



## Lenten Series: The Screwtape Letters

### Questions from Third Session

#### 1) Entitlement to Time

- a) What does Screwtape mean when he talks about people making claims on their own time? How do you respond when your own plans are intruded upon? Why is it hard for us to accept that claims over our lives are not ours to make?
  
- b) James 4: 13-17 says: ***Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.***

As a Christian, why is having a personal "sense of ownership" of our time "equally funny in Heaven and in Hell?"

## **2) Twisting of Pleasures**

- a) What pleasures does Screwtape mention that humans do “all day long without His minding in the least”?
- b) In today’s culture, how do tempters twist pleasures?

## **3) Noise**

- a) Why does Screwtape hate both music and silence? What does Psalm 46:10 say about the importance of silence?
- b) Why does Screwtape prefer noise? Think about the noise in your life. How can a noisy environment dull our senses and hinder our abilities to make moral decisions?

## **4) Unselfishness**

- a) What is the difference between unselfishness and charity (agape)?
- b) Screwtape says that we often compete with others to see who can be the most “unselfish”. Why would we do this?
- c) Describe the game that Screwtape likes to play called the “Generous Conflict Illusion”?

## **5) Reality**

- a) How does Screwtape advise Wormwood to distort reality in the Christian’s mind?
- b) What is the Christian’s ultimate reality?

## **6) The Other Side**

- a) To whom does Screwtape refer as “cool light and clarity itself”?
- b) To what does Screwtape compare “all the delights of sense, or heart, or intellect” that Wormwood might have tempted his patient?