

# Christian Science

“The sick are not healed merely by declaring there is no sickness, but by knowing that there is none” – Mary Baker Eddy

## Christian Science

- History
- Beliefs
- Statistics
- Liturgy
- Materials

## History

- Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy – foundress
  - born 1821 New Hampshire
  - little education due to poor health
  - age 17 joined Congregational Church
  - married 1843 to George Washington Glover who died six months later
  - married Dentist Daniel Patterson who was imprisoned in Confederate POW camp until after war
- Met Dr. Phineas P. Quimby in 1862 and 1864, studied his *Questions and Answers*
- “The Fall at Lynn” – 1866. Claims healed by “laws of healing” in N.T.
- Writes *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* from 1866 to 1870 (claims “divine guidance, others claim plagiarism)
- Taught at Lynn and Boston 1870’s and 1880’s (made \$1.2 million)
- 1879 – founded Mother Church in Boston
- Died - Dec 3 1910.

## Beliefs

“Of all the strange and frantic and incomprehensible and uninterpretable books which the imagination of man has created, surely this one is the prized sample” – Mark Twain

## Beliefs

- Apostasy in Early Church
- Pantheism
- Matter, sin, evil, sickness, death – all illusions
- No Trinity, personal God, or Divine Christ
- No atonement, death or resurrection of Christ
- No heaven or hell

### Statistics

- Peak membership 1936 – 269,000
- Currently about 150,000
- 1850 Branch Churches in 80 countries
- 75% women
- No priests
- Congregational churches/societies

### Liturgy

- Lord's prayer (according to Mrs Eddy)
- Alternate reading of the Bible
- Lesson - Sermon (prepared in Boston)
- Collection
- Recital of the “scientific statement of being”
- Wednesday – testimonials

### Materials

- Christian Science reading rooms
- *Christian Science Monitor* paper
- Christian Science journal/Herald Magazine

### Practical Apologetics

Discussion:

The Healings of Christ – What's the matter with matter?