means." She justified this by claiming hers was the only true Christianity because she had healings.

THE SCRIPTURES TELL of God's creation of earth and man; of the fall of man with the introduction of sin; of Satan's taking rulership of earth; and of God's plan to bring a Savior to redeem man from his sin, defeat Satan, and prepare the church to be the Bride of Jesus Christ.

In order to accept the Bible's truths, one has to recognize (contrary to Christian Science) that all men are sinners (Romans 3:23); that sin, Satan, and evil are real (Ezek. 18:4; Rev. 20:2, 10; Eccles. 9:3); that there is a future judgment day with a real heaven and a real hell (Rev. 20:11-15); and that God the Son came in real flesh (John 1:14) (which gnosticism ultimately denies).

But Christian Science opposes such Biblical truths. Mrs. Eddy taught that the first chapter of Genesis is the true account in which man is made in the image and likeness of God. But she called the second chapter of Genesis a false account, labeling it the "Adam Dream."

She explained the mist that arose as the false belief that matter is real.

Christian Science says that all is Mind, and that God is Mind, and therefore God is All. (This is pantheism, although Mrs. Eddy would be adamant in denying the label).

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CLAIMS that man is made in God's image and likeness, and that the real man is like God. Therefore because God is Mind, Spirit, and perfect, then man is spiritual (not material) and perfect.

But this teaching is refuted by any honest comparison of Genesis 1:26,27 with Genesis 5:1-3.

Where did sickness, sin, disease, and death come from?

According to Mrs. Eddy, they are part of the "Adam-dream," the false belief that came from the "mortal mind" lie.

According to her "revelation," man purportedly grows spiritually to know his real being as spiritual and to overcome the "false claims" of matter.

She claims that there is no heaven and no hell, except as a state of mind; that death is only an illusion; and that the only thing that dies is the "belief" of the body, because the body only exists as a belief in the first place.

Mrs. Eddy claims that God, being Spirit, does not know matter (which includes the physical man). Therefore He is greater than matter, is different from matter, and cannot be in matter.

These thoughts, repeated throughout Mrs. Eddy's writings, show why it is nearly impossible for the Christian Scientist to believe when the Bible repeatedly says that God, who is Spirit, deliberately became man; or that Jesus was God the Son, come in the flesh (physical).

LIKE THE GNOSTICS whom the apostles called heretics, Mrs. Eddy separates Jesus from Christ. She declares 1) that the Christ is the truth that has always been here and always will be, 2) that Jesus was only a way-shower, a perfect man who served as a teacher and model for man.

As a result the Christian Scientist does not believe in Jesus as the Bible presents Him. By calling Jesus the way-shower instead of *the Way,* Mrs. Eddy sidetracks a Christian Scientist's thinking.

It sounds close, but it's not at all the same. Anyone can be the way-shower if he shows the way to God. But only Jesus *is* the Way.

Christian Science convolutes the message of the Bible by such devices as adding the word "Truth" to the name Christ, referring constantly to the "Christ, Truth," and defining Christ and Jesus as two different entities.

Mrs. Eddy will also quote Bible verses about Jesus and either omit His name or change it to "Christ."

For example, she said in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (p.23): "Believe...and thou shalt be saved!" Her quote left out the important part: "Believe on *the Lord Jesus Christ,* and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

In quoting the Lord's clear statement that He is the Way (John 14:6), Mrs. Eddy many times calls Him Christ. But the Christian Scientist does not realize that the human man Jesus was both Christ and the Way.

JESUS HIMSELF referred to Himself as the Christ (Luke 24:25-27).

And the Apostle John said, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is anti-Christ, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:22).

Christian Scientists find it difficult to understand how God, who is Spirit, became man. Yet that is precisely what the Bible claims.

John in his Gospel (John 1:1, 14) said that the Word was God and the Word became living flesh. In many places the Bible proclaims the deity of Jesus.

Although the Christian Scientist believes Jesus performed the miracles He did, he refuses to believe what Jesus said about hell. He described it, warned of it often, and said that's where a person is going who doesn't receive Him.

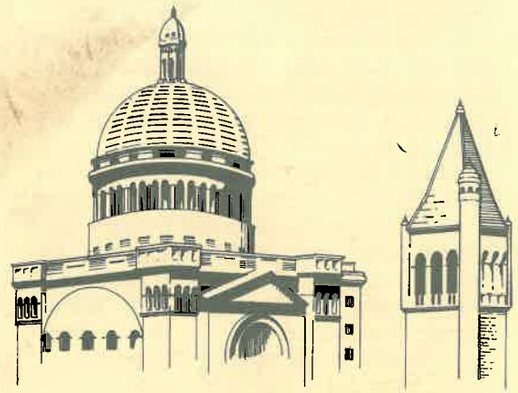
When Mrs. Eddy attempts to describe hell as only a temporary state of mind, she denies the very words of Jesus in Matthew 13:49,50; 25:46.

Since they have been misled from even taking the first step of seeing who Jesus is, followers of Christian Science can't believe He is who He said He is. And if they don't believe in Him, they can't have eternal life.

THESE NICE, QUIET, law-abiding people are deceived. It is imperative that Christians stop having a "hands-off" attitude toward Christian Scientists. With love, we must show them who Jesus Christ really is and what He has done. □

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:



Cult for the Cultured

by Carolyn Poole

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The religion is called "Christian," but there's mystery behind the facade.

People are impressed by the dignity and refinement of its adherents. Its edifices are grand, and its "reading rooms" well appointed. Its newspaper is known for its journalistic excellence. Its members company with kings.

Its founder, the late Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, said Christian Science

was her revelation and she was the "revelator." She built walls around her church with laws that mandated obedience and secrecy.

She decreed that her followers cannot disclose membership figures, discuss church business with outsiders, or allow anyone to read their notes from Class Instruction.

No one (except a few appointed for the job) can give talks on Christian Science. Only a small number of teachers can conduct classes and these only once a year for only thirty students.

Every Christian Science church in the world performs identical services, allowing no individuality, no personal opinion, and no leadership other than Mrs. Eddy's. On Sunday mornings two people take turns reading from the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.* That's the sermon for the week.

TO A LARGE EXTENT, the members live closed lives, keeping to themselves. When they are ill or have any problems, they are generally secretive, since they are taught that it would endanger them for other people to know about their problems.

They believe that everything is a result of one's thinking. So they feel they must guard against other people's thoughts.

Mrs. Eddy helped popularize the concept of "mind over matter"—a teaching that has led to jokes:

One lady attended a party where all but her escort were Christian Scientists. As they sat down they noticed someone had left a thumbtack on an empty chair.

When the young lady asked her companion to remove it, he just sat there and said with a twinkle in his eye, "They won't feel it. It's not there."

But not all non-Christian Scientists joke about these teachings. Christian pastors preach against Mrs. Eddy's theology, claiming it is not even Christian. Those in mainstream churches view Mrs. Eddy's interpretation of the Bible with alarm.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL CRITICIZE

Christian Science in precept and practice satisfies the accepted Christian definition of a cult!

the religion, recalling seriously ill Christian Scientists who refused medical treatment. They tell too of children excused from immunizations and physical examinations because of special medical laws the church has sponsored.

Christian Science has also received special treatment from Congress. Under President Richard Nixon (whose closest advisers included two Christian Scientists: Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman), a copyright law, S1866, was passed to extend the copyright on Mrs. Eddy's textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.*

The law, unique in American jurisprudence, passed over the objections of Senator Javits and Senator Hart and the Committee on Civil Rights of the New York Bar Association, which claimed that it violated the First Amendment (*Congressional Record,* page 46070, December 10, 1971).

Christian Science has also made inroads in language. The most widely-used dictionary, *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (eighth edition), presents Mrs. Eddy's own altered definitions for more than thirty-five words, a privilege not granted other religions.

Many of these words and their definitions bear little relationship to religion. These "redefined" words include angel, atonement, baptism, Christian Science, Christ, death, devil, error, Eucharist, First Reader, God, heaven, hell, idea, intelligence, Jesus, life, love, man, matter, mind, miracle, mortal mind, practitioner, principle, prophet, resurrection, salvation, science, scientist, Second Reader, soul, spirit, substance, and truth.

ARDENT FOLLOWERS of Christian Science are generally peaceful, educated, and financially successful. Many are prominent. Some news, movie, and television celebrities reportedly are—or have been—Christian Scientists. These have included Senator Charles Percy, Congressman John Rousselot, Kay Kyser, Ginger Rogers, Doris Day, and Joan Crawford.

The Christian Science church publishes a respected newspaper, the *Christian Science Monitor,* started by Mrs. Eddy when she was eighty-seven. Widely used in schools, it is a subtle tool for spreading Christian Science doctrine.

But most significant for Christians is the metaphysical "can of worms" that Christian Science doctrine has opened. Mrs. Eddy's docetic-gnostic concepts, similar to those that overtly challenged Christ's apostles and disciples in the first centuries, have reappeared to work their way through a nation founded on Christian teachings. Mrs. Eddy has made such concepts appear respectable and acceptable to those not well aware of what the Lord Jesus taught.

The mind science religions have grown out of Christian Science—Unity, Religious Science, and Divine Science. These have helped make people responsive to receive Eastern religions such as Hare Krishna, Transcendental Meditation, and Zen Buddhism.

Christian Science in precept and practice satisfies the accepted Christian definition of a cult by meeting eight conditions:

1.It has a strong leader (other than Christ), Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy. Through her writings she controls the minds of her devotees.

2. The "Jesus" it teaches is not the Jesus of the Bible. Mrs. Eddy said that He was only a person and not the Christ, whom she claimed instead was impersonal.

3. It isolates members by encouraging them to concentrate exclusively on Christian Science pamphlets, newspapers, literature, bookstores (reading rooms), schools and camps, nursing homes, retirement centers,

college youth organizations, and churches.

4. It practices censorship, in effect, by discouraging members from reading any unauthorized literature, which means any religious material that is not sold in the reading rooms or printed by the Christian Science publishing house.

5. It keeps members busy, expecting them to read their lessons daily, to subscribe to church periodicals, to attend church services and lectures, and to work on committees.

6. It expresses loyalty to the leader (Mrs. Eddy) through testimonies that voice gratitude for her in periodicals and weeknight meetings. Devotion is also heightened by the biographies of Mrs. Eddy. They extol her, while castigating her enemies.

The adherent is instructed to read daily the manual's Article VIII, section 6, that says he is not "to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader [Mrs. Eddy], and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged—and justified or condemned."

All this implies a penalty if he neglects his duty to Mrs. Eddy. It puts her on the throne where normally the Lord Jesus would sit.

7. It applies "carrot and stick" discipline. The enticing carrot is the offer of healing and protection through studying Christian Science. The stick is the threat of evil that comes to the person who rejects it.

Mrs. Eddy wrote, "Alas, for those who break faith with divine Science. . . what must the end be? They must eventually expiate their sins through suffering" *(Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, p.569).*

This is, of course, unscriptural for it promotes righteousness by works.

8. Its adherents study Mrs. Eddy's book (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures) along with the Bible and in practical application allow it to take precedence over the Bible.

The Church Manual states: "As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life." Members read it daily, but Mrs. Eddy's "spiritual interpretation" violates the Bible's clear statement and decides for Christian Scientists what the Bible "really