

**Addressing Culture with Scripture:
Seeing and Answering the Many Faces of False Teaching**

False teaching has been in our world since Genesis three and has metastasized so many times that it fills every culture so that it manifests itself in seemingly enumerable degrees and forms. The Bible repeatedly warns the people of God to be on guard against all false teaching, to defend the true faith, and to be prepared to give answer for the hope we have in Christ. Paul’s warning from Colossians 2:8 needs to be heard loud and clear in the church today, “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy or empty deceit...”! Therefore, starting October 5th we will begin a 9-week study of specific false teachings that inundate our culture, constantly seek to infect our homes, and even strive to distract our ministry. The plan for this class is to not only see some of the primary false teachings listed here but also to equip you with a sound biblical defense of the truth that has been twisted by these deceptions of the devil. We are living in a world filled with lies but we are called to be people of the truth who graciously but boldly live out and declare the truth in love. May the Lord use this study to further help us to remain on guard as we grow in our understanding of and submission to the Scriptures.

Date	Scheduled Lesson Topic
10/5	Prosperity Gospel / Word of Faith Movement
10/12	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormonism)
10/19	The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah Witnesses)
10/26	Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy
11/2	Islam
11/9	Mind Science Groups & New Age Spirituality
11/16	Middle Eastern Religions (Hinduism; Buddhism...)
11/30	Secularism & Atheism & Naturalism
12/7	Legalism & Antinomianism & Universalism / Inclusivism



Mind Science Groups: Christian or Counterfeit Cult?

Intro:

Webster's Dictionary gives this short definition of a *cult*: "a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious." I like that definition, even if it is a bit broad. For our purposes, we will define a cult as simply "a false form of Christianity" or to say it a different way, as "a group that professes to be Christian, but so grossly distorts the fundamental doctrines of the true Christian faith that it sends people to hell rather than to heaven."

Cults often are those who follow the teachings of one man who is said to have received direct but secretive revelation from God beyond what is in Scripture. This is a clear common denominator of most if not all cults. That, of course, makes *cults* different from *denominations*.

Denominations are groups that uphold the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, even if they disagree on certain secondary issues. Cults, by contrast, deny (implicitly through practice and/or explicitly through teaching) the fundamental doctrines of biblical Christianity.

Historically, cult groups, grew out of the "Restoration Movement" which sought to restore true Christianity which was "so called" lost with the death of the Apostles. Interestingly, Mary Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, says she founded this movement to "*reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost elements of healing.*"¹

I have already given you this before, but I repeat it because it serves as a very clear and helpful "sniff test" for identifying that which is a counterfeit Christian teaching and/or a cult. Here are some clear fingerprints of false teaching...

- *A wrong view of Scripture*: False teachers and cults will always **add** to Scripture for they view it as insufficient
- *A wrong view of the Savior*: False teachers and cults will always **subtract** from Jesus Christ for they have a diminished view of the Lord
- *A wrong view of Salvation*: False teachers and cults will always **multiply** the requirements for salvation because they have a synergistic man centered view of the gospel

We now turn to one of the strangest forms of so called "Christianity" that is so far from orthodox biblical teaching that it is completely confusing at almost every turn when compared to sacred Scripture. Let me say it clearly, "Christian Science" is neither "Christian" nor "Science" but a complete contradiction and counterfeit of both! Remember what we have been learning that many forms and some of the most deceptive forms of false teaching seek to cloak their lies and

¹ See Christian Science *Church Manual*, 89th ed., pg. 17. Also See this referenced in *Zondervan Charts of Cults, Sects, and Religious Movements* for a helpful and detailed delineation of Christina Science as a "Mind Science" group (165-174). Some of the material in these notes were added by or taken from this resource.

deceit with external “Christian” verbiage and practices so that it looks like Christianity. A counterfeit Christian cult or teaching desperately desires to be seen as orthodox and ultimately Christian because without that label the erroneous teaching loses a lot of “curb appeal.”

Counterfeit Christianity is as Bodie Hodge and Roger Patterson say,

“In contrast to Christianity (as defined by the 66 books of God’s Word), a counterfeit of Christianity is any worldview that deviates from truths revealed in these 66 books by taking man’s ideas to supersede God’s Word by addition, deletion, unbiblical reinterpretation, syncretism with another religion, and so on; and yet, still has many elements of the Bible incorporated into its religious thinking and practices, whether they acknowledge it or not.” (World Religions and Cults vol.1; pg. 144)

While Christian Science has “Christian” in the name that is about the only connection to anything Christian in this false belief system and yet it wants to be seen as “Christian” badly.

An Initial Overview of the Mind Science Groups²

- There are three major “religious-educational groups” that are so closely related in philosophy and theology that they are often categorized under one heading “Mind Science.”
- Those groups are: Christian Science; Religious Science; and Unity School of Christianity. While these groups closely align on numerous doctrines and practices there still remains unique distinctions per each group.
- These groups are considered metaphysical in nature. This means they have a strong focus on explaining reality and analyzing (philosophically) the structure and origin of the world. In many ways the “Mind Science” group is a religious system of religious rationalism that literally embraces a mind over matter mentality.
- Most Mind Science groups would agree with these statements:
 - Sin, death, sickness, and evil do not exist
“The cause of all so-called disease is mental, a mortal fear, a mistaken belief or conviction of the necessity and power of ill-health.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, pp. 331-32).
 - God is impersonal and can be understood as All within All
 - The material world is an illusion or a lower form of spirit
 - Jesus was just a man who demonstrated metaphysical truth
 - “The Christ” is a divine idea, the higher self in everyone; Jesus is not the Christ

² See *Zondervan Charts of Cults, Sects, and Religious Movements* for a helpful and detailed delineation of Christian Science as a “Mind Science” group (165-174). Much of the material in this section was taken from this resource.

- Jesus did not suffer, die, or resurrect himself bodily
 - The Mind Science Group possesses a more complete and superior form of spiritual knowledge
- Sounds *Gnostic* doesn't it! *Gnosticism* is that ancient heresy that flowed out of Platonism and viewed the physical and material as inferior to the immaterial. The term *Gnosticism* is from the Greek word *gnosis*, which means "knowledge." Here is the central idea of all forms of Gnosticism: ***Gnostics believe that the key to saving truth lies in a hidden knowledge beyond what is revealed to us in Scripture.*** According to Gnosticism, "salvation" is a question of possessing the secret knowledge. Christian Science unashamedly declares these same falsehoods!

I. The Origins and History of This False Teaching

Christian Science historically is an urban, rather than a frontier sect like Mormonism. During the 1800's there were numerous errant or cult like groups that were started in America. Some examples would be the Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists under the leadership William Miller who followed faithfully the teachings of Ellen G. White as if they were inspired, also numerous "Spiritualist" groups who were basically "mediums" under the guise of Christianity who also later formed a Spiritualist Church (at least 5 of those "churches" in around the DC area).



While dwindling numbers continue to be seen in Christian Science there remains over 2,000 of their "churches" in America with an estimated "membership" of some 250,000 people but that figure is hard nail down. One notable feature to Christian Science is the storefront reading rooms which can be found in downtown streets across many cities in our country. There are over 15 of these "reading rooms" in the Baltimore/Washington area with the closest being downtown Annapolis. What is a "reading room"? According to the Christian Science website it is a place where, "you can read or buy the Bible and all the books by [Mary Baker Eddy](#), the discoverer and founder of Christian Science. You can also read and listen to more than 100 years of articles, testimonies, and recordings that give first-hand accounts of physical and moral healing through prayer."³

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "Christian Science emerged in late 19th-century America, when [Darwinism](#), [biblical criticism](#), and other secularizing influences weakened the supernaturalist structure of [Protestant](#) orthodoxy. Troubled Christians, divided between what Eddy called a "stern Protestantism" and a "doubtful liberalism," were drawn to Christian Science because of the practice of spiritual healing and the promise of renewed faith."⁴

³ <https://www.christianscience.com/find-us/visit-the-mother-church/the-mother-church-reading-room>

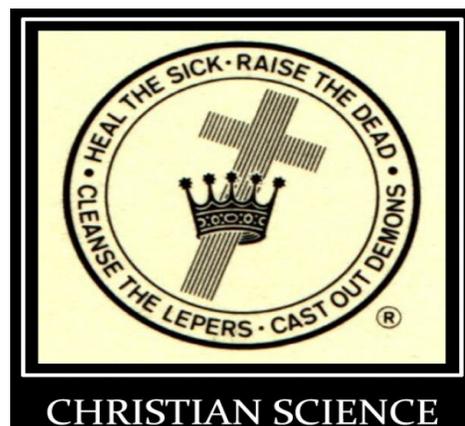
⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christian-Science>

Founded by Mary Baker, Glover, Patterson, Eddy (1821-1910), with “Eddy” being the name of her last of three husbands. She was “reared in a strict [Congregationalist](#) home in rural [New Hampshire](#), Mary Baker (Eddy is the [last name](#) of her third husband) broke with the hellfire determinism of her father’s stark [Calvinist](#) theology. Yet she retained from that heritage a Bible-centered, though somewhat unorthodox, piety that prevented her from accepting the attenuated Christianity of [Unitarianism](#) and, later, of [Transcendentalism](#). Personal misfortune and ill health contributed to Eddy’s preoccupation with the question of God’s responsibility for human suffering.”⁵

Christian Science is the religious movement born out of her writings most specifically her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. In this book, first published in 1875, is where Eddy gives her interpretation of numerous portions of Scripture along with her teaching on science and mind over matter for physical healing. This movement then (after the release of her book) officially originated near Boston, Mass in 1879. Eddy was routinely sick and depressed for much of her life and then eventually went to see mentalist P.P. Quimby around 1862 to receive instruction from him regarding metaphysical principles for physical healing through channeling the mind over matter techniques. Do you remember who P.P. Quimby is? Here is what I put in the notes on the *Prosperity Gospel* in session 1...

Phineas P. Quimby (1802-1866) who is seen as the father of “The New Thought Movement” and the great grandfather of the “Word of Faith Movement” though Quimby was not a pastor or preacher but a philosopher. This movement believed and taught that whatever you think about you will attract to yourself. This movement believed that sickness was only a mind issue so that one only needs to deny sickness for it to go away. (See Andrew Womack teach this heresy [here](#)) The New Thought Movement is also foundational to the false teaching of “Christian Science” that is neither Christian nor Science.

Eddy met with Quimby where she was further instructed regarding healing by mental assent to truth that denied the reality of both illness and matter. It was out of that meeting, that Eddy would later set up a practice and imparted this knowledge in a series of lessons. In 1875, she published *Science and Health*, which was said to be on equal authority with the Bible. The Christian Scientist Association was formed in 1876 and Church of Christ (Scientist) was given a state charter in 1879. Then the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, became the mother church. A revealing point to know is that Mrs. Eddy’s writings are filled with historical, logical, and factual errors and there is abundant documentation that Mrs. Eddy heavily plagiarized other writings. Most assuredly, she plagiarized whole sections of the writings of P.P. Quimby.



⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christian-Science>

Christian Science has some strange beliefs that include the denial of the reality of matter, evil, sickness—these are only a delusion of the senses. One has but to realize one’s identity with God or good to be freed from both evil and sickness. This emphasis upon healing made the movement appealing to sick people. Christian Science and Scientology are not the same cult or belief. Scientology was started by L. Ron Hubbard in 1953 and is based in Los Angeles CA.

II. Some Core Precepts and Tenants of this False Teaching⁶

- **The Doctrine of Revelation:** Christian Science claims that the only way a person can get to heaven is through the divine revelations given to Mary Baker Eddy. According to the Christian Science Journal 98, no. 4, April 1980 on page 186, “There is no other way into the kingdom of heaven except through the practice of Christian Science as it was divinely revealed to Mrs. Eddy.”
- **The Doctrine of God:** According to Christian Science, “Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God, — that is, the triply divine principle, Love. They represent a trinity in unity, three in one, — the same in essence, though multiform in office: God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter. These three express in divine Science the threefold, essential nature of the infinite. They also indicate the divine Principle of scientific being, the intelligent relation of God to man and the universe.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, pp. 331-32).
- **The Doctrine of Christ:** According to Christian Science Jesus and the Christ are not the same person for Jesus is simply a man while the Christ is the spiritual idea or element of God. Christian Science says, “Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea, hence the duality of Jesus the Christ.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 473). Also in the book *Science and Health* Mary Eddy taught, “By these sayings Jesus meant, not that the human Jesus was or is eternal, but that the divine idea or Christ was and is...not the corporeal Jesus was one with the Father, but that the spiritual idea, Christ, dwells forever in the bosom of the Father...not that the Father is greater than the Spirit, which is God, but greater, infinitely greater, the fleshly Jesus, whose earthly career was brief.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, pp. 333-34). On page 332:19 of *Science and Health* it says, “Jesus demonstrated Christ; he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth.”
- **The Doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ:** Resurrection of Jesus and all people is simply a spiritual one of consciousness which means the transformation of a person from this realm to the next realm spiritually not physically. In the glossary found in *Science*

⁶ See *Zondervan Charts of Cults, Sects, and Religious Movements* for a helpful and detailed delineation of Christian Science as a “Mind Science” group (165-174). Much of the material in this section was taken from this resource.

and Health it says, “RESURRECTION. Spiritualization of thought; a new and higher idea of immortality, or spiritual existence; material belief yielding to spiritual understanding.” (*Science and Health...*, pg. 593:9).

- **The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is not an actual person but rather a characterization of God, a feminine quality, or a spiritual truth. According to the Christian Science glossary, “HOLY SPIRIT. Divine Science; the development of eternal Life, Truth, and Love.” (*Science and Health...*, pg. 588)
- **The Doctrine of Man and Sin:** Man has the power to remove the idea of sin, and hence the authority to forgive himself, although in truth, according to Christian Science, man has nothing to forgive himself of. Christian Science teaches, “To get rid of sin through Science, is to divest sin of any supposed mind or reality, and never to admit that sin can have intelligence or power, pain or pleasure. You conquer error by denying its verity [actuality].” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 339) A core tenant is the complete denial of sin, sinful acts, death, and disease. According to Christian Science, “Here also is found...the cardinal point in Christian Science, that matter and evil (including all inharmony, sin, disease, death) are unreal.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, pg. 27) According to Christian Science, “Man is not matter—made up of brains, blood, bones, and other material elements...Man is spiritual and perfect; and because of this, he must be so understood in Christian Science...Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death, inasmuch as he derives his essence from God.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 475)
- **The Doctrine of Salvation:** Christian Science teaches that all people will be saved and that all people are already saved therefore no one needs to ask God for salvation. This is seen when Christian Science says, “Man as God’s idea is already saved with an everlasting salvation.” Christian Science sees salvation or heaven as “divine enlightenment” or achieving a “divine state” through the purification of the mind which is the working out of one’s “salvation.” Christian Science says, “Final deliverance from error, whereby we rejoice in immortality, boundless freedom, and sinless sense, is not reached through paths of flowers nor by pinning one’s faith without works to another’s vicarious effort.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 22)
- **The Doctrine of Eschatology:** Christian Science teaches that heaven and hell exists only in the mind but do not really exists. Man creates an experience or subjects himself to a hell or heaven of the mind. Christian Science says, “The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 1914 ed., p. 226)

III. Evaluating Some Core Tenants of this False Teaching with Scripture

- **The Doctrine of Revelation:** Remember what I have already said above about Mrs. Eddy's writings being filled with historical, logical, and factual errors. How can something be divinely revealed and at the same time be filled with errors and lies unless God is the author of lies? The Bible says the opposite about God (Tit 1:2)! There is also an abundant documentation that Mrs. Eddy heavily plagiarized other writings. Most assuredly, she plagiarized whole sections of the writings of P.P. Quimby. Does God need to plagiarize (a sin of stealing) in order to make His truth known? The Bible says otherwise (Js 1:13 cf. Hab 1:3; Isa 6:3; 1 Pet 1:16)! See what the Bible says about true revelation and where it comes and what it brings in 2 Tim 3:16-17 cf. 2 Pet 1:20-21.
- **The Doctrine of God:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about God being a personal being as seen so clearly in how He interacts with His Son (Mt 3:17) and with man (Ex 3:14). God manifest traits of personality (1 Sam 15:29; Mt 6:9-10); claims to be a personal Spirit (Jn 4:24); and is described with personal pronouns (Heb 11:6). God is described as being eternally one God (Deut 6:4) in three distinct, yet eternally coequal and coexistent persons (Mt 28:19) of Father (Phil 2:11); Son (Col 2:9); and Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2).
- **The Doctrine of Christ:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares that Jesus is the God-Man being truly God and truly man all at the same time...two distinct natures in one person (Jn 1:1-18; Mt 1:20-23; Lk 1:30-33; Col 2:9; Phil 2:6-11). Scriptures are clear that Jesus declared Himself to be the Christ sent from God (Mt 26:63-65; Mk 14:61-64; 15:2; Lk 4:21; Jn 4:21-26). Scripture condemns all those who deny that Jesus is the Christ... "Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also." (1 Jn 2:22-23 cf. 4:3)
- **The Doctrine of the Resurrection of Christ:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about Jesus actually dying physically (Mt 27:50-60; Rom 5:6; 8:34) and actually being raised to life on the third day physically and bodily (Mt 28:9, 16-17; Lk 24:13-15, 28-35, 51; Acts 1:3, 9; Gal 1:1-11; 2 Pet 1:16; 1 Cor 15:5-8). Without the bodily resurrection of Christ the whole foundation of Christianity is gone and whatever is left is at best a worthless aberration of what the Bible teaches (1 Cor 15:1-4, 14-19; Gal 2:20-21 cf. 1 Cor 15:16-19)!
- **The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about the Holy Spirit being the third member of the Trinity; being one with the Father and the Son, possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality (emotion, intellect, will), yet, distinct in His ministry on earth, involving creation, and convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He is also the supernatural agent in regeneration and in baptizing all believers into the body of Christ.

He indwells, sanctifies, and seals all believers guaranteeing the day of redemption. Furthermore, He empowers all believers for productive service and it is their privilege and duty to be controlled by Him as He guides and instructs them through the Word of Truth (Gen 1:2; Ex 31:3; Judges 3:10; Ps 51:11; 139:7-10; Isa 40:13; Ezek 36:36-37; Mt 28:18-20; Jn 3:1-10, 16:7-15; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4, 9; Rom 8:1-17, 8:26-27, 15:13; 1Cor 2:10-16, 3:16, 12:7-13; 2Cor 3:18, 13:14; Gal 3:27, 4:6, 5:16-25; Eph 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18; 1 Thess 5:19; Heb 2:3-4, 9:14; 1Jn 2:20, 27).

- **The Doctrine of Man and Sin:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about the man being directly and immediately created by God totally free from sin being made in the image and likeness of God for the purpose of enjoying intimate fellowship with God, obeying the will of God, and fulfilling the plan of God for God's ultimate glory. However, through Adam's sin of disobedience to the will of God, man fell from this state of innocence and as a consequence and penalty brought sin and death, both physical and spiritual, upon all mankind thus becoming subject to the powers of the devil and subject to the wrath of God. Furthermore, this curse of sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages so that every man is a sinner by nature, by choice, and by divine declarations, which leaves him in a state of total depravity where every part of man (intellect, emotion, will) is inherently and utterly corrupt. Therefore, all mankind find themselves in a helpless and hopeless state as there is no one who is willing or able to remedy their lost and spiritually dead condition apart from God's preemptive Sovereign grace (Gen 1:26, 1:31, 2:7, 2:15-25, 3:1-19, 6:5, 8:21; Ps 14:1-3, 51:5; Ecc 7:20; Isa 43:7, 45:22-23; Jer 17:9; Mt 12:34-35, 15:18-18; Mk 7:21-23; Lk 6:24; Jn 3:18, 36, 5:40, 6:37,44-45, 63,65,70; Acts 17:24-31; Rom 1:18-32, 3:9-18, 23, 5:8-14, 5:18, 6:23, 8:7-8; 1Cor 2:14; 2Cor 4:4; Eph 2:1-3, 4:18; Phil 2:10-11; Col 1:21; Titus 3:3-7; 1Jn 1:8, 2:16, 3:7-10, 5:19; Jude 14-16; Rev 4:11, 9:20-21).
- **The Doctrine of Salvation:** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about salvation, because of man's sin and total depravity (Gen 6:5; Ecc 7:20; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:9-18; Eph 2:1-3), is wholly of God by grace alone through faith alone in the person and finished redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone (Rom 5:6-11; 8:1, 31-39; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 2:4-10; Col 1:21-22; 2:9-15). Moreover, biblical salvation in no way incorporates or is based upon any human merit or works whatsoever (Rom 3:20-28; 6:23; Titus 3:4-7) as salvation rest totally upon the sovereign choice of God (Mt 11:25-27; Jn 1:12-13; Eph 1:3-10; Rom 8:28-30; Titus 1:1-3; Jude 1:1) and the sufficient work of Christ for forgiving and redeeming sinners (Rom 5:19; 2 Cor 5:21; Col 1:12-14; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Heb 9:11-14, 23-28; 10:11-14; 1 Pet 1:3-9, 18-21; 1 Jn 2:2). Though, God sovereignly elects before the foundation of the world those individuals who will be His (Mk 13:20; Lk 10:20; 18:7; Jn 5:21; 13:18; Rom 9:6-13; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 1:1; Rev 13:8; 17:8), this in no way contradicts or negates man's personal responsibility to repent and believe (Mt 11:28-30; Lk 24:47; Jn 11:26; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; Rom 10:9-10). Therefore, salvation is received individually through personally turning from sin (repentance) and personally trusting in Jesus Christ (faith) as

Savior (His work) and Lord (His position). Instantaneously the believing repentant sinner is born again as he goes from death to life, having his sins (past, present, and future) forgiven, receives eternal life and thus becomes a child of God (Jn 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; Rom 10:9-10, 13; Eph 2:1-10; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Jn 1:9).

- **The Doctrine of Eschatology (heaven):** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about heaven. First there is the real presence of God where all believers immediately go upon death (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23) where they remain with Christ in joyful fellowship and rest (c.f. Rev 14:13) until they are reunited with their glorified bodies in the eschaton (1 Cor 15:20-23, 50-57; 1 Thess 4:13-17; Phil 3:21). Secondly, there is the future time of the eternal state (heaven) that ultimately comes at the end of the 1000-year literal reign of Christ on earth when Satan is released and once more deceives the nations into following him in revolting against the King who in turn devours the armies of Satan by fire from heaven. Satan is then cast in the lake of fire for eternal torment along with all unbelievers of all time who were resurrected and judged by Christ at the great white throne judgment. Following this will be the new heavens and the new earth which will be the literal and physical dwelling place for all saints of all time where they will enjoy eternal fellowship with God and one another forever (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thess 4:15-5:11; Titus 2:13; Jer 30:7; Dan 9:27; 12:1-3; 2 Thess 2:7-12; Rev 16; Mt.24:3-31, 25:31-46; Rev 20:1-15, 21:1-8).
- **The Doctrine of Eschatology (hell):** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about hell as a real, physical place of eternal torment reserved for the devil and his angels and will be the ultimate destination of all unbelievers from all ages (Matt 25:41; John 3:18; Rev 20:11-15). Hell is described as a place of torment where there is eternal fire, punishment, outer darkness, and unquenchable fire where the body and soul suffers and there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt 3:12; 5:29; 10:28; 8:12; 13:40-42; 25:41-46; Mark 9:48; Luke 3:17; 16:23; 1 Thess 1:9). The Bible also exclaims how Satan, the false prophet, and the beast will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be tormented day and night forever (Rev 20:10), even death will finally be thrown into the lake of fire forever (Rev 20:14). The Bible never speaks of a state or time where someone is annihilated or brought to a place where they cease to exist, but it consistently speaks unequivocally concerning the ongoing, eternal, conscious punishment of the wicked.
- **The Doctrine of Eschatology (death):** Compare what was said above by Christian Science with what Scripture declares about death being separation and that there are three kinds of death or separation, which include spiritual, physical, and eternal. Spiritual death is when a person is spiritually separated from God as a result of sin, which yields him spiritually (in the biblical sense) lifeless or what the Bible calls being “dead” (Eph 2:1,5; Matt 8:22). Every human being is born spiritually dead (Ps 51:5) and salvation is the only remedy for this condition (John 3:1-18). Physical death is when the body temporally separates from the soul/spirit (Jas 2:26) but this does not mean a cessation of existence or annihilation just a different mode of conscious existence (2 Cor 5:8; Rev 20:12). Eternal

death, also called the second death, is the ultimate and final separation of unbelieving mankind from God where their spiritual death becomes permanent. This happens after the resurrection and the great white throne judgment when they are cast into the lake of fire where they will consciously experience a horrific and eternal punishment (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:11-15).

Therefore, Scripture is clear that when a person dies physically, he does not lose any sense of his immaterial consciousness (Rev 6:9-11). When the believer dies physically, he immediately goes into the presence of the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23) where they remain with Christ in joyful fellowship and rest (c.f. Rev 14:13) until they are reunited with their glorified bodies at the rapture (1 Cor 15:20-23, 50-57; 1 Thess 4:13-17; Phil 3:21). When the unbeliever dies physically, he goes immediately into a place of conscious torment (Luke 16:19-26; Rev 20:13-15) until the resurrection of their bodies at the great white throne judgment (John 5:28-29; Rev 20:11-14) where they will be cast into hell (Matt 25:41-46). There they will experience eternal, conscious torment, being punished, and totally separated from life with God forever (Dan 12:2; 2 Thess 1:7-9).