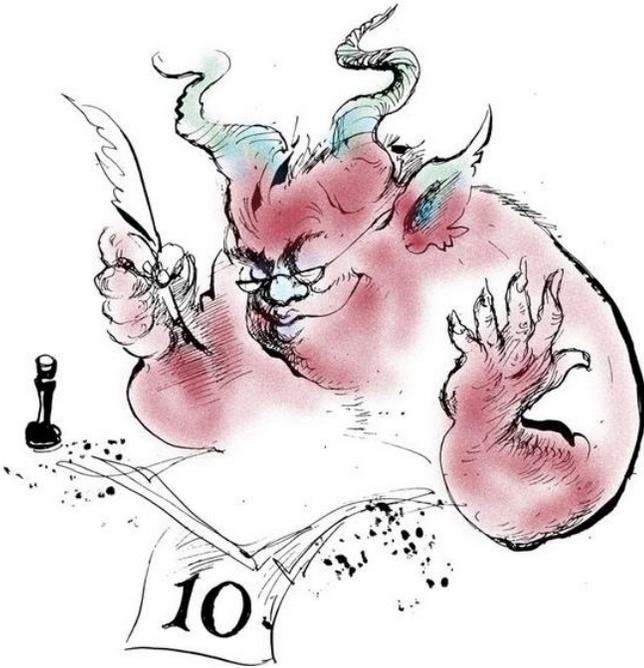


THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

*Spiritual Life
from the other perspective*

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



An illustration of Screwtape by William Papas.

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!

LETTER 9

1. Any questions?
2. Agree or Disagree: Pleasure does not exist apart from God. (See Psalm 16)
3. What does addiction give to the addict?
4. Which temptation is more dangerous to you, the temptation to recreate old feelings or to dismiss Christian zeal as excessive?
5. "A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing." Why? (See Matthew 7:21-23 and Revelation 3:14-16)
6. "Of course there is no conceivable way of getting by reason from the proposition "I am losing interest in this" to the proposition "This is false". What character trait does this sequence reveal in us when we think it?

LETTER 10

7. Where is the true danger of peer pressure? Does it really come from our peers? (See 1 Corinthians 15:33, James 1:13-14 and Matthew 15:18-19)
8. You probably haven't called anything "puritanical" today. What words do we use instead?
9. Which is the bigger fool, the one who only sees people for who they are when they are present, or the one who knows very well but pretends to be independent of their influence?
10. Why doesn't Screwtape go straight for the jugular? Why does he encourage Wormwood to attack the patient's spending, work and human relationships?

LETTER 11

11. Agree or Disagree: C.S. Lewis thought it was OK to joke about sex.
12. Screwtape has difficulty understanding, much less defining, "fun", and yet he uses the word "funny" quite appropriately. Why?
13. How can we avoid flippancy?