

**The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 23 ~ History Maker**  
**August 15th, 2021**

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, we suggest that you click on the link above to read the short Letter 23, for today's Illustrated Message, which will help you understand the following message.

The title for this message is History Maker. What kind of history maker are you going to be and what are you going to leave behind? A dead old church for the communist to set up in, are you going to cave in to the anti-Christ system when they come knocking at your door, are you going to cave like many pastors and Christians have caved lately in the midst of our recent so called pandemic?

Screwtape says in this letter; *“You will find that a good many Christian-political writers think that Christianity began going wrong, and departing from the doctrine of its Founder, at a very early stage. Now this idea must be used by us to encourage once again the conception of a "historical Jesus" to be found by clearing away later "accretions and perversions" and then to be contrasted with the whole Christian tradition.”*

Suffice to say that these “Christian political writers”, would be quite liberal in their ideology and it's an oxymoron to have liberal Christians, mixing liberal politics with Christianity. We can see how easy it would be to go astray from Biblical theology to reduce the history and life of Jesus to just a good teacher who spoke a strange language and left behind a few good morals.

The devil is always trying to reduce the deity of Jesus Christ from being God in flesh to a mere man, a teacher who is a part of the past, a historical figure who no longer exists and has been replaced with Secular Humanism and the worship of self logic and reason which leads to communism.

Regardless of whether Jesus is thought to be a piece of history that is archaic in comparison to the worship of Humanism today, He has not changed and neither has His teaching. His teaching does not evolve around your belief system and just because you don't believe something, doesn't reduce what He said to be truth or what He has said won't happen.

**Hebrews 13:8** has a declaration of who Jesus is; *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

As we read in this Letter 23, Screwtape is all bent out of shape that the Patient has become a part of Christian Fellowship, a part of the Body of Christ, both in and out of Church and the only way to hinder his Christian walk is to pervert it by reducing Jesus to be just a historical figure whose teachings no longer apply today.

This can be found in people who believe in Jesus only as a historical figure. But what Jesus and His disciples taught us in the New Testament of the Holy Bible, will not be altered by simply choosing not to believe in what they said. The same can be said about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, just because you don't believe in it doesn't mean that it's not true and that Jesus commanded you to receive it. Or how about not going to church, doesn't change the fact that the Bible says in **Hebrews 10:25** to *“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

It's called selective hearing. By saying you're a believer but selectively choosing what to believe and remove from the Bible what you don't believe.

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S. LEWIS

For example, by not believing in the following Bible Scriptures where Jesus teaches that hell is a place of eternal torment, does not change what He said by simply not believing in it. Your belief system does not alter what Jesus said.

**Mark 9:43-45** says; “43 *If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life [a]maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to [b]hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—* 44 *[c]where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’* 45 *And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into [d]hell, [e]into the fire that shall never be quenched—* 47 *And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into [o]hell fire—* 48 *where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’”*

I’m convinced that Christians who selectively hear only what they want to believe in the Bible, are not truly born-again and are reducing Jesus to be a historical religious figurehead whose teachings are to evolve around what they choose to believe in, instead of what Jesus requires them to believe in.

Screwtape says; “*In the last generation we promoted the construction of such a "historical Jesus" on liberal and humanitarian lines; we are now putting forward a new "historical Jesus" on Marxian, catastrophic, and revolutionary lines. The advantages of these constructions, which we intend to change every thirty years or so, are manifold. In the first place they all tend to direct men's devotion to something which does not exist, for each "historical Jesus" is unhistorical.*”

Regardless of how the devil presents a new Historical Jesus every 30 years or so, does not change who Jesus is and what He and His disciples taught in the Holy Bible.

Let’s take a moment and just look at some scriptures that describe the deity of Jesus.

**Revelation 22:12-19**; “12 *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.* 13 *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the [a]Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”* 14 *Blessed are those who [b]do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.* 15 *[c]But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.* 16 *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”* 17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

A Warning is given in the following verses to those who have selective hearing by rejecting what His word says, maybe saying that you believe in Jesus but don’t believe in certain parts of the Bible. It says in verse 18-19; “18 *[d]For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, [e]God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God[f] shall take away his part from the [g]Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

Are you going to allow your selective hearing to blot your name out of The Book of Life? It’s something serious. What Jesus requires of you is unequivocal. Selective hearing will have Jesus and the Bible revolve around the person. It’s very serious to selectively hear only what you want to believe and remove from the Bible what you choose not to believe. So serious that if you do it, your name is blotted out of the Book of Life.

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S. LEWIS

**Philippians 2:5-11** talks about the humbled and exalted Christ; “5 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [a]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [b]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

You can confess Jesus as Lord now, or confess Him later. I suggest that you confess Him as Lord now.

**Colossians 1:15-18** says; “15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or [a]principalities or [b]powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.*”

We are living in a time right now where true fundamental Bible believers are being persecuted by political leaders in Alberta and other provinces across Canada for simply believing in and obeying the teachings in the New Testament about gathering for Church services in person and not settling for having Church on TV, radio or other means of media. What it really comes down to is that the Government wants to control the churches and they want to remove the deity of Jesus as Head of the Church and reduce Him to a religious historical figure who no longer has no total authority over the Church and ultimately, they will set up state run churches that will remove all teaching about the resurrection and redemption of Christ.

Many Churches have bought into these control tactics of obeying the laws of the land, and have passed judgement on Churches who chose to obey Jesus, the Head of the Church, and keep their Churches open with no restrictions. The Pastors and Christians are saying that these Churches are not being persecuted, but rather are reaping what they sowed because they did not obey the laws of the land. But I think it's just a matter of time that these lukewarm pastors and congregations will ultimately become state run Churches under the control of the Government. If pastors have caved into the government now, they'll continue to cave when things get worse.

Screwtape says; “*No nation, and few individuals, are really brought into the Enemy's camp by the historical study of the biography of Jesus, simply as biography. Indeed materials for a full biography have been withheld from men. The earliest converts were converted by a single historical fact (the Resurrection) and a single theological doctrine (the Redemption) operating on a sense of sin which they already had--and sin, not against some new fancy-dress law produced as a novelty by a "great man", but against the old, platitudinous, universal moral law which they had been taught by their nurses and mothers.*”

The devil is fighting hard to remove any and all understanding of the historical facts about the Resurrection and the Doctrine of redemption found in the Bible.

**Redemption;** here are some scriptures on redemption from [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org).

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S.LEWIS

- ✓ Everyone is in need of redemption. Our natural condition was characterized by guilt **Romans 3:23**; *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified [a]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*
- ✓ Christ’s redemption has freed us from guilt, being *“justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* **Romans 3:24**.
- ✓ The benefits of redemption include eternal life - **Revelation 5:9-10**; *“9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made [a]us kings[b] and priests to our God; And [c]we shall reign on the earth.”*
- ✓ forgiveness of sins, **Ephesians 1:7**; *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”*
- ✓ righteousness (Romans 5:17),
- ✓ freedom from the law’s curse, **Galatians 3:13**; *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),”*
- ✓ adoption into God’s family, **Galatians 4:5**; *“to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”*
- ✓ deliverance from sin’s bondage, **Titus 2:14**; *“14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*  
**1 Peter 1:18-19**; *“18 knowing that you were not redeemed with [a]corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*
- ✓ peace with God, **Colossians 1:18-20**; *“18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”*
- ✓ the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**; *“19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body [a]and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*
- ✓ To be redeemed, then, is to be forgiven, holy, justified, free, adopted, and reconciled. **Psalms 130:7-8**; *“7 O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.”*  
**Luke 2:38**; *“And coming in that instant she gave thanks to [a]the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”*  
**Acts 20:28**; *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [a]of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

After reading these scriptures, one can see why governments want to remove Jesus as being head of the church and want to take that place instead.

**Resurrection**; let’s go on to look at scriptures on the resurrection from [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org).

The resurrection is important for the following reasons:

1) If Christ was not raised from the dead, believers will not be either, **1 Corinthians 15:12-15**; *“12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S. LEWIS

*of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.”*

2) If Christ was not raised from the dead, His sacrifice for sin was not sufficient, **1 Corinthians 15:16-19**; *“<sup>16</sup> For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup> Then also those who have <sup>[a]</sup>fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”*

Jesus’ resurrection proved that His death was accepted by God as the atonement for our sins. If He had simply died and stayed dead, that would indicate His sacrifice was not sufficient. As a result, believers would not be forgiven for their sins, and they would remain dead after they die (1 Corinthians 15:16-19). There would be no such thing as eternal life (John 3:16). “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20 NAS).

Finally, Scripture is clear that all those who believe in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal life just as He was (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). First Corinthians 15 goes on to describe how Christ’s resurrection proves His victory over sin and provides us the power to live victoriously over sin.

**1 Corinthians 15:24-34**; *“<sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. <sup>28</sup> Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? <sup>30</sup> And why do we stand in <sup>[a]</sup>jeopardy every hour? <sup>31</sup> I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. <sup>32</sup> If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” <sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” <sup>34</sup> Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

It describes the glorious nature of the resurrection body we will receive in **1 Corinthians 15:35-49**; *“<sup>35</sup> But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind <sup>[a]</sup>of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. <sup>40</sup> There are also <sup>[b]</sup>celestial bodies and <sup>[c]</sup>terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. <sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the earth, made<sup>[d]</sup> of dust; the second Man is <sup>[e]</sup>the Lord from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the <sup>[f]</sup>man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we<sup>[g]</sup> shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.”*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS BY C.S.LEWIS

It proclaims that, as a result of Christ's resurrection, all who believe in Him have ultimate victory over death, **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**; *"50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a [a]mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O[b] Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

Again, you can see why the devil and government leaders would want to shut down the teaching on the resurrection and replace it with some dead historical figure. Today, Churches are being locked up, fined and pastors are being put in prison in Canada simply because the Politicians want to remove the Headship of Jesus from the Church, so that they can set up state run churches that will propagate their anti-Christ agenda and totally remove all history of the Deity of Jesus Christ, His resurrection and the doctrine of redemption of all those Christians who have made him Lord of their lives. We can see how politicians around the world have used this pandemic to get their own agenda pushed further ahead.

So what are you going to do, history maker? What are you going to do with your life? Is it going to be full of lies, deception, misunderstanding about what the Bible says or doesn't say? Is it going to be full of vain imaginations, selective hearing, half truths? Will you buy into the lies of the anti-Christ system or are you going to say no? No, I will not close my church; no, I'll not serve the devil; no, the devil isn't Lord of my church regardless how much you say it's the law of the land because I obey the Head of the Church which is Jesus Christ. That's the history maker I want to be. I don't want to be remembered as someone who caved when the pressure was on by the secular humanists, I don't want that on my record or my shift as a pastor and I won't stand before God on that. Can you imagine standing before God to give an account to Him as to why you removed sections of the Bible simply because you didn't believe in them? Judgement day is real and each will be accountable, saint and sinner.

Here's an awesome song entitled "[History Maker](#)".