

The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 5 ~ Megalomania, War and Sickness
October 18th, 2020

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, please click on the link above to read the book and for today's Illustrated Message, please read **Letter 5**.

[Sparknotes](#) gives this summary on Letter 5; *“Screwtape chides Wormwood for being too joyful about the start of World War II. In the end, the war might not help him in his project to undermine the Patient’s faith and win his soul. War is entertaining because of the immense human suffering involved, Screwtape writes, but it is just as likely to turn humans to the Enemy as it is to lead them into Hell. In wartime, also, men are prepared to die. They are conscious of their mortality and so, if they are Christians, they often prepare their souls in advance. It would be much better for devils if all humans died in hospitals and nursing homes where they are coddled and misinformed about their coming deaths. Suffering is an important part of what the Enemy calls redemption. The suffering of war, Screwtape warns, often leads men to redemption and into the Enemy’s clutches.”*

Again, we must remind you that the Enemy that Screwtape is referring to is Almighty God. Screwtape says; *“You say you are "delirious with joy" because the European humans have started another of their wars. I see very well what has happened to you. You are not delirious; you are only drunk.”*

You’ve heard the saying, “drunk with power”, that is what Screwtape means when he says this of Wormwood. He is a demon that is drunk with the power that he has over his patient. The word used to describe this is megalomania.

Megalomania means;

1. A psychopathological condition characterized by delusional fantasies of wealth, power, or omnipotence.
2. An obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions.

In some cases, people believe themselves to be God, or to be a famous figure, or to be the devil, it’s such a strong delusion that the devil has sown into their minds that they believe a lie. It’s a psychiatric mental illness in some cases. Or megalomania can just be a power trip.

Screwtape continues to say; *“Reading between the lines in your very unbalanced account of the patient’s sleepless night, I can reconstruct your state of mind fairly accurately. For the first time in your career you have tasted that wine which is the reward of all our labours--the anguish and bewilderment of a human soul--and it has gone to your head.”* It could be said that Wormwood then was acting like a megalomaniac, drunk with power.

How many leaders today that we have heard about that the devil has possessed and have become megalomaniac’s, drunk with power over people?

It is in a time where the II World War broke out, and Wormwood is taking the advantage of all that his patient is going thru as a result of it. It’s in times of war that people take more care to be ready to die, simply because they have no control over the fact that at any moment, they could die by the effects of it in one way or another. You could say that the red caution tape goes up and they’re prepared for death because of air raids, bullets flying and bombs dropping. There is more preparation for salvation and eternity when you’re in times of war.

You have to remember, that it was this power that Lucifer was deluded with by the fact that he actually thought that he could become God, but he and 1/3 of the angels were cast out of heaven drunk with power. Remember

what Jesus said in **Luke 10:17-18**; “*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*”

Jesus, saw Lucifer and the 1/3 of the angels that followed him, cast out of heaven. You could even say that Jesus cast them out because He is the Word of God who cast him out. Lucifer was drunk with megalomania, trying to overthrow God’s throne in heaven.

Jesus talks about wars as signs of the times and the end of age in **Matthew 24:6-8**; “*6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for [a]all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*”

We are in the times that Jesus spoke about, and if war does come to our doorstep, it is followed up with demons like Wormwood, drunk with power who have one purpose in mind and that is to rob, kill and destroy any and all Christians from putting their trust in God, for a home in heaven, the very place where Satan and his demons were cast out of.

Isaiah 14:12-15 talks about the fall of Lucifer; “*12 How you are fallen from heaven, O [a]Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the [b]lowest depths of the Pit.*”

Screwtape warns Wormwood about his state of megalomania; “*But do remember, Wormwood, that duty comes before pleasure. If any present self-indulgence on your part leads to the ultimate loss of the prey, you will be left eternally thirsting for that draught of which you are now so much enjoying your first sip.*”

Screwtape continues to say; “*So do not allow any temporary excitement to distract you from the real business of undermining faith and preventing the formation of virtues.*”

The devil does not want anyone, let alone Christians, to have faith and virtues. If the country you are living in were to come under an attack from another nation, do not allow the demons to undermine your faith in Jesus, and keep you from living a virtuous life.

Consider the parable of the 10 virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13**; “*25 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom [a]is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [b]in which the Son of Man is coming.”*”

The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, so these 5 unwise virgins had the appearance of religion but had not given room to be filled with the Holy Spirit so they’d have enough oil to make it to the end of their journey – to heaven with the bridegroom – Jesus. They never took time to seek the Holy Spirit but trusted in themselves and were not prepared for when the bridegroom would come. With all that is going on in these end times, you need the oil of the Holy Spirit more than ever to finish the race. Jesus, when He comes, is looking for his bride to

have her lamps trimmed and burning, filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit. The wise virgins were wise because they had the oil. This parable is filled with types and shadows of the rapture of the church.

You don't want Jesus to say these words to you because of not being ready and are left behind when the Church is raptured by Jesus, which, by the way could happen any time now. Jesus knew these 5 unwise virgins, but they didn't know Him intimately and personally. They were prepared to a certain degree but didn't have oil in their lamps to finish the journey.

I think what is more important, is to realize that regardless of whether there is not a war going on presently in the natural, (here in North America), there is always one going on in the supernatural for the souls of men and women. This is all the more reason to be ready to die and be judged by God.

In **1 Peter 5:8-9**, the Apostle Peter says; “8 Be [a]sober, be [b]vigilant; [c]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Ephesians 6:12 says; “12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [a]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

1 Timothy 6:11-16 also says; “11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only [a]Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”

Screwtape says; “*Men are killed in places where they knew they might be killed and to which they go, if they are at all of the Enemy's party, prepared. How much better for us if all humans died in costly nursing homes amid doctors who lie, nurses who lie, friends who lie, as we have trained them, promising life to the dying, encouraging the belief that sickness excuses every indulgence, and even, if our workers know their job, withholding all suggestion of a priest lest it should betray to the sick man his true condition!*”

In other words, keep the preacher from visiting the sick and dying person lest it bring conviction of the truth and they repent and encourage them to think that their sickness covers all indulgences. It would seem that Screwtape wants to blanket the sick with religious lies and to keep the truth from them so they can't get right with God. It sure sounds familiar in the day that we're living in, with all those who are being lied to about their spiritual condition whether it be in lukewarm churches or hospitals and nursing homes.

How many souls of men and women have died in this condition and were not prepared for judgement day or who are presently in this condition, having the truth withheld from them of the physical condition of their body and as a result, are not concerned with the spiritual condition of their soul and are simply not ready to die and be judged by God? It's possible that the medical practitioners, family and friends just want to keep them in peace and will ultimately just open up another bed for another sick person. It can be justified to appease the conscience but whichever way, it's a lie. Whatever the circumstance, everyone has a right to know their physical condition, if they are dying or when they'll die. They need to be ready to be able to get right with God, to repent of their sins and be born again.

Hebrews 9:27 says; “27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 also says; *“10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

Jesus warns about the judgement coming on every word that is spoken in **Matthew 12:36**; *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”*

All the more reason to wash your mind and mouth with the Word of God. If you have dirty thoughts and words coming out of your mouth, Jesus warns that you’ll be judged for every word. You have to keep your temple (body), clean with the Word of God.

The Apostle John says this in **Revelation 20:12**; *“12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before [a]God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”*

Your whole life is written in the books of heaven, Christian or non-Christian.

Screwtape says; *“And how disastrous for us is the continual remembrance of death which war enforces. One of our best weapons, contented worldliness, is rendered useless. In wartime not even a human can believe that he is going to live forever.”*

“To live forever”, Screwtape is referring to living here on earth forever, without a care. So war, severs the thoughts of contented worldliness.

Jesus shares the parable of the rich fool in **Luke 12:16-21**; *“16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 ‘So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.’”*

A good question today to ask yourself today is, “are you rich towards God? Is your # 1 goal as a Christian to build the body of Christ, the Church, and save the souls of men and women or have you become worldly and are like the man in the parable whom Jesus calls a fool who was rich towards himself and not rich towards God?”

You may be someone that the devil is rocking to sleep without a care about the state of your soul, or have you been lied to by doctors, nurses and family about the true condition of your illness? It’s time to wake up for we are in the middle of a spiritual warfare, who’s commander, satan, has one purpose in mind, and that is to populate hell with the souls of men and women.

2 Peter 3:9 says; *“9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward [a]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Jesus also says this about Himself in **John 3:16-18**; *“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

God has not left you without a salvation plan. It doesn’t matter how sick you are on a sickbed, if you call upon the name of the Lord, confess your sins you will be saved. It doesn’t matter what the doctors are saying or not

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saying just to keep you in peace, it's not the time to be taking it easy or being lax about your spiritual welfare. God wants you to spend eternity in heaven with Him.

Again, a good question today to ask yourself today is, "are you rich towards God? Is your # 1 goal as a Christian to build the body of Christ, the Church, and save the souls of men and women or have you become worldly and are like the man in the parable whom Jesus calls a fool who was rich towards himself and not rich towards God?"

Here is another throwback by Carman entitled; "[People of God](#)" from the Mission 3:16 Album of 1998.

To learn more about the Holy Spirit, please click on the link on the website to the Holy Spirit Power Series.