

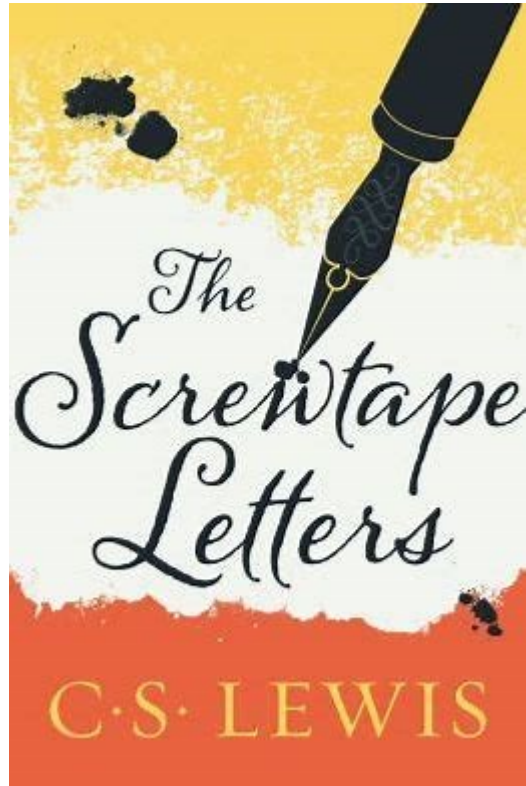
# Christian Book Reports 2019

**Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class**

Jim Hoffman

# Screwtape Notes

- There is one piece of bad doctrine in the book – demons are not older or younger than other demons.
- They were all created on the same day and as such are all the same age.
- However, there is so much “good” stuff in the book that it is great reading for the new and the mature believer.



# The Screwtape Letters

## C.S. Lewis

# The Characters

- **Screwtape** - A demon and the fictional author of The Screwtape Letters.
- **Wormwood** - Screwtape's nephew and the demon assigned to tempt the patient.
- **The Patient** - A British man tempted by Wormwood.

# The Characters

- **The Patient's Mother** – The Patient's mother is one of the main sources of temptation in the Patient's life.
- **The Woman** - A Christian and the Patient's love interest.
- **The Enemy** - The Christian God. God is the "Enemy" only from devils' perspectives.
- **The Father Below** – Satan (a twisted inversion)

# Screwtape Notes

- You cannot read the book and remain uninformed of the battle that goes in the heavenlies.
- The “heavenlies” really represent a dimension that we cannot see, but it as real as the one in which we live.

# The Struggle

- There is a constant and present battle between the forces of Heaven and Hell over the souls of mankind.
- Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

# The Struggle

- 1st John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. NASB



# Needless Distractions

- Part of Screwtape's strategy is to distract the Patient from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

# Needless Distractions

- When the “Patient” became a Christian, Screwtape did not go away, he sought to discourage and distract with small minded differences that divide Christians.
- Small doctrinal differences like the timing of the Rapture, quasi-political causes like animal rights, and modes of baptism.

# Manager to Employee

My dear Wormwood,

I note with grave displeasure that your patient has become a Christian. Do not indulge the hope that you will escape the usual penalties; indeed, in your better moments, I trust you would hardly even wish to do so. In the meantime we must make the best of the situation. There is no need to despair; hundreds of these adult converts have been reclaimed after a brief sojourn in the Enemy's camp and are now with us. All the habits of the patient, both mental and bodily, are still in our favor.

Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #1

- “Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”  
Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #1

- Satan wants us in the dark, moving away but not realizing it; falling deeper while not recognizing we are falling at all.
- If we have too great a sense of moving away from God, we may stop moving from Him and try to move toward Him.

# Screwtape Quote #2

- “It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.”

Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #2

- “There is nothing which naturally works in the Devil’s favor. The real world, the one we see when we look outside of our narrow selves, is good and true and beautiful.” Kevin Clark
- “The Devil is evil and false and ugly. Nature is wondrous and expansive and profligate, just like God. Only by keeping us huddled in the corners of our own minds can Satan keep us from noticing this.” Kevin Clark

# Screwtape Quote #3

- “There is nothing like suspense and anxiety for barricading a human’s mind against the Enemy (God). He (God) wants men to be concerned with what they do; our business is to keep them thinking about what will happen to them.” Screwtape



# Screwtape Quote #3

- God would have us be about being “His workmanship created unto good works”.
- The enemy of our souls would have us be caught up in the daily drama of what could happen to us as opposed to what we could “happen” to others.

# Screwtape Quote #4

- “If once they get through this initial dryness successfully, they become much less dependent on emotion and therefore much harder to tempt.” Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #4

- There will be times in our Christian lives when we feel that God is not near – we feel “dry” spiritually.
- The devil is concerned when we go through a valley and come out still obedient because we are then harder to be tempted – very much like steel is tempered using fire.

# Screwtape Quote #5

- “Work hard, then, on the disappointment or anti-climax which is certainly coming to the Patient during his first few weeks as a churchman... In every department of life it marks the transition from dreaming aspiration to laborious doing.” Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #5

- “Work hard, then, on the disappointment or anti-climax which is certainly coming to the Patient during his first few weeks as a churchman... In every department of life it marks the transition from dreaming aspiration to laborious doing.” Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #6

- “[The Enemy] would rather [a] man thought himself a great architect or a great poet and then forget about it, than that he should spend much time and pains trying to think himself a bad one.”  
Screwtape

# Screwtape Quote #6

- Again, we see the devil's strategy to keep Christians navel gazing about how we feel, or what we have, or where we rank.
- God does not want us to be so introspective that we see only ourselves and not others.

# Screwtape Quote #7

- “The Enemy (God) allows this disappointment to occur at the threshold of every human endeavor because of his “*curious fantasy of making disgusting little human vermin*” into his free lovers and servants (sons). So, he refuses to carry humans to their goals, but leaves them to do it on their own.” Screwtape



# Screwtape Quote #7

- Within the quote, Lewis is giving us his point of view regarding how the devil and his demons view people.
- They hate us, perhaps because when they rebelled there was no redemption plan for them like there is for us.

# Screwtape Notes

- Screwtape saw existential threats to humans as real danger to his work of damning souls –
  - Going into war, people are aware that their lives are at risk and have time to prepare. They seek “The Enemy” because they know death is inevitable.
  - Others who may not turn to “The Enemy”, still turn the attention away from themselves to values and causes which they believe to be higher than the self.

# Screwtape Notes

- Screwtape says that the appalling truth- that “The Enemy” does have love for men, and His service is perfect freedom. He really does want to fill the world with a lot of little loathsome replicas of Himself- creatures whose lives will be like his own NOT because he absorbed them, but because of their free wills that conform to His.

# Screwtape Notes

- “We (the devil and his demons) want food- ‘The Enemy’ wants sons. We want to suck in - ‘The Enemy’ wants to give out. We are empty and want filled - He is full and flows over.” Screwtape

# Screwtape Notes

- "Our war aim is a world in which Our Father Below has drawn all other beings into himself; the Enemy wants a world full of beings united to Him but still distinct". Screwtape

# Screwtape Notes

- “The Patient got off easy. He had no doctor’s visits, no false hopes of recovery. He died quickly during an air raid. Screwtape is filled with rage when he imagines the Patient losing his doubts and entering eternal life. Hell’s two greatest weaknesses, writes Screwtape, are useless tempters like Wormwood and its Intelligence Department. He complains, again, that Hell’s forces cannot understand what the Enemy is really up to, but he has no doubt that Hell’s realism will win in the end.” Screwtape

# Screwtape Notes

- Perhaps the overarching premise that should not be missed is the real enemy, Satan and his demons, are interested in damning souls.
- Accomplishing their goal with pleasure and riches, is the same to them as accomplishing it with pain and suffering.

**“Contented Worldliness”  
is what Satan accomplishing  
his goal often looks like.**



# Questions