

The "Christian Science" Religion

by Bill Crews

Many people have heard of the religion which calls itself "Christian Science." They have heard also of "the Christian Science Monitor," "Monitor Radio," and "Monitor TV," all public news media owned and operated by that religion. But very few people know anything about the history of that religion or the doctrines of that religion. Back in the nineteenth century a visiting Englishman found the perfect parallel to that religion -- the new breakfast cereal called "Grape Nuts." Upon his return to England he reported that he had encountered two strange things in America: a cereal called "Grape Nuts," which was neither grapes nor nuts, and a religion called "Christian Science," which was neither Christian nor science. How right he was!

The "Bible" of "Christian Science" is the book *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*. It was written back in the nineteenth century by Mrs. Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy (she even referred to it, while writing it, as her "Bible"), who also founded the church that she called "The Church of Christ, Scientist," and ruled over the "Mother Church" ("The First Church of Christ, Scientist," in Boston, Mass.). Some people know that they have very nice church buildings with "reading rooms," and that they do not believe in taking medicine or being treated by doctors, but that they believe in some kind of divine healing. Still, very few people are aware of even the foundation doctrines of the people known as "Christian Scientists."

There was an article in "The Baton Rouge Advocate" of Sunday, January 7, 1993 concerning a conflict within the "Christian Science Church" over the conditions of a multimillion-dollar donation to that church. In the article the writer stated: "The religion has as its basis the belief that prayer can heal injuries and illness." This is but one illustration of the point that I am making: Very few people know anything about the doctrines of the "Christian Science" religion. It does not have as its basis "the belief that prayer can heal injuries and illness."

Mrs. Eddy taught, and her followers believe, that God is spirit, that God is good, and that God is all (that is, all that exists). She also taught, therefore, that evil, sin, and Satan do not exist. She claimed that matter does not exist (thus there are no physical bodies), and that disease does not exist. She founded a religion, obtained a following, and made her fortune by convincing people that she could heal them of diseases, which do not even exist, in their physical bodies, which they do not really have. Of course it doesn't make any rational sense, and of course it is full of holes and contradictions. (If God is all, then all is God. If God is spirit, then all is spirit. If God is good, then all is good. Not only, then, would the physical universe --including the earth, human or fleshly bodies, and physical sicknesses, or defects, or injuries -- not exist. There would be no one around to even imagine that they exist.) Yet, because of the limited success of "mind over matter" (yes, your health can improve as a result of a positive, determined, and optimistic attitude, and your health can deteriorate as a result of a negative, fatalistic, and pessimistic attitude) Mrs. Eddy was able to convince many people that her philosophy could heal people of their unwanted and unpleasant diseases. Somehow, according to her, we get our thinking processes all mixed up, and we imagine that we have diseases we don't even have at all (but, remember, in bodies that don't even exist). So you get your thinking all straightened up, and the diseases you think you have gradually disappear. She even set up a system of "practitioners" who give "readings" (of Mrs. Eddy's writings, of course) to patients who need healing, and these medical quacks are allowed to charge for their services.

For a people who claim to believe that matter does not even exist "Christian Scientists," for the most part, meet in very fine buildings, live in very nice houses, hold down good-paying jobs, dress fashionably, eat splendid food, drive comfortable automobiles, and otherwise fare better than Mr. Average American. But their religion is neither Christian nor science.

To add insult to injury, Mrs. Eddy claimed that Jesus had discovered this very science of healing and that He worked His "miracles" by employing it. It is all a false and foolish man-made (or is that "woman-made"?) religion.