

### **Christianity: Fake and Real**

Have you ever bought (unintentionally) fake merchandise? Share your experience. What lessons did it teach you?

#### Letter 12      **Christianity: Fake**

“Obviously you are making excellent progress. My only fear is lest in attempting to hurry the patient you awaken him to a sense of his real position. For you and I, who see that position as it really is, must never forget how totally different it ought to appear to hm.” (p.57)

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Many people think that Christianity is a religion of do's and don't's. What “do's” and “don't's” do many people associate with Christianity?
2. Strangely chief demon Screwtape is somewhat glad that Wormwood's patient is still a church goer. Why?
3. If true Christianity is not a religion of “do's” and “don't's”, how would describe it?

#### Demons use the gradual method rather than a sudden, sharp method.

“Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signpost.” (p. 61)

Paul Little said, “Collapse in the Christian life is seldom a blowout; it is usually a slow leak.”

#### Demons encourages the people to outwardly practice their religion.

“As long as he retains externally the habits of a Christian he can still be made to think of himself as one who has adopted a few new friends and amusements but whose spiritual state is much the same as it was six weeks ago. “ (p. 57-58)

Gal 2:16

16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

(NIV)

#### Letter 13      **Christian: Real**

“A repentance and renewal of what the other side call ‘grace’ on the scale which you describe is a defeat of the first order. (p. 63)

“A repentance and renewal of what the other side call ‘grace’ on the scale which you describe is a defeat of the first order. It amounts to a second conversion – and probably on a deeper level than the first.” (p. 63)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced real pleasure or real pain that caused you to see reality and drew you to God?
2. Screwtape makes a distinction between real pleasure or pain and perceived pleasure or pain (that is based on the “standards of the world” p. 63 ). What is the difference? Give an example.
3. What is the difference between the detachment of self that God seeks and the detachment from reality that the devils seek?

God protects us against the attacks of the demons.

“As you ought to have known, the asphyxiating cloud, which prevented your attacking the patient on his walk back from the old mill, is well known phenomenon. It is the Enemy’s most barbarous weapon, and generally appears when He is directly present to the patient under certain modes not yet fully classified. Some humans are permanently surrounded by it and therefore inaccessible to us.” (p.63)

Gal 5:16

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Eph 5:18

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

God causes or allows real pleasure and real pain into our lives to cause us to put things into perspective.

“The characteristic of Pains and Pleasures is that they are unmistakably real, and therefore, as far as they go, give the man who feels them a touchstone of reality.” (p. 64)

Real pleasure and real pain versus perceived imaginary pleasure and pain based on the standards of the world.

Demon try to detach us from ourselves by causing us to have perceived pleasure and pain. God wants to detach us from ourselves but in a different way.

“As a preliminary to detaching him from the enemy, you wanted to detach him from himself ... Of course, I know that the Enemy also wants to detach men from themselves, but in a different way.” (p. 65)

Gal 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Repentance and renewal without action is worthless.

“It remains to consider how to we can retrieve this disaster. The great thing is to prevent his doing anything. As long as he does not convert it into action, it does not matter how much he thinks about this new repentance.” (p. 66)

Matt 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.