



Pastor Mike's Bookshelf

The Screwtape Letters

By C.S. Lewis

This book is a classic, one that I have read several times. It never fails to entertain, challenge, convict and educate, even after several readings. As I prepared to preach on The Lord's Prayer for our Lent Midweek services (especially "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"), I thought it would be a good time to return to Screwtape's instructions to his protégé Wormwood. Once again, I found it a blessing, not just to my sermon preparation, but to my personal walk with the Lord.

The book is a series of fictional letters from Screwtape, a senior devil and close associate of "our Father below," to Wormwood, a junior devil who has been charged with pursuing the damnation of an ordinary young man. Screwtape's instructions are at times comical, satirical, but also profoundly insightful regarding the true purposes of the demonic. You will never look at the scope and breadth of temptation in the same way.

Lewis first published this book in 1942, therefore many of the events of the young man's life are in the context of wartime England. For that reason, some of it might feel a bit dated. But even still, the depiction of the fallibility of our human nature, and our persistent susceptibility to temptation is, unfortunately, timeless.

This brief read is also a testament to Lewis' brilliance as a creative writer. That he conveys so much through one side of a fictional written correspondence is really rather amazing. I can't recommend this book highly enough for anyone seeking to grow in understanding what we're up against in the daily spiritual warfare we are engaged in. All for the purpose of clinging every more tightly to Christ, in whom all the forces of evil are defeated.

There is a copy of this book, along with most of the previously recommended books on the Church Library cart in the Narthex, available for checking out. Previous recommendations can be found here:

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