



APRIL 27–MAY 3, 2026

Everlasting Punishment

GOLDEN TEXT

Isaiah 54:8 with

. . . with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 25:8 (to :), 9–11; 51:1–3 (to :), 6, 7 (to :), 9–12; Zephaniah 3:17

Ps. 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord:

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions:

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Zeph. 3:17 **The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.**

SECTION 1

The Bible

1 | Deuteronomy 6:4–6

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: 5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

2 | Deuteronomy 7:9

9 Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

3 | Psalms 145:8

8 The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

4 | I John 4:8 *God is*

8 God is love.

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy

1 | 140:25–27

The Christian Science God is universal, eternal, divine Love, which changeth not and causeth no evil, disease, nor death.

2 | 6:17

“God is Love.” More than Mercy without partiality this we cannot ask, higher we cannot look, farther we cannot go. To suppose that God forgives or punishes sin according as His mercy is sought or unsought, is to misunderstand Love and to make prayer the safety-valve for wrongdoing.

3 | 2:8–11

God is not moved by the Deity unchangeable breath of praise to do more than He has already done, nor can the infinite do less than bestow all good, since He is unchanging wisdom and Love.

4 | 4:17–22

Simply asking that we Watchfulness requisite may love God will never make us love Him; but the longing to be better and holier, expressed in daily watchfulness and in striving to assimilate more of the divine character, will mould and fashion us anew, until we awake in His likeness.

SECTION 2**The Bible****5 | Exodus 24:3 *Moses***

3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do.

6 | Numbers 12:1 (to :), 2, 3, 5–8, 10, 11, 13, 15

1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married:

2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it.

3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

5 And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.

13 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.

7 | [1 Kings 8:27 will \(to ;\), 28, 30 and hear, 39 and](#)

27 will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;

28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to-day:

30 and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

39 and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

8 | [Lamentations 3:22, 23](#)

22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Science and Health

5 | [35:30 \(only\)](#)

The design of Love is to reform the sinner.

6 | [5:3–6](#)

Sorrow for wrong-doing is but one step towards reform and the very easiest step. The next and

Sorrow and reformation

great step required by wisdom is the test of our sincerity, — namely, reformation.

7 | [542:19–21](#)

Let Truth uncover and destroy error in God’s own way, and let human justice pattern the divine.

Retribution
and remorse

8 | [537:9–10, 14–16](#)

A knowledge of evil was never the essence of divinity or manhood.

Error excludes itself from harmony. Sin is its own punishment. Truth guards the gateway to harmony.

9 | [323:6–9](#)

Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks of Science.

A bright
outlook

SECTION 3

The Bible

9 | [Psalms 86:15](#) *thou*

¹⁵ thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

10 | [Isaiah 38:17](#) *thou hast cast*

¹⁷ thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

11 | [John 8:1–11](#)

¹ Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. ² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. ³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, ⁴ They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? ⁶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. ⁷ So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. ⁸ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. ⁹ And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. ¹⁰ When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? ¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Science and Health

10 | [11:1 Jesus', 8–10](#)

Jesus' prayer, "Forgive us our debts," specified also the terms of forgiveness. When forgiving the adulterous woman he said, "Go, and sin no more."

The moral law, which has Remission of penalty the right to acquit or condemn, always demands restitution before mortals can "go up higher."

11 | [497:9](#)

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.

12 | [5:23–25 Sin](#)

Sin is forgiven only Cancellation of human sin as it is destroyed by Christ, — Truth and Life.

13 | [444:16–19](#)

Let us be faithful in Charity to those opposed pointing the way through Christ, as we understand it, but let us also be careful always to "judge righteous judgment," and never to condemn rashly.

14 | [327:8–10, 12–13 \(to 1st .\)](#)

What a pitiful sight is malice, finding pleasure in revenge! Evil is sometimes a man's highest conception of right, until his grasp on good grows stronger.

The way to escape the misery of sin is to cease sinning.

15 | [405:5–9, 18](#)

Christian Science Mental conspirators commands man to master the propensities, — to hold hatred in abeyance with kindness, to conquer lust with chastity, revenge with charity, and to overcome deceit with honesty.

The good man finally can overcome his fear of sin. This is sin's necessity, — to destroy itself. Immortal man demonstrates the government of God, good, in which is no power to sin.

16 | [304:14](#)

The perfect man — governed by God, his perfect Principle — is sinless and eternal.

SECTION 4

The Bible

12 | [Matthew 16:24](#)

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

13 | [Matthew 18:21–33](#)

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto

thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?

14 | [Ephesians 4:32](#) *be*

³² be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Science and Health

17 | [17:6–7](#)

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And Love is reflected in love;

18 | [6:3](#)

Divine Love corrects and governs man. Men may pardon, but this divine Principle alone reforms the sinner. God is not separate from the wisdom He bestows. The talents He gives we must improve. Calling on Him to forgive our work badly done or left undone, implies the vain supposition that we have nothing to do but to ask pardon, and that afterwards we shall be free to repeat the offence.

Pardon and amendment

19 | [329:26](#)

The pardon of divine mercy is the destruction of error. If men understood their real spiritual source to be all blessedness, they would struggle for recourse to the spiritual and be at peace; but the deeper the error into which mortal mind is plunged, the more intense the opposition to spirituality, till error yields to Truth.

20 | 8:28–30

We should examine ourselves and learn what is the affection and purpose of the heart, for in this way only can we learn what we honestly are.

21 | 9:11

If selfishness has given place to kindness, we shall regard our neighbor unselfishly, and bless them that curse us; but we shall never meet this great duty simply by asking that it may be done. There is a cross to be taken up before we can enjoy the fruition of our hope and faith.

22 | 325:7

Jesus gave the true idea of being, which results in infinite blessings to mortals.

23 | 266:18 *Universal*

Universal Love is the divine way in Christian Science.

SECTION 5**The Bible****15 | Matthew 3:2 *Repent***

2 Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

16 | II Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;

but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Science and Health**24 | 19:17–24**

Every pang of repentance and suffering, every effort for reform, every good thought and deed, will help us to understand Jesus' atonement for sin and aid its efficacy; but if the sinner continues to pray and repent, sin and be sorry, he has little part in the atonement, — in the *at-one-ment* with God, — for he lacks the practical repentance, which reforms the heart and enables man to do the will of wisdom.

Efficacious
repentance

25 | 339:17, 31

Only those, who repent of sin and forsake the unreal, can fully understand the unreality of evil.

You conquer error by denying its verity. Our various theories will never lose their imaginary power for good or evil, until we lose our faith in them and make life its own proof of harmony and God.

SECTION 6**The Bible****17 | Psalms 52:8 *I trust***

8 I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

18 | Matthew 16:21

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

19 | Luke 22:39, 40, 47–51

³⁹ And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss? ⁴⁹ When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? ⁵⁰ And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

20 | Matthew 5:7

⁷ Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Science and Health**26 | 48:17**

Judas had the world's Defensive weapons
weapons. Jesus had not one of them, and chose not the world's means of defence. "He opened not his mouth." The great demonstrator of Truth and Love was silent before envy and hate. Peter would have smitten the enemies of his Master, but Jesus forbade him, thus rebuking resentment or animal courage. He said: "Put up thy sword."

27 | 316:7

Christ, Truth, was demonstrated through Jesus to prove the power of Spirit over the flesh, — to show that Truth is made manifest by its effects upon the human mind and body, healing sickness and destroying sin.

28 | 26:21–23

Jesus' teaching and Proof in practice
practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love.

29 | 25:26

Implicit faith in the Teacher and all the emotional love we can bestow on him, will never alone make us imitators of him. We must go and do likewise, else we are not improving the great blessings which our Master worked and suffered to bestow upon us. The divinity of the Christ

was made manifest in the humanity of Jesus.

SECTION 7

The Bible

21 | [III John 1:11 \(to :\)](#)

¹¹ Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God:

22 | [Luke 6:36, 37](#)

³⁶ Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. ³⁷ Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

23 | [Ephesians 5:1, 2](#)

¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

Science and Health

30 | [11:22–27](#)

We know that a desire for holiness is requisite in order to gain holiness; but if we desire holiness above all else, we shall sacrifice everything for it. We must be willing to do this, that we may walk securely in the only practical road to holiness.

Desire for holiness

31 | [568:24–30](#)

For victory over a single sin, we give thanks and magnify the Lord of Hosts. What shall we say of the mighty conquest over all sin? A louder song, sweeter than has ever before reached high heaven, now rises clearer and nearer to the great heart of Christ; for the accuser is not there, and Love sends forth her primal and everlasting strain.

Pæan of jubilee

32 | [454:18–19](#)

Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way.

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