

The Essential Christ,

Sermon. Nov. 12. 1922

Morning Service.

from side of God near that God is life,
like unto a father, a living reality, - forever
working in and about us stimulating us
to growth and development. We see the
manifestations of this in the constant
strive of man of our kind, to search
for truth, to grow in goodness and
express our selves in beauty.

The outside world is ordered in
intelligence, that speaks to us in truth
goodness and beauty. As the parent to
his child, so the living spirit of Truth
Goodness and Beauty to us, forever
urges us along the pathways of growth
into the fullness of the knowledge
of life, - its truth, its goodness, its
beauty.

But, we ask ourselves, what prepare-
tion has been made in us that we

on our facts very careful to those
allowing stimulents that bid us to
know the truth of life, to do its
bidding, and to enter into its
deeper satisfactions. _____

Here we stand upon the threshold
of the most marvellous field of
knowledge and wisdom that the mind
has ever dreamed of. "We are fearfully
wonderfully made," said the psalmist
of old. "My substance was not hid
from thee, when I was made in
secret, and curiously wrought in
the lowest parts of the earth."
What is before us, human beings, full
grown, capable of work and play, love
and hate, merriment and hope, - full of
dreams, purposes, aspirations, and
ideals.?

To go back only to the time when
each one began his physical existence.

in the form of an egg cell, - just large enough to be seen by a very keen ~~with~~ human eye. It has a diameter about $\frac{1}{5}$ of a millimeter. A millimeter is 0.0394 of an inch. $\frac{1}{5}$ of that is about .008 of an inch in diameter. This minute ~~protoflame~~ egg is a mass of protoflame, containing some fine yolk granules, and a spherical nucleus, whose diameter is about $\frac{1}{7}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ of the entire cell.

When this cell is fertilized by the sperm cell, $\frac{1}{35000}$ the size of the Egg cell, we have the second step in the growth of the human being, - the Individual has begun to develop.

~~Now each egg cell contains protoplasm ^{at the time of fertilization} & ~~exceeding~~ exceeding by minute particles, called chromosomes, and each sperm cell contains ~~that~~ ^{at the time of fertilization}, and these two contribute from these chromosomes, 24 from the father and 24 from the mother~~

^{female}
Now, each cell contains 48 tiny particles,
and each ~~female~~ male cell contains 47 tiny
particles, called chromosomes. At the process
of fertilization, 24 of these chromosomes
from each parent, are contributed to
the new cell, now forming that is to
grow into a human being. =

Now there ^{47 or 48} tiny particles contained
in the minute human cells, each one =
make up what we call our inherited
characteristics. - color of hair, physical
appearance, temperamental characteristics.
These tiny units, chromosomes, determine the
inherited characteristics of a body that grows to
be 10,250,000,000 times the size of the
determining particle.

How is this accomplished? = This fertilized
egg cell, with its freight of Proto plasma
and ~~then~~ chromosomes, begins to multiply,
developed two main lines of cells, 1st

nerve cells, whose function is that of reproduction; and secondly, the so-called somatic cells which make up the structure of the body. - The body of man is composed of an aggregation of an infinite number of cells, - such as skin cells, bone cells, muscle cells, gland cells, arranged so as to constitute the organs of the body.

~~Next~~ in this interest this morning centres in the nerve cells which constitute the nervous system, for it is in ^{and about} the nervous system that personality develops. The nervous system is composed an infinite number of nerve cells. Each nerve cell consists of ~~nerve~~ cell body and a nerve fibre extending from the ~~body~~ cell body to various parts of the body. It is like a system of telephones in the city, with the cell body corresponding to the telephone instrument, and the nerve corresponding to the wire.

In this nervous system, there are to be found three kinds of connections. Thus, the simplest, or reflex nerve system, which may be called a sort of auto-matic telephone system. There is one exciter at the end of the wire, which sends in a message to the cell body. The cell body reacts to this message automatically, and sends out the message that causes the muscles to react.

2nd There are many little, internal telephone systems, corresponding to private telephone systems, which work quite independent of these auto-matic systems. - just how they are related to the automatic system is not known but these they are.

3rd There is that part of the nervous system, which is related to conscious men. It is the central telephone exchange of the body, where the connections are made between the incoming wires, and the outgoing

unier, but by that mystery of all
scriptures of life, human consciousness.

Let me describe this mammalian central
 exchange in which is centered that mysterious
 consciousness that is the essence of us.
 This exchange is located in the thin covering
 of the brain, in a wrinkled that if spread out
 smooth and flat would cover about 1 foot
 and one half square. If compressed into
 a solid it would be a little less than
 one cubic inch. It contains about
 9,200,000,000 cells, and in a normal
 man, it is about $1/5000$ part of his total
 weight.

Into this central exchange, where all
 consciousness, making connections, come
 all the messages of life, from infancy
 to death, that go into our training, and
 education. Here are centered the exchange
 connections that constitute the habits
 established by education, and training.
 Here are recorded all the experiences of
 our own life: here are recorded all that
 we have learned by reaching, studying, and

and investigations.

Here is this cerebral Cortex, as it is called by the scientists, where consciousness makes the selection of incoming messages, and ~~connections~~ establishes the connections for outgoing messages to the world, takes place all those marvellous developments of ideals, reasoned judgements, moral purposes, that determine our conduct.

Thus far science. But our mind does ~~not~~ not rest satisfied. We can contemplate this marvellous mechanism of cells. The product of millions of years of an evolutionary process. We see the product as it shows itself in human forms. We watch a human character develop, - with its habits, its standards, its purposes, its battles for right, its devotion to ideals, its loyalties, its cruelties, - and with our whole being struck to its depths in wonder and mystery, we ask what

is there in this central exchange, where consciousness selects, and combines, and directs thought and conduct? What is there in firmality, that so orders and clarifies, and commands.

The answer is one of faith, not a blind, mechanical faith, but a faith that carries us forward in the direction towards which all Nature forces forth, - a faith so confirmed by all that we know and experience, that it becomes, a great self-fulfilling conviction.

The faith is this, that somehow in that unexplored mystery of conscious firmality, that operates in the central exchange of our cerebral cortex, there is a central urge that reaches out towards the truth, goodness, and beauty of the world. To every stimulating call that bids us inquire into the truth of life, there goes forth from us, a responsive answer. To every ~~desire~~ alluring call of beauty and harmony from the outside world, there wells up some ~~desire~~ sense of

of appreciation, some effort to respond.
To every call of heroic conduct there
stirring within us, to impulse to goodness.

Though ~~at~~ time refuse, and reason chafe,
There comes, a voice with out reply,
Tis man's felicitous to be so,
When for the truth he ought to die.

Within us is the urge that responds to
to the temptations to truth, goodness, and
beauty with out without. "I and my
father are one", says Jesus. The good
without and the soul within are of
like life. Perfume registers in us, because
it is grounded in the world without.
We hear within us to the nature of the world
because we have had wrought into every
fiber and cell of our being some of
the essence of truth, goodness, and beauty
that is within and without.

"The ancient Greek said 'The logos
became flesh and dwelt among us.'"

The eternal truth is within us. We are very
 God of very God, of the same essence as
 the Father. At the soul of heart of the human
 being, is the urge, and purpose that is God.
The Essential Christ,

A fisher frozen in duty,
 A mother stammered for her word,
 Overcoats, thinking the hemlocks,
 And fears on the road,
 Millions, who humble and nameless
 The plain straight hard following Road.
 Some call it consecration,
 And other call it God."

←—————→
 What then is it in us that urges us
 To seek to do justly, to love mercy, to
 walk humbly with our God! ?

What compelled Ben Davis, who felt disowned
 much that I have told you about the human cell,
 to shut himself out from the world, and
 to sacrifice his health for that knowledge.
 In his autobiography he writes "And so it
 happened that in the course of a year

I shut myself up in my shell while the snow was still on the ground, and when I again ventured out to cross the garden wall only a hundred steps from me, I was astounded to find that the fields of ice were in the sea."

Many of you one Friday evening heard that interesting man, Russell Conwell, tell of some of the interesting persons that he had met. John Burns, reject through life, and into death, by a word conviction. Conwell; our father, - sacrificing every personal interest for a moral ideal. Abraham Lincoln pouring out his heart and soul in Cooper Union, quite regardless of political expediency, - what has determined the conduct of Russell Conwell himself. - Education for young men and women, -

Pick your way all down along the line of human history, who stand out as the leaders in thought, in action

in influence. -! Those whose lives have been
determined by a great ~~world~~ purpose in
the world. = Those in whom the essential
Christ, the urge of God in the life of man
has set in motion in the central exchange
where man's mission is decided it
determined. =

So this is my faith, my conviction.

N.B. The biological notes in this volume are
taken from.

Biology and the Social Problem
by

George Howard Parker

Houghton & Mifflin,