Golden Text
Ephesians 5:2
walk

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.

Responsive Reading
Hebrews 7:19 the; 10:1, 4, 5, 9, 15–17 the, 22–24

... the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

15 ... the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord. 6 There are some who ask, “Who will be good to us?” Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.

And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple:

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: 33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

Atonement is the exemplification of man’s unity with God, whereby man reflects divine Truth, Life, and Love. Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man’s oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage.

To have one God and avail yourself of the power of Spirit, you must love God supremely.

The divine Principle of the First Commandment bases the Science of being, by which man demonstrates health, holiness, and life eternal.

Mary Baker Eddy loved her neighbors, including her horses. Her regular carriage rides gave her time for special communion with God and she made sure to speak to her horses. You can find out more on p. 134 of A World More Bright: The Life of Mary Baker Eddy by Isabel Ferguson and Heather Vogel Frederick.
And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Cæsarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? 28 And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets. 29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answered, and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. 30 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 31 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

In the Bible, the word “ministry” generally means being of service, working in behalf of others. The “ministry of reconciliation” is the work of helping people demonstrate man’s oneness with God. What can you do to carry out that God-given assignment today?

propitiation: appeasing God; trying to get God to like you by being sorry for wrongdoing
reconciled: brought into harmony or agreement
conciliate: appease; make peace with
appointing: assignment; designation
earnest: sincere; serious
longings: desires; hopes
self-forgetfulness: unselfishness; not thinking of one’s own advantage or interests

In the quiet sanctuary of earnest longings, we must deny sin and plead God’s allness. We must resolve to take up the cross, and go forth with honest hearts to work and watch for wisdom, Truth, and Love.

If we wish to follow Christ, Truth, it must be in the way of God’s appointing.

If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation, you can finally say, “I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith,” because you are a better man. This is having our part in the at-one-ment with Truth and Love.

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Psalms 51:1, 12, 17

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

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

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Relevant Bible verses:

Matthew 9:2–8

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

7 And he arose, and departed to his house.

8 But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

13 | 23:1–5

Wisdom and Love

may require many sacrifices of self to save us from sin.

One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part.

14 | 476:32–5

Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick. Thus Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is intact, universal, and that man is pure and holy.

15 | 303:28–30

Spiritual man is the image or idea of God, an idea which cannot be lost nor separated from its divine Principle.

16 | 25:13–16, 22–26, 28–31

Jesus taught the way of Life by demonstration, that we may understand how this divine Principle heals the sick, casts out error, and triumphs over death.

Though demonstrating his control over sin and disease, the great Teacher by no means relieved others from giving the requisite proofs of their own piety. He worked for their guidance, that they might demonstrate this power as he did and understand its divine Principle.

We must go and do likewise, else we are not improving the great blessings which our Master worked and suffered to bestow upon us.

17 | 192:27

We walk in the footsteps of Truth and Love by following the example of our Master in the understanding of divine metaphysics. Christianity is the basis of true healing. Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.

30

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You can find out more about “the Son of man” and about divine sonship in the first section of Mary Baker Eddy’s article “Bible Lessons,” which starts on page 180 of her book Miscellaneous Writings.


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Oct. 13–19, 2014
Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

I and my Father are one. If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

The Christ was the Spirit which Jesus implied in his own statements: “I am the way, the truth, and the life;” “I and my Father are one.” This Christ, or divinity of the man Jesus, was his divine nature, the godliness which animated him. Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness, and death. His mission was to reveal the Science of celestial being, to prove what God is and what He does for man.

Jesus’ teaching and practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love. This was the precious import of our Master’s sinless career and of his demonstration of power over death. He proved by his deeds that Christian Science destroys sickness, sin, and death.

Our Master taught no mere theory, doctrine, or belief. It was the divine Principle of all real being which he taught and practised.

He had power to lay down a human sense of life for his spiritual identity in the likeness of the divine; but he allowed men to attempt the destruction of the mortal body in order that he might furnish the proof of immortal life.

He knew that matter had no life and that real Life is God; therefore he could no more be separated from his spiritual Life than God could be extinguished.

His consummate example was for the salvation of us all, but only through doing the works which he did and taught others to do.

Self-abnegation, by which we lay down all for Truth, or Christ, in our warfare against error, is a rule in Christian Science.

NOTES:

implied: indicated; suggested
consummate: supreme; ultimate
self-abnegation: self-denial; unselfishness

LIVE IT

Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority to heal. We can have the same authority when we follow his example.
These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

11 Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

26 I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 17:1, 11 Holy, 26 I have

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 2:22–24

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:16, 17

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.


The first record of Jesus being called the Galilean Prophet is in Matthew 21:11, where he is referred to as “Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee".

beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

How do you express a desire for holiness?

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<tr>
<th>16</th>
<th>Romans 12:1, 2</th>
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<td>17</td>
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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.

What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds. To keep the commandments of our Master and follow his example, is our proper debt to him and the only worthy evidence of our gratitude for all that he has done.

The scientific unity which exists between God and man must be wrought out in life-practice, and God’s will must be universally done.

Man and woman as coexistent and eternal with God forever reflect, in glorified quality, the infinite Father-Mother God.
Last summer I took a service trip to Peru with my National Leadership Council class, a group of young Christian Scientists learning about servant leadership together. We were there to help plaster and paint a school in a village near the city of Cusco, and we would also teach English, art, sports, dance, and music to the students for several days. In order to spiritually support the trip, a Christian Science practitioner prayed from her home in the US—and each of us took turns being practitioners for a day as well. Everyone was assigned a buddy so we could pray together for the class throughout the day.

The night before it was going to be my turn to be the practitioner, I prepared readings from the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, for the testimony meeting we would be having the next day. I chose passages that talk about how God loves His children, and how He is in constant communication with us and never leaves us alone. I fell asleep with those ideas fresh in my mind, knowing that the next day I could hold strongly to them and use them to pray for the class.

The next morning I woke up quite early, for what seemed to be no reason. Moments later my roommate rushed to the bathroom, feeling ill. After I reassured her that everything was OK, we both went back to sleep. Half an hour later I woke up again, moments before my roommate ran once more to the bathroom. That time one of our class leaders came in and we prayed together with the answer to the question in *Science and Health*, “What is man?” (p. 475). We knew that *man* (a term Mrs. Eddy uses to refer to all men and women) is nothing that can be tampered with; man is the image and likeness of God. We affirmed together that my roommate reflected God perfectly and completely, and once she was feeling better we went back to sleep.

Half an hour later I was woken up again—this time by my alarm clock. I thought back to what had happened during the night, and was reminded of the story of Samuel in the Bible. When Samuel was just a boy he was woken in the night by a voice. Samuel was a student under the prophet Eli, so he went to him, thinking he had been called. But Eli said he hadn’t called Samuel, so Samuel went back to sleep. It wasn’t until the third time Samuel came into his room that Eli realized God was communicating with Samuel, and told him to reply, “Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth” (see 1 Samuel 3:1–10). I felt that, in a way, the two times I had woken up to help my roommate were a kind of call from God, a reminder that I needed to listen to His direction. So I stayed awake, before the rest of the class got up, praying and preparing my thinking to be receptive to God’s messages.

Our class started off

I stayed awake, before the rest of the class got up, praying and preparing my thinking.
the day by reading the Christian Science Bible Lesson together and sharing gratitude for what we were learning. Gratitude is so important—it helps us realize that God supplies us with everything we have and need. Gratitude helps us to better understand the feelings of others, and love them. I think the gratitude sharing that day helped our class to feel love and joy no matter what we were individually feeling or thinking. My roommate was feeling much better by the end of the day as a result of all the prayers being offered and ideas shared.

Before we ate breakfast, I read aloud to the group the passage from *Science and Health* that my roommate and I had prayed with earlier, which answers the question "What is man?": “Man is not matter; he is not made up of brain, blood, bones, and other material elements. The Scriptures inform us that man is made in the image and likeness of God...” (p. 475). I hoped that starting our day with this would help us all to affirm that we are spiritual reflections of God, not made of matter and prone to being sick.

When it was time to hike up to our location of service, I helped the class to all stay together. Some students were able to walk extremely quickly up and down the hill to the work site, while others needed to take more time. I felt it was important that our whole class spend that time together, hiking as one team. Unity is a way of expressing divine Love. When the faster hikers slowed down and spent that time with the kids who walked more slowly, it was a wonderful feeling for everyone. No one was left hiking alone; as a group we were able to talk and share love and support.

I loved serving as our group’s Christian Science practitioner that day. Throughout the day, as we worked and taught, my classmates came to me, no matter where I was, to ask for prayerful help if they needed it. We would sit down and pray or read together, and everyone found a snippet or spiritual concept that really helped them. Serving my class in this way was one of the best feelings ever—I was able to completely let go of a personal sense of myself, and focus solely on praying for and with our group.

This experience taught me that God’s love is unconditionally given to everyone. It taught me that keeping spiritual ideas uppermost in my thinking—no matter if it’s in the form of gratitude, hymns, or simply being together with a group—will always help me. And I learned that looking away from yourself to help others is the most freeing experience in the world!

*This article was originally published in the June 16, 2014 issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*. You can find this piece (and thousands more!) at jsh.christianscience.com.*
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“bc” stands for before Christ and refers to dates before the birth of Jesus. “ad” stands for anno domini, which is a Latin phrase meaning “in the year of the Lord” in reference to Jesus. All dates labeled “ad” happened after Jesus’s birth.

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