness to his choice.

This makes each man responsible for his own status. No theorizing will convince him of this truth. But a man can lay hold on God much in the same way he would grasp a rope let down to him at the bottom of a well. He would not have to be told he must cling to it to be drawn to safety and security. God has never yet failed the honest devotee.

Sincerely yours,
Nell Truesdell

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE of Fort Worth, Texas, is a fellowship of sincere students seeking practical application of the Law of Life, as lived and taught by the Master of Life, JESUS CHRIST.

We aspire to that saving grace which heals the sick, teaches, preaches, and quickens with life the dormant hopes and unfulfilled ideals in the individual and race mind.

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

April 1945

2. I will ANSWER thee.
3. Let BROTHERLY love continue.
4. CHOOSE life.
5. Who shall DWELL in Thy Holy Hill?
6. The EARTH is full of the goodness of the Lord.
7. One is you FATHER, which is in heaven.
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9. In know that the Lord is GREAT.
10. Lead me to the Rock that is HIGHER than I.
11. I delight in the law of God after the INWARD man.
12. JUST and right is He.
13. My KINGDOM is not of this world.
14. Good is the LORD, which hath showed us LIGHT.
*
16. His MERCY is everlasting.
17. Doth not even NATURE itself teach you.
18. We have OBTAINED an inheritance.
19. The Lord PRESERVETH all them that love Him.
20. Agree with thine adversary QUICKLY.
21. REMEMBER His marvelous works that He hath done.
*
23. Thou has been a SHELTER to me.
24. TURN many TO righteousness.
25. Be ye steadfast, UNMOVABLE.
26. God will surely VISIT you.
27. On Thee do I WAIT all the day.
28. Take my YOKE upon YOU, and learn of Me.
*
30. The ZEAL of the Lord of hosts will perform.
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To train the thinking processes in constructive channels is no easy task after a life-time of negation. The joy of turning the attention of the mind, consciously, toward positive assertions cannot be measured. Results are worth a king's ransom.

Please keep the DAILY MEDITATIONS with us, and prove their worth.