

"Look Dad, that sign says 'Christian Science Reading Room.' What's that?" Luke asked his father.

"It's a library owned by the Christian Science Church," answered his dad. "Let's go in."

Luke saw shelves of books, most were written by a woman named Mary Baker Eddy. "Who's she?" asked Luke.

"She was the church's founder," said Dad. "She died in 1910, but her books are still considered by Christian Scientists as the only true way to understand the Bible."

"Are they right, Dad? What do they believe?" Luke and his father did some research to get the answers. They learned that Mary Baker Eddy's teachings can best be described as "unreal." Let's look at a couple of examples.

Unreal Truth #1

Are you reading this article? Then you must be holding a copy of *Bible Express* in your hand. Look at it. Is it real? "Of course," you say. Not according to Christian Science. Mary Baker Eddy taught that what we feel, see, and hear as the physical world actually is not real at all. We just *think* it's real. She taught that all matter does not exist. Only what is spiritual, or in our minds, is real.

This, of course, is not what the Bible teaches. It says that God created the universe, both physical and spiritual. (See Genesis 1.) Jesus Himself had a physical body when He was born as a man. (See John 1:1-14.)

Unreal Truth #2

Another unreal idea Luke and his dad discovered was that Christian Science teaches that sickness is not real.

When was the last time you got sick? Did you feel bad? According to Mary Baker Eddy, your symptoms and the pain you felt really did not exist, except in your mind. In her view, since the physical world does not exist, neither does your body. So, since your body does not really exist, it cannot really be sick. And, if you fully realize this, what you think is sickness will disappear, and you will be well.

"I'm confused!" Luke said. He was right to be confused. This idea also conflicts with Scripture, medical research, and common sense. They all indicate that our bodies are real. The Bible teaches that because of our sin we do get sick and eventually die. That's why Jesus died on the cross and rose again bodily from the dead. He overcame sin so that when our bodies die, we can go to heaven and be with Him forever.

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The Results Are In

Luke concluded that Christian Science, despite its name, is not real science and not really Christian. They decided the next time they passed the reading room they would not go in. After all, it is truly "unreal."