

WESTERN

WISDOM

BIBLE

STUDY

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church.

They are given out on a free will offering basis.

THE LAW

OF RICHES

THE TEST OF THE

TRUE TEACHER

"LEARNING TO GIVE UP THE MATERIAL WORLD AND ALL CONNECTED WITH IT, AND TO CENTER ONE'S INTEREST UPON THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT IS A LESSON WHICH CONFRONTS EVERY ASPIRANT ON THE PATH OF ESOTERIC CHRISTIANITY."

THE LAW OF RICHES

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

—Matthew 6:19-24

Learning to give up the material world and all connected with it, and to center one's interest upon the things of the spirit is a lesson which confronts every aspirant on the path of esoteric Christianity.

Under the old regime humanity was encouraged to acquire material possessions, burying material treasure in the ground or hiding it in vaults constructed in the walls of homes was practiced from early times in the East. But the Christ brought a higher ideal: one's treasures were to be those of the Spirit, the inner qualities of kindness, helpfulness, and selflessness, which cannot be affected by rust, moth, or thieves. People whose chief concern is for lands, houses, jewelry, money, or the various other things money will buy, have their heart, or center of being, in these things. The life becomes bound up in false values, or illusion, and the Spirit anchored to whatever caters to the lower self. Not that it is wrong to possess material means so long as it is used for good and unselfish purposes, but the

heart's interest is not to be centered there.

The eye is indeed the light of the body, and "the window of the soul." If it be single, or perfectly healthy from the spiritual viewpoint, then the body becomes full of light, or permeated by the two higher ethers attracted by loving, self-forgetful service to others. If the eye be evil, or diseased from wrong living, then the body is full of "darkness," or disease. Such an eye indicates one who is full of greed, envy, etc., and whose auric envelope is filled with these darksome poisons. The aura truly reveals whether it is material or spiritual treasure that is paramount in the life.

In the closely knit families of the East it often happened, and no doubt still does, that a servant would be called upon to serve two brothers. This was usually unpleasant because of the bitterness and jealousy that would arise between the two families over the attention and service of the servant. Few servants were able to love both families, though they might pretend to do so for selfish interests. Even more difficult is it for one to serve God and mammon, the two being of opposite natures. He whose interests are wrapped up in the material world has no time to know or serve God. In like manner, the spiritual aspirant who strives to serve God by living according to His laws becomes freed from the temptations of the lower self and the material world. He learns that fine quality of discrimination which enables him to perceive that Reality is only of the spirit.

THE TEST OF THE TRUE TEACHER

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

—Matthew 7:15-20

No matter what person we may be considering, the best criterion obtainable in regard to his character is that given in the beautifully simple, direct words of the Christ: "By their fruits ye shall know them." The truly spiritual person may be identified by the purity of his life—by his actions of kindness, humility, and helpfulness. The less developed also manifest their "fruits" in kind: greed, cruelty, selfishness, and gossip.

We should apply this same "measuring rod" to the self-styled prophets and teachers who are constantly appearing before the public and exhorting their listeners to follow a certain teaching.

Concerning spiritual teachers Max Heindel has given some very definite information as to the kind of "fruits" they should bear:

"The higher we climb, either by evolution or initiation, the clearer we see the Light, which is God, shining at the top; the more we are strengthened thereby, the better we are fitted to walk or climb alone. Therefore, after a time it is unnecessary to have Masters to help us, and their place is then taken by the Elder Brothers, known in the West as friends and advisers.

"The Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross aim to emancipate the egos who come to them; to educate, to strengthen, and to make them co-workers. They never urge, never praise, and never blame. The urge must come from within the pupil, and they teach him to judge himself. In every respect they educate him to stand upon them or anyone else, for the higher we attain the greater would be the disaster of a fall. Only as we cultivate equipoise and self-reliance, coupled with spiritual integrity and zeal of devotion, are we really fitted to go on.

"Anyone who professes to be a

Teacher must be able to substantiate his claim by using the Jupiter Period consciousness, for the true Teachers, the Elder Brothers, who are now preparing the conditions of evolution which we are to obtain during the Jupiter Period, all have the consciousness pertaining to that Period. Thus they naturally and without effort project pictures upon the consciousness of those whom they are addressing, and thereby at once give evidence of their identity. *Only they* are able to guide others with safety, but they do not function as individual teachers. No truly highly evolved teacher could afford to give his time and energy to the instruction of a single pupil. Such highly evolved beings as the Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucian Order have other and more important things to attend to, and even the lay brothers who have been initiated by them are not allowed to bother them for small and unimportant matters.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

We are seeking a person with professional editorial experience who is willing to volunteer one year of service to *The Rosicrucian Fellowship*. Low-cost accommodations are available at Mt. Ecclesia, in beautiful Southern California. Please send qualifications to the Editor, P.O. Box 713, Oceanside, California, 92054, USA.

MANUSCRIPTS WANTED FOR THE RAYS MAGAZINE

We are currently in need of quality manuscripts for all departments of the *Rays from the Rose Cross* magazine. If you are interested in contributing to this magazine, please contact the Editor for details.