

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

*Spiritual Life
from the other perspective*

A Study at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2013 A.D



There's nothing more valuable in war than military intelligence. Even if you're out-gunned and out-numbered, if you know what the enemy is going to do, victory can be yours. In the book, The Screwtape Letters, C. S. Lewis writes as if he is revealing the Devil's tactics. It is amazing how well he seems to understand the Devil, until you realize what he really understands is human nature!

Since its first appearance in 1941 (and eight reprints in 1942 alone) The Screwtape Letters has opened the eyes of readers to the sinister plots of the Devil and his henchmen, the demons. C. S. Lewis intended this book to be of spiritual benefit to those who read it. "Lewis is in earnest with his belief in devils, and as anxious to unmask their strategy against souls as our intelligence department to detect the designs of Hitler" (*The Guardian*, 13 March 1942). May we be on guard against the Devil and rejoice in Jesus' final victory!

Screwtape's metamorphosis is complete, by William Papas.

LETTER 28

1. Any questions?
2. What is the difference between the worldly hopes to which Screwtape refers, and the things his mind is full of?
3. How are wars of attrition won? What insight does this give you into our spiritual battle?
4. Whose spiritual condition are we most concerned about, the young, the middle-aged, or the old?

5. Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason:
"For as regards nature, experience presents us with rules and is the source of truth, but in relation to ethical laws experience is the parent of illusion, and it is in the highest degree reprehensible to limit or to deduce the laws which dictate what I ought to do, from what is done."

LETTER 29

6. See how God even uses the work of the devils to the benefit of his people! Even in their best efforts they are faced with a "cruel dilemma"! What Scriptural examples can you remember?
7. See Screwtape's discussion of despair. How can a sin be the ultimate example of the cruel dilemma God forces the devil into?
8. What is the danger of the thought, "The worst shall not come to worst"?
9. Do you agree or disagree with Screwtape's assessment of fear? (See 1 John 4:17-18, Matthew 14:22-32, Mark 14:32-34)

LETTER 30

10. Consider Screwtape's reference to justice. Does God really do this? Could Screwtape be mistaking this for something else?
11. Screwtape's comments on fatigue are very similar to a previous piece of advice he gave Wormwood. Can you remember which one?
12. How can we identify what is "real"?

LETTER 31

13. There are three points of view on the death of the patient: God's, the Devil's, and the viewpoint of the bereaved. Compare them.
14. What is your favorite part of the patient going to heaven?