

The Church of Christ, Scientist

Christian Scientist

Mary Baker Eddy

- ? She was born Mary Morse Baker July 16, 1821 & died Dec. 3, 1910.
- ? She was raised a Congregationalist, but she rebelled against teachings like Predestination.
- ? She was chronically ill & developed a strong interest in the biblical accounts of early Christian healing.
- ? She married George Washington Glover, who died a little over two months before the birth of their only child, George Washington Glover, Jr.
- ? She later married Dr. Daniel Patterson, a dentist.
- ? In the 1850s & 1860s she explored homeopathy and other alternative healing methods popular in the United States at that time.

- ? In Oct. 1862 she became a patient of magnetic healer Phineas Quimby.
- ? Eddy was helped, although briefly, by his treatment, and was clearly influenced by his beliefs concerning the nature of illness.
- ? Many rumors circulated about Quimby & Eddy, who divorced Patterson in 1873 for adultery that he readily admitted & in 1877 she married Asa Gilbert Eddy, who died in 1882.
- ? After a severe injury in Feb. 1866, Eddy turned to the Holy Bible & experienced a sudden ease of her symptoms.
- ? She later relapsed & wrote to Julius Dresser, a fellow-patient of Quimby's, asking for treatment through Quimby's method of healing.

- ? Dresser replied that he was unable to help her, and she eventually sued the city of Lynn, Mass. for damages related to the injuries she had sustained in Feb.
- ? Eddy withdrew the suit in late 1866 & devoted the next three years of her life to biblical study and the development of Christian Science.

Christian Science Beliefs

- ? The **Holy Bible** & Eddy's text **Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures** (1875) are their primary texts.
- ? Together they are the foundation for their teaching, and are used during church services, as well.
- ? Eddy stated these books as a "dual and impersonal pastor", followers use both books to "unlock The Bible". It was the specific mission of Science and Health to give the world this key to the Scriptures-to open up their treasures and enable everyone to use them.
- ? Christian Science is based on the life, teachings, and works of Jesus Christ, but does not have an organizational creed.

- ? However, the following are the tenets, or important points, of the religion as given in *Science and Health* (p. 496):
 - "As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
 - We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
 - We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.

- We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
- 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.
- And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure."

- ? They teach how to rely on prayer alone for physical cure.
- ? Such healing often affirms its primary mission --- to heal "the sins of the world" through understanding the power of Christ, or divine Truth.
- ? They demand faith in order to heal and cure physically.
- ? It further teaches that in order to heal systematically and consistently, understanding the nature of God and His laws is necessary.
- ? It is praying with understanding and "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10: 5) that heals sin and sickness and adjusts human circumstances.

- ? The teachings of Jesus are central to Christian Science, and his healing work provides the foremost example of how his followers also can turn to God's omnipotent love for healing.
- ? Jesus' words, "And these signs shall follow them that believe" (Mark 16:17) precede a description of healing effects.
- ? Many Christian Scientists use both prayer & modern medicine.
- ? Those who do are not cast out or ostracized in any way.
- ? They have "Reading Rooms" open to the public & that is about as far as their missionary work goes.

- ? There is no ordained clergy in the Church.
- ? Services are conducted by lay Readers, elected from the congregation normally for 3 yrs., who read the Lesson-Sermon from the Bible and *Science and Health*.
- ? Study of the weekly Lesson-Sermon outlined in *The Christian Science Quarterly* which includes citations from the Bible and *Science and Health*.
- ? A Sunday School is typically provided for children & teenagers.
- ? Wed. night service include readings from the Bible & *Science and Health* on topics of current concern, as well as first-hand accounts of healing through prayer by members of the congregation.