

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD

By Robert Applegate

(Continued from last month)

LAST MONTH I said that the best evidence for the Teaching of Jesus Christ (to which this ministry is dedicated) is the Gospel and the Letters of John. Many scholars deny that these works were written by the Apostle John, but all the evidence declares that they were. The reason for denying his authorship is that the scholars cannot see how any man could say the things that John reports Jesus as saying; such as, "I am the Way. . . . I am the Resurrection and the Life." They reason that Jesus could not have made these statements; they must be later compositions, made by persons who had started to romanticize about the Savior. Therefore the Gospel of John could not have been written by a friend and student of Jesus. This is using a preconception to evaluate evidence, and that is the wrong way to arrive at truth. It is like saying that the atom bomb cannot be real, because I do not see how atoms could behave that way.

All the evidence in the Gospel itself and all the statements of the early Church fathers (who are the best witnesses) declare that John the Apostle wrote the works that bear his name; therefore they are our primary source for the Teaching of Jesus. Clement of Alexandria, about A.D. 200, wrote:

"Last of all, John, perceiving that the external facts had been made plain in the (other) Gospels, being urged by his friends and inspired by the Spirit, composed a spiritual Gospel."

There is no reason to question this.

John was the "disciple (student) whom Jesus loved." If Jesus loved him above all others he must have been a man of great perception and character. His mother was Salome who was a sister of Mary the mother of Jesus; so John was a cousin of Jesus and no doubt knew Him from His youth. According to all the accounts, John was with Jesus throughout His ministry, often when the other disciples were absent for one reason or another. He is therefore a first-class witness; and in this instance the appeal to authority is justified.

If you read through John's writings you will see that they seem to have been written for this one purpose: to show that Jesus was God in a bodily form. He says at the end of his Gospel: "These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name (i.e. because He is what He is)." The expression "in His Name" or "for His Name's sake" means "because of His Nature," "because He is what He is."

Some of you who are new to this study may not know exactly what is meant by the term Christ. It designates the eternal, changeless Activity of God, the Life which makes and sustains all. John calls it the Word. (Just as man does everything he does by his words, so God does everything by His Word.) Jesus was born to Mary in 7 B.C. in Bethlehem. (His contemporaries called Him "Jesus the son of Mary," because everyone knew that Joseph was not His father.) But the Christ was never born; It is eternal. Jesus, by the fact of His virgin birth, by His complete, unwavering faithfulness, devotion, and obedience, was the

Christ. They were not two but they were one - as we show by using the designation Jesus Christ as a proper name.

In his First Letter, John puts it as strongly as he can:

"That which was from the beginning (from before time), which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have witnessed and our hands have touched of the Word of Life: the Life appeared, and we saw and bear witness and announce to you the Eternal Life that was with the Father and appeared unto us."

There is no doubt that Jesus taught that He was God, and that His followers correctly understood Him as teaching this. His enemies also understood that this was His teaching. They said, "You, being a man, make yourself God." He did. About this what more can we say than what Jesus said: "If you do not believe Me, believe the works." This is the essence of science: to accept nothing on authority or on probability or on logic, but only on evidence. Today we accept many incredible things on the authority of science. Why should we balk at the Incarnation?

The same Christ is in every person and is the true being of every person; so in a sense every person is Christ. But the difference - and it is a big difference - is that Jesus was consciously, manifestly, wholly, It. The truth is not that He was a man like us, but that we are gods - immortal beings - like Him. He came to show us this. We receive the consciousness of our divinity not by denying what He was, but by accepting it.

Athanasius, who was Bishop of Alexandria in the 4th Century, wrote in his On the Incarnation:

"He became man, so that we might be made divine. He revealed Himself through a body, so that we might have perception of the Invisible Father. He endured the insults of men, so that we might inherit decaylessness. He Himself was not hurt at all, since He was unhurt and invulnerable, the Very Word of God. By His invulnerability, He guarded and saved suffering men for whom He endured these things. The healings of the Savior that have shown forth everywhere because of His incarnation are of such sort and such number that if anyone tried to recount them, he would be like those who look out over the sea and try to count its waves. . . . For the wonder is the same everywhere; and wherever anyone looks, there he sees the Divinity of the Word and is astounded. . . .

"Since you see this, adore the Savior of all, the Powerful Word of God."
(To be continued)

SPIRITICITY, March 1966

THE HELP AT HAND

By Alden Truesdell

"GOD IS our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

If anyone loves the Lord with all his heart, soul and strength, he will be completely encompassed by that which his affections are given. He will touch God at all points. God is One and God-Mind is the only Mind; therefore instructions and even revelations will present themselves from all directions, from many unexpected sources.

One day a young man conversed with me, telling me of his early life with an exceptional father, who gave him four points for living a full life:

- 1) Have a good name; this you do by being honest.
- 2) Have friends; this you do by being a friend.
- 3) Get a good education, so you can talk to any man.
- 4) Love God.
- 5)

The young man was a doctor. He said he had recently made a talk before a group of students and professors, in which he had expressed these four points. One professor asked him where he had received such wisdom and he said from his father, who had gone no further than third grade. This is sufficient to show how the Mind of God is working in all.

One day when the question of the place of God in the affairs of men was in my mind, I looked over some library books. In one of them I found a clipping of a prayer by Dag Hammarskjold. It answered my question. Here it is:

Thou who art over us,
 Thou who art one of us,
Thou who art - Also within us,
 May all see Thee - in me also,
May I prepare the way for Thee,
 May I thank Thee for all that shall fall to my lot,
May I also not forget the needs of others,
 Keep me in Thy love
As Thou wouldst that all should be kept in mine.
 May everything in this my being be directed to Thy glory
And may I never despair.
 For I am under Thy hand,
And in Thee is all power and goodness,
 Give me a pure heart - that I may see Thee,
A humble heart - that I may hear Thee,
 A heart of love - that I may serve Thee,
A heart of faith - that I may abide in Thee.

--Dag Hammarskjold

Many times a sentence or phrase spoken within hearing will have a special meaning for us, and even solve some stubborn problem. So does the Spirit teach us. From our own experience and the Light of Spirit we learn lessons within lessons. The first lesson is to love and seek God with all our heart.

SPIRITICITY, March 1966

SYMPTOMS AND REMEDIES

By H. B. Jeffery

MANY PEOPLE ask why in no place in this country are we free from sinus. Sinus comes from sensing material thoughts instead of pure spiritual thoughts, or from sensing both. Trying to reason from two planes causes confusion and congestion of the nasal passages. Man is a spiritual being; he lives and moves in the Realm of Spirit. He follows his ideas through; he does not become discouraged and give up, nor does he become confused. You live and move and have your being in God; God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Know this.

Asthma comes from a curiosity to know many things. Asthmatics do not listen to you. They ask questions, but your answers bounce off them. They are afflicted with a nervous thinking. In asthma the lungs are not affected; they are okay.

If anyone will realize he thinks God's thoughts after Him, he will find the deep intelligence that satisfies. Shallow thinking causes shallow breathing. The breath becomes deeper as we contemplate the Allness of God. We draw out of the air higher ozones, which energize and nourish us. We may forget to eat and sleep.

We do not breathe through the lungs alone. The skin breathes. The brain also breathes. The Breath of the Almighty gives understanding. In the silence you find your breath changing. If you know that God's Breath gave you form, you will find yourself breathing that One Breath. You can release a patient from pneumonia by doing this; you will be breathing for him.

Nervousness was called selfishness by the old metaphysicians. It comes from not caring for anything but yourself. You must love all people.

Tiredness. If you find yourself too tired to do the things you want or find your life cluttered with other duties, know that God works in you to will and to do. You will find yourself refreshed and you will no longer resent what you have to do, for you will find everything done easily. You will become aware of the Harmony and Peace of the Divine Order. Then either you will be freed from the things that you do not want to do or you will find plenty of time to do everything. You will be informed while you are working, and so will find it unnecessary to study or to read about what you want to know.

There are no tasks either great or small; they are all of God. There are no high people; so you do not recognize them. But be sure you recognize there are no low people either.

There is today a general belief in heredity: that a person inherits diseases from his forebears. This is not true. You must know this. Only One is your Father. We see even in the Bible that the sins of the fathers are visited on the children unto the third generation. But it is also written: "I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."

The Psalmist sang, "In Thy Presence is fullness of joy." The joy of the Lord is ever with you. And knowing this will often be the only medicine you will need.

The spine represents uprightness. Man was made upright. None of the animals was, but man was. When anyone strikes a perfect perpendicular in his relation with God, he keeps his balance and poise among men. Then he attracts men to him.

People sometimes have pains in the back - lumbago, etc. This comes from burdens. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." If we give Him our burdens and let the Spirit work in us both to will and to do, we will find a magnetic power doing the work for us; we will not become tired or burdened.

Perhaps it will help if I cite a case that came to my attention years ago, so that you can see it is not the physical body that has the pain - it all comes from the mind.

When I had an office in Philadelphia a big, strapping, six-foot fellow came in to see me. I thought, "My, he is in the wrong place" he looked so healthy. But he said I was the man he wanted to see; that when he had been in California a friend had told him that if he ever needed help badly he should look me up. I learned that he had a terrific pain in his back. He said it was as though a dagger was sticking in his back and twisting itself in. He had not sat down in forty-eight hours as the pain was too intense when he had to get up. Finally he could not stand it any longer. I told him to sit down.

He gave me a funny look as though to say, "Haven't I told you that I can't get up again?"

So I had to use force, and commanded him to sit. Then I went into the silence; and just as though a neon light was playing across a screen, I saw "REVENGE" in big red letters. When I had treated this and had got the word from the Spirit that the Spirit had done its work, I stopped. I told the man to get up. Again, that funny look. But finally he did get up and he was surprised to see that the pain had gone. He then went over to a window, where he was silent and thoughtful for a long time.

Finally he said: "I have studied a bit of Truth and have learned that sickness comes from sin. Is that true?"

I said: "Yes; if you know the meaning of the word sin."

He said, "Yes."

Then he said, "May I ask you what sin I committed."

I told him, "Revenge."

He said, "Yes, that is the absolute truth."

He told me that he had worked for a heating company, doing their installation work. He had been promised promotion in every way. But one day the nephew of the company-owner had been given the job that had been promised to him. The nephew did not know anything about the work and bungled every job. Then this man had to go out to fix it up. One day the nephew had done such a

bad job of bungling that the man had decided to ruin the work so that it could not be straightened out. Then the pain struck.

I said: "You see, you wanted to knife the other guy, but you got the knife in your own back."

He said, "Yes, I see." Then he thought some more.

He said: "I am going into New York tomorrow. I will stop in to see Bill and apologize."

"Yes," I said, "that is a good idea."

When he got into the office the next day the nephew saw him first and called him to come in to talk with him.

He said: "I've been a mess at this job. My uncle thought he was doing the right thing in giving me this position, but I don't know a thing about it and I'm not interested. I am going to see him today and I'm going to tell him that you are the man that ought to have this position. I am resigning."

The man got the position, a big raise in pay, and an interest in the firm. I did not see him or hear the outcome until years later when I was speaking in another city. After the meeting he came up and asked if I remembered him. He told me of all the good things that had happened to him, and he introduced me to his lovely wife.

She said: "He has been a changed man ever since he saw you. He is so different from the man I married that I feel I ought to get married all over again."

That was her little joke. But you can see how the word of Truth often not only gives the particular healing asked for, but heals many other things as well.

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." No one can tell what the day will bring forth. However know that no matter what is presented to you, "so shall thy strength be." Whatever is given to you to do, you can do it easily and comfortably, if you know it is the Father who does the work. It is His Hand that prospers you. Everything that you touch will respond and prosper when you know this. Never be fearful, for He will do the work.

You must always know the Divine Presence. Whatever comes to you, know that it can be healed. For nothing is complex or incurable to God. Have perfect faith. Just a little word will release much.

God intends good at every point, but man extends - he puts everything out, at a distance. People are reaching out; they join new churches, always hoping to find their good on the outside. Do not reach out, but upwards. "Look up" is the Divine Command.

SPIRITICITY, March 1966

DRINK LIVING WATER

By Nell Truesdell

THERE ARE THREE modes of prayer: 1) that of directing words and attitudes toward God outside ourselves - as when we devoutly petition God in the sky or in some sacred image for special blessings; 2) that of directing our attention inward, vaguely sensing that the Kingdom of God is within and that if we seek first that Kingdom, all things will be added; 3) that of watching toward God in the Sanctuary of our heart in reverent obedience, asking nothing but the privilege to Watch.

A person may experience a mystical, though fleeting, merging of soul with Spirit on any of the three levels of prayer. However, on the third level he will receive the assurance of spiritual oneness with God that does not quickly fade.

We may safely say that all earnest worshipers crave uninterrupted conscious oneness with the Divine Presence, especially during extended periods of aridity - those times when the soul feels lost in dry places. At such times (everybody experiences them) the worshiper longs to be swallowed up by the Divine Influence, for he knows that in It he will find rest that is other worldly and that defies description.

The Psalmist echoes this longing: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God." (Psm 42:1-2).

Jesus Christ gave unfailing directions that, if followed, reveal the necessary steps that man may take to satisfy his thirst for God:

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

One who has been isolated in a stretch of desert country knows what a craving for water is. His experience is a good example of the painful sensation that Jesus is talking about - that indescribable thirst for Spirit that can be satisfied in one way only: "Let him come unto Me, and drink."

If ever you are thirsty and have access to water, you do not wait around for somebody to hand it to you. You drink. Drinking means that you swallow the liquid; you take it into your system to absorb it; you drink it without question or suspicion.

That is the way you must drink of Jesus Christ. You speed up the process by believing in Him; then, from the center of Substance in your consciousness shall flow an abundance of soul-satisfying Spirit that gives the lasting refreshment that Jesus promised.

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On the first level of prayer you beg and beseech; on second, you visualize and demand; on the third, you ask nothing and get everything. "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him." (Mt. 6: 8)

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every day of the month

MARCH, 1966

1. Seek those things which ARE ABOVE.
2. BELIEVE in the Name of Jesus Christ.
3. COME boldly unto the Throne of Grace.
4. Hearken DILIGENTLY unto Me.
5. All EAT the same Spiritual Meat.
*
7. Take the water of Life FREELY
8. I will be GLORIFIED, saith the Lord.
9. HOLD fast to the form of sound words.
10. Thou didst confirm thine INHERITANCE.
11. The JUST shall live by faith.
12. KEEP yourselves in the Love of God.
*
14. Blessed be the LORD, who daily LOADETH us with benefits.
15. MAKE known . . . the glorious MAJESTY of His Kingdom.
16. Serve in NEWNESS of Spirit.
17. The Lord is ONE Lord.
18. He will abundantly PARDON.
19. I have behaved and QUIETED myself.
*
21. Let the RIGHTEOUS be glad.
22. SEEK good, and not evil, that ye may live.
23. TAKE with you words, and TURN to the Lord.
24. Good UNDERSTANDING giveth favor.
25. Through God we shall do VALIANTLY.
26. The WAYS of the Lord are right.
*
28. YE are the temple of the Living God.
29. ZEAL of the Lord will do this.
30. He filleth the hungry soul with goodness.
31. Elect of God . . . forgive one another.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,
So Spiriticity is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle.

CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE, 2400 Canton Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, 76112