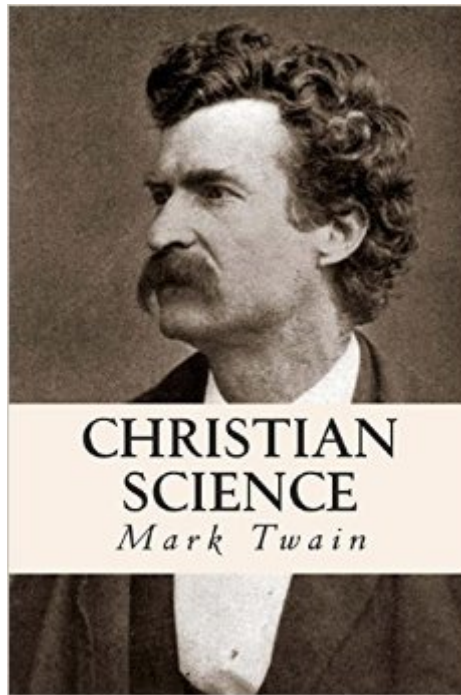


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# Christian Science



## Synopsis

Christian Science is a set of beliefs and practices belonging to the metaphysical family of new religious movements. It was developed in 19th-century New England by Mary Baker Eddy (1821–1910), who argued in her book *Science and Health* (1875) that sickness is an illusion that can be corrected by prayer alone. The book became Christian Science's central text, along with the Bible, and by 2001 had sold ten million copies in 16 languages.

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## Customer Reviews

It is my understanding that someone in Twain's family sought out a Christian Science practitioner, and did not get well. This, along with his skeptical spirit, may have led Twain to write this critique of Christian Science. The Twain wit is in place throughout. He spends a lot of time over his concern that Mary Baker Eddy was fast becoming (in the attitude of CS's followers) deified. He doesn't say much about the metaphysical beliefs of CS. He spends a lot of time expressing his concern over the iron-fisted control Eddy had over all aspects of the sect, especially the financial. Those who want to read everything Twain wrote, and those interested in how CS was seen in its early days, will find this an interesting read.

I was raised to be a Christian Scientist, so I was curious to see what Mark Twain wrote. It was alarming to me, because we sound quite strange, but this is when Mary Baker Eddy was still alive..the religion I know is 100ish years removed from this time. It had never occurred to me that

anyone would think that Mary Baker Eddy would be " bigger " than the virgin Mary. Its interesting to read how people may have been viewing a new, emerging religion. Its fun because Twain is very honest, and some of things that bug him about his practitioner also bug me.

I always enjoy Mark Twain's work. The first 2 chapters were so funny I hurt my belly button laughing. After that he got mostly serious as he skewered Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science. He still manages to poke a little humor in even in the serious parts.

I love Mark Twain's sense of humor and intelligence. In spite of the fact that he had enormous fun in spoofing the religion, he had great respect for it. His daughter became a Christian Scientist. She was the only one who survived in Samuel Clemmons nuclear family.

Twain's writing is always good, production-wise, but this goes on and on. As irreligious as ever, he heaps scorn high onto hatred against Mary Baker Eddy and her church. Makes it seem like they were the Scientologists of thier day and she their L.Ron Hubbard.Twain really did his homework, though, and one can easily believe every word. Might be fun to compare with today's Christian Scientists.

This is an ironic work that Mark Twain wrote to against the founder of Christian Science Mrs. Eddy. What is the truth, or whether what Mark Twain told is true or not, I do not know and nor it is my desire to know, but the words used by Mark Twain are very funny that is true.

My primary interest was triggered by my Mother and Grandmother's belief in this religion. My Grandmother adhered for all of her 87 years. My Mother was dead at 42 after giving it up at 20.I am impressed by Twain's level handling of the topic considering what a cynic he was.Still reading it.

I don't know if Twain just hated Mary Baker Eddy in general or because he hated all religion in general by this point in his life or whether Christian Science in particular had at first given him hope for something beyond this world that has caused him so much pain in his later life (death of family)--for some reason, he thought this screed worth writing. It was not--and is not worth reading. I love Twain, even at his most misanthropic, but this is pitiful.

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