

## **C.S. Lewis: *The Screwtape Letters***

*The Screwtape Letters is a work of fiction; but the issues confronted in this book play out in our lives every day. God is referred to as the, "Enemy." Screwtape is a high level Demon and Wormwood is an inexperienced Tempter.*

"It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." Letter 12

"When He [God] talks of their losing their selves, He means only abandoning the outcry of self- will; once they have done that, He really gives them back all their personality, and boasts (I am afraid, sincerely) that when they are wholly His they will be more themselves than ever." Letter 13

"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." Letter 4

"Above all, do not attempt to use science (I mean, the real sciences) as a defense against Christianity. They will positively encourage him to think about realities he can't touch and see." Letter 1

"A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing." Letter 9

"Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in jeopardy than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do our Enemy's will, looks round upon a universe in which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys." Letter 8

"There is nothing like suspense and anxiety for barricading a human's mind against the Enemy. He wants men to be concerned with what they do; our business is to keep them thinking about what will happen to them." Letter 6

"One must face the fact that all the talk about His love for men, and His service being perfect freedom, is not (as one would gladly believe) mere propaganda, but an appalling truth. He really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of Himself—creatures, whose life, on its miniature scale, will be qualitatively, like His own, not because He has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to His. We want cattle who can finally become food; He wants servants who can finally become sons. We want to suck in, He wants to give out. We are empty and would be filled; He is full and flows over. Our war aim is a world in which Our Father Below [Devil] has drawn all other beings into himself: the Enemy [God] wants a world full of beings united to Him but still distinct." Letter 8