

Comparative Religion II
CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS




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Mother Church - Boston




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MARY BAKER EDDY
1821-1910

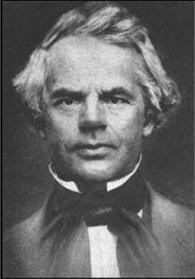
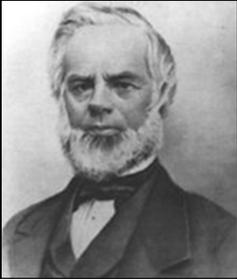



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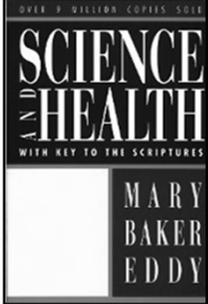
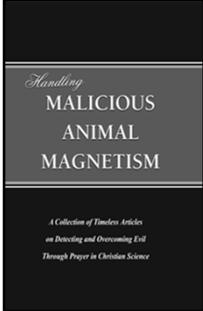
Dr. Phineas P. Quimby (1802-1866)

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BACKGROUND

FOUNDER – Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

GOD – Referred to as “great mind”, Father-mother God, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love, a Trinity, Three offices in one divine principle

SCRIPTURES – The Holy Bible and **SCIENCE and HEALTH with Key to the SCRIPTURES** by Eddy

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – Mary Baker Eddy is the only woman in history to have founded a church by herself. Her childhood was marred with illnesses. Well-educated, but emotionally sensitive, she believed she heard the voice of God at age 8. She was married three times.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – These and other traumas caused her to seek relief by a faith healer named Phineas P. Quimby. He espoused metaphysical healing – mind over matter.

He believed that we catch illnesses by wrong beliefs sometimes projected on to us by others.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – The Great Fall was when Mary slipped on the ice in Lynn, Massachusetts. While recovering, she read Matthew 9:2-8. She said she now understood the truth about healing.

She taught that all disease was mental. Founded the Christian Science Association in 1876. Three years later, the Mother Church in Boston was founded (1879).

The Christian Science Monitor began in 1908 and is a reputable newspaper.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – Dr. Alvin M. Cushing treated Mrs. Eddy after her fall and states that her illness was not life-threatening as she said it was. He also stated that he gave her medicine four or five times in the course of her illness. (The **RELIGIO-MEDICAL MASQUERADE**, Frederick W. Peabody, 1910, p. 79)

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BACKGROUND

ORGANIZATION – There are practitioners who are approved by the Mother Church to pray for the sick. Two readers are elected for three years to read from the Bible and the book **SCIENCE AND HEALTH** with Key to the Scriptures. There is only one church (in Boston), all others are branches.

CREED – No particular creed is stated

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BELIEFS

SALVATION – Is to be saved from your illusions. Heaven and Hell are merely present states of mind.

Only the spirit is real, the physical is unreal. God is Spirit and everything real is a reflection of Him. God is all in all. Nothing possesses reality or existence except as divine mind or ideas.

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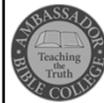
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BELIEFS

- Baptism is a continual happening
- Communion service is sitting quietly two times a year at services
- All causation is mind; all effect is physical
- There are women as well as men practitioners

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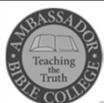
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BELIEFS

- Jesus was a human being; Christ was the divine idea
- Evil doesn't exist because God is God and He is in all; therefore evil is another illusion
- Illness is a primary indication that a person is far from God
- Illness is an illusion to be dispelled by God through healing

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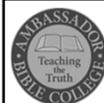
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BELIEFS

- Sin is the belief in a life apart from God
- Generally reject medical treatment as illness is an illusion.
- Will use doctors to set bones and deliver babies

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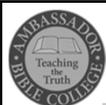
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PROMINENT LOCATIONS

- United States mainly, though have some influence abroad.
- Membership is estimated at over 300,000 as membership statistics are prohibited.

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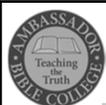
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WHAT AM I?

1. ONLY THE SPIRITUAL IS REALITY
2. SALVATION IS BEING SAVED FROM YOUR ILLUSIONS
3. SIN IS BELIEF APART FROM GOD
4. JESUS WAS HUMAN; CHRIST THE DIVINE IDEA
5. ILLNESS IS AN ILLUSION

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WHAT AM I?

1. ONLY THE SPIRITUAL IS REALITY
Romans 1:20 – Spiritual is seen by the physical
Romans 8:5 – Difference between physical/spiritual
Colossians 1:16 – God created both
1 Corinthians 15:44-49 – Natural and spiritual

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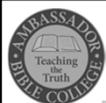
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WHAT AM I?

2. SALVATION IS BEING SAVED FROM YOUR ILLUSIONS
1 Timothy 1:15 – Christ saves us from sin
Hebrews 5:7,9 – Christ suffered
1 Corinthians 15:51-53 – Must put on immortality
Philippians 3:21 – Our bodies must be transformed

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WHAT AM I?

3. SIN IS BELIEF IN LIFE APART FROM GOD
1 John 3:4 – Sin is...
James 4:17 – Not doing good
Romans 6:16 – Choose whom you will serve
Isaiah 59:2 – Sin separates us from God

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WHAT AM I?

4. JESUS WAS HUMAN; CHRIST THE DIVINE IDEA
John 20:31 – Jesus was the Son of God
John 1:1, 14 – Became Flesh
Philippians 2:5
1 John 4:2 – Christ came in the flesh

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WHAT AM I?

5. ILLNESS IS AN ILLUSION
James 5:14 – If sick, may be anointed
Isaiah 53 – Details Christ's sufferings
Matthew 9:12 – Sick need a physician, not a spiritualist
2 Corinthians 12:8 – Paul admitted his weakness and was not healed

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THE END

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