

Christian Science

(from *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*, Harvest House, 1999)

INFO AT A GLANCE

Name: Christian Science

Purpose: The realization of God and Good as the means to health and prosperity.

Founder: Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910).

Source of authority: The writings of Eddy as interpreted by Christian Science.

Revealed teachings: Yes. Christian Science is the outcome of Eddy's involvement in mediumism and Quimbyism. (Phineas Parker Quimby promoted an early form of mental/psychic healing that strongly influenced Eddy.)

Examples of occult potential: Mrs. Eddy was a spiritistic medium for about 25 years. There is an openness to certain psychic abilities in *Science and Health*, although misinterpreted in divine terms. Telepathy is possible in treatments, and Christian Science healing may be considered a form of psychic healing.

Examples of Key Literature: *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*; *Miscellaneous Writings*; *Seven Messages to the Mother Church*; *Church Manual*; and other texts by Mary Baker Eddy.

Attitude toward Christianity: Rejecting.

Quotes:

"If there had never existed such a person as the Galilean Prophet, it would make no difference to me." (Mary Baker Eddy, *First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany*, pp. 318-319.)

"We have no more proof of human discord, sin, sickness, disease, or death,—than we have that the earth's surface is flat, and her motions imaginary." (Mary Baker Eddy, *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 65.)

"False theology would tell you that it is sin we need to be saved from." (Edward Kimball, *Lectures and Articles on Christian Science*, p. 209.)

DOCTRINAL SUMMARY

God: Impersonal-personal; "spiritually pantheistic" (someone who believed God is everything and that matter is an illusion); Unipersonal.

Jesus: A highly enlightened Christian Scientist.

The Christ: The divine manifestation of God/Christian Science.

The Holy Spirit: Christian Science.

The Trinity: Interpreted as “Life, Truth and Love,” and other triplets.

Salvation: By awareness, divine realization.

Man: Part of God.

Sin: Ignorance; the false beliefs of “mortal mind.”

Satan: A Christian myth.

The Second Coming: Christian Science.

The Fall: A Christian myth.

The Bible: An inferior revelation properly interpreted only by *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

Death: Non-existent.

Heaven and Hell: Mental states, not places.