

# Soul Winning: The Christian's Business

by

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## Chapter Ten

### Commonplace Cults

#### Christian Science

Christian Science promises much to the human heart - no more financial problems, no sickness or suffering. It is no wonder that many try to follow its precepts. And as it is true that the mind does affect the body, the practice of a cheerful spirit helps its followers. That they do have some cures, no one can deny. However, they cure at the cost of sacrificing the heart of the gospel.

Their textbook, Science and Health states: "We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter" (p. 497).

Truly, the crucifixion of the Lord JESUS did more than "uplift faith to understand eternal life"! Rather, "**Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God**" (I Peter 3:18).

Also, Science and Health states, "The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon 'the accursed tree' than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business. His true flesh and blood were his life" (p. 25).

This is a direct denial of, "**And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him, to reconcile all things unto himself**" (Colossians 1:20).

One of their teachings which is ludicrous is their teaching about the Holy Spirit. Mary Baker Eddy, founder of this religion, wrote in Science and Health, "In the words of St. John: 'He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever: This Comforter I understand to be Divine Science'" (p. 55).

If this is true, why the delay of so many hundreds of years before CHRIST fulfilled the promise,

**"It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you"?** (John 16:7).

When witnessing to a Christian Scientist, you will find he is confused about so many things that you need patience and tact. He is not convinced that the entire Bible is inspired, and in most cases you will be limited to the Gospels, and maybe even to the actual words of the Lord JESUS.

*He will deny the reality of sin.* You can refute this by reminding that JESUS said, **"I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: Whither I go, ye cannot come"** (John 8:21).

*He will deny the reality of sickness.* Again, remind him that JESUS did not deny the reality of sickness. When speaking of Lazarus, he said, **"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby"** (John 11:4).

When the deity of CHRIST is considered, Christian Scientists state that when JESUS said, **"I and my Father are one"** he meant "that is one in quality, not in quantity. As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light one with the sun, even so GOD and man, Father and son, are one in being" (Science and Health, p. 361).

### **Metaphysics**

The metaphysical believer will often quote Scripture to you.

He may know many texts. However, he is confused, taking a verse completely out of the context. In order to reach him you have to **"study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"** (II Timothy 2:15).

The Bible falls naturally into four divisions.

*The Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi,* deals primarily with one theme - the preparation of man for the coming of the Saviour. As Scripture says **"the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ"** (Galatians 3:24).

*The Gospels and Acts* tell the story of the life of CHRIST and his disciples. As the Physician Luke stated his purpose: **"It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order"** (Luke 1:3). While there are many verses in the Gospels that do tell the way of salvation, such as Luke 19:10 and John 1:12, they are mainly the story of the life of CHRIST.

*Then from Romans to the third Epistle of John is Christian doctrine.* In these books we find the way of salvation and principles of Christian living. For instance the first five chapters of Romans present a clear picture of the sinner's justification through belief in CHRIST. On the other hand, the Epistles of John are written to those who have already become Christians, telling them that even after becoming a believer, they need to turn to CHRIST for frequent, probably daily, forgiveness.

*Revelation is a book of prophecy.*

With this understanding of Scripture, you can explain the need of accepting the Bible in its entire context and when opportunity arrives lead them into an acceptance of salvation.

Those who are entrenched in a cult are among the most difficult to win to the Lord. It is apparently so hard for a person to admit he is wrong. And to change one's denomination does require admitting that one has made a mistake.

However, they can be won by the consistent Christian life.

Nothing takes the place of a life rich in the fruit of the spirit, "**love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance**" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Some time ago a Hindu woman was converted and her husband became furious, persecuting her.

"When your husband is angry and persecutes you, what do you do?" asked the missionary.

"Well, sir," the simple woman replied, "I cook his food better. When he complains, I sweep the floor cleaner. When he speaks unkindly I answer him mildly. I try, sir, to show him that when I became a Christian, I became a better wife and better mother."

The result was that while the husband could withstand the preaching of the missionary, he could not withstand the practical preaching of his wife and became a Christian.

So, too, if you live a better Christian life than your neighbor, he will turn to you, seeking the CHRIST who lives through you.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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