

**The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 26 ~ Worldly Demonic Wisdom or Heavenly Wisdom?  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, we suggest that you click on the link above to read the short **Letter 26**, for today's Illustrated Message, which will help you understand the following message.

I'd like to read what [LitCharts](#) says in summary for this Letter. "*Screwtape tells Wormwood that courtship is the time during which the "seeds" of resentment are sown. During courtship, couples think that they've solved their problems with love, when, in reality, they've only hidden these problems from view for a short time. Analysis: Here Lewis clarifies his theory of love. One issue with romantic love is that it's seen as the solution to all human problems, when on the contrary, it just distracts people from their problems. Then when the emotion of romance wears off, the problems return.*"

Now, this is coming from C.S. Lewis and not necessarily from the Lord, but there is a lot of truth about it. Problems are covered up by the buzz of love that you experience in courtship, but those covered up things in life come out into the open later on down the road, maybe even 10-15 years later. But they do come out, because they have to be dealt with.

We read in **Philippians 2:1-4** the following; "*2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*"

Christ, the love giver lives inside you Christian, therefore, you are without excuse to be able to fulfill what this scripture says about loving your spouse and loving your brothers and sisters in Christ.

It appears that Screwtape wants the new couple to not walk in the Holy Spirit towards one another, but rather base their relationship upon secular, worldly understanding of what love is, and as a result, will produce the works of the flesh instead of the fruit of the Spirit in their future marriage relationship which will spill over into their social gatherings and every area of their lives.

**Ephesians 5:22-33** talks about marriage, Christ and the Church; "*22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*"

You can imagine that the Canadian Civil Liberties Union and the Women's Rights movement would not agree at all with this scripture. Men, you have the responsibility to wash your wives with the Word of God, and you'll be held accountable to Jesus if you haven't.

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We Christians are the Bride of Christ, and a day is coming when we will be united with Him in marriage, and this is why we are to sanctify and cleanse ourselves with the washing of God's Word found in the Holy Bible so that we will be ready for that day.

You don't want to be left behind after the rapture of the church to go through the seven-year tribulation, where you won't be able to buy, sell or trade without the mark of the beast. If you want to follow Jesus during that time, you'll more than likely have to give up your life, and as Revelation 20:4 says, be beheaded for serving Jesus. But you will get your head and body back later in your glorified body. If you find yourself living during that time, whatever you do, don't take the mark, but let your head rule.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** says; *"13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

Jesus comes for the dead Christians first, then if you're alive at the time, you'll be snatched away with Him in the clouds! All that you value in life now will be left behind; money, homes, possessions, vehicles, clothing, jewellery etc., and the government or thieves will pillage it and take it all. We'll be changed though, with a new glorified body, and be with Jesus in heaven then for seven years, delivered from the wrath of God that will be poured out on earth during those seven years of tribulation. Then, we the saints, come back with Jesus when He returns to rule and reign on the earth for one thousand years.

The saints in heaven right now that have died, they don't have their bodies, but they will when this happens. They are spirit beings, neither male nor female but just as the angels. If people think they have identity issues now, what will it be like then!

Many Christians today are living as though Christ is not coming back and they are not preparing themselves for that day, or the day of death, when they will have to give an account for their lives of how they lived as a Christian.

What Screwtape and Wormwood want to plant in the new couples' lives, is that it is not possible to unconditionally love each other after the honeymoons over and it's simply unrealistic to believe any other way of what the Bible teaches about love.

Screwtape says; *"Yes; courtship is the time for sowing those seeds which will grow up ten years later into domestic hatred. The enchantment of unsatisfied desire produces results which the humans can be made to mistake for the results of charity."*

If you're married, you can identify in one way or another how a lot of 'funk' that was covered up with the 'lovee, dovie, comfy, cozy, I love you unconditionally', emotion. And when attitudes surface after the emotion wears off, you need the Holy Spirit to minister to you. You might not have seen the problems when you were 'in love', but after being married for a time, you see things clearly as they resurface. But now, thanks be to God who gives us the understanding in His Word as to how to deal with the 'funk' as it comes up. It's the love of Christ in us which is unconditional.

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We've all heard that worldly secular term, "You have to look after #1, yourself, after all, how can you look after others if you can't look after yourself." This is the exact opposite of what being a Christian is about, and it is worldly wisdom that is demonic in origin.

**James 3:13-18** talks about heavenly verses demonic wisdom; *"13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and [a]self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*

This kind of pure wisdom is what you want in your marriage, with your children, with church fellowship, and with those who you work with. You need supernatural wisdom to keep your marriage together when the devil wants to destroy it. You want to be built on the rock so that when the storms come, you'll be able to stand. Build your marriage on the rock of Jesus.

Regardless of how the world, the flesh and the devil say that men are just wired differently from women, and that true love is a lie that reveals its true colours after reality sets in, the Bible makes it clear we are not to be governed by this demonic wisdom but rather by heavenly wisdom.

When it comes to marriages, family and relationships, we are to be governed by heavenly wisdom that is only found in the Bible, and this is why it is so important to be sanctified and washed by the Word of God on a continuous basis. Sanctification, which in many churches has been removed from the pulpit, is something that you work at every day. In fact, sanctification often comes as a precursor before the baptism on the Holy Spirit. It is so important to be sanctified and washed by is the Word of God on a continuous basis. You're using the Word of God to wash away those areas of your life that we call sin. You're cleansing yourself with God's Word. You're not cleansing yourself with worldly wisdom.

Secular, worldly and demonic wisdom, are trying to remove the Word of God, which is heavenly wisdom, from Christians in the Church, and in whatever secular setting they are involved in outside of it. Many times, it comes in by motivational speakers, in fact that's what the majority of preachers look and sound like today; motivational speakers. The Word of God is gone.

**Psalms 1:1-6** shows the blessing of sanctifying yourself with God's Word, and how the blessing will overtake you. It says; *"1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish."*

This scripture shows that the blessings are conditional; conditional if you're righteous or unrighteous. I'd encourage you to turn on the Word of God on in your home or vehicle and meditate on it and turn off the secular news. Turn off the Covid-19 news and replace it with the Word of God and let the Word cleanse you, prosper you and bless you. We know too that with the blessings comes persecutions according to Mark 10:30. Probably a lot of that persecution comes from being blessed. The devil doesn't like to see the saints blessed and prosper because he doesn't like to see the gospel prosper.

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We continue with what Screwtape says; *“A woman means by Unselfishness chiefly taking trouble for others; a man means not giving trouble to others. As a result, a woman who is quite far gone in the Enemy's service will make a nuisance of herself on a larger scale than any man except those whom Our Father has dominated completely; and, conversely, a man will live long in the Enemy's camp before he undertakes as much spontaneous work to please others as a quite ordinary woman may do every day. Thus while the woman thinks of doing good offices and the man of respecting other people's rights, each sex, without any obvious unreason, can and does regard the other as radically selfish.”*

If Christian's relationships are not governed by God's Word, the general outcome is to focus on the works of the flesh in others and not the fruits of the Holy Spirit operating in their lives. As Christians, our relationships, be it friendships, courtships, marriages, etc., are not to be conformed to this world, but rather be conformed to God's Word, the Holy Bible.

**Galatians 5:16-26** says; *“16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

According to this, if you're willingly and willfully walking in these fleshly practices, you won't be going to heaven. No matter how secure you say you are, you're not. I don't believe in eternal security. Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ, except you and your decision making, your thoughts and actions. Jesus took stripes on His back, nails in His hands, and shed His blood so that I wouldn't have to spend eternity in hell. He did it all, we have to do our part. It's not how you start the race but how you finish it. All the more reason to mortify the things of the flesh and replace it with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

As Christian's we can't buy into the lie that says; because we are so heavenly minded, we are no earthly good. It's the exact opposite, for when you are heavenly minded, you are always meditating in God's Word and as a result as we read in **Psalm 1**; *“...2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he [a]meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”*

If you face persecutions because of being heavenly minded, forgive them and forget. I don't mind people saying; 'your feet aren't on the ground, son' or 'your heads in the clouds', or 'you're not being realistic, don't you know you have a job to do'.

I'm convinced that regardless of how much men and women are wired differently, how different their personalities are, how differently they operate, it does not alter the power of the Word of God that will always prevail over the works of the flesh when adhered to and obeyed. So Christian, if you want a successful courtship and marriage, it can only be found in sanctification and the washing of Gods Word, the Holy Bible.

Men, when was the last time you read the Word of God over your wife on a regular basis and not allow anything to get in the way with it? Wash her with the Word, if you can't be there to do it for her, put the Word on for her in the morning, but wash her with the Word. If you see she's struggling in an area, look for the scriptures in the Bible and wash her with that Word.

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We are living in a time that Christian relationships, on whatever level, are being tried by secular, demonic wisdom that have one purpose in the end; which is to get the Christians to backslide, become a lover of self and become part of what the Bible says to be the great falling away from the Christian faith, and to ultimately lose their salvation in the end.

The devil's agenda is not to just destroy relationships that lead to Christian marriage and or relationships with family, friends, and associates in the Church, but to destroy the Bride of Christ, the church from an eternal relationship with Jesus.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** talks about the great apostasy; *“2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

It's very important to examine your heart today and see if you have been adhering to worldly, demonic wisdom instead heavenly wisdom that is found in the Bible alone. Christian, you have to protect your relationship with Jesus and be ready for the day that you die and are judged by Him, as well as you need to be ready for Him to return at any time and rapture you and the Church, the Bride of Christ away. You need to choose to be heavenly minded today, regardless of the circumstances, and choose what the Holy Bible has to say and not what worldly, demonic wisdom dictates.

The stage is being set for the anti-Christ, getting you groomed and ready with socialism, so that they can slip it in down the road. It will be easy for people to take the mark of the beast just like has been with many to take this vaccination, as they've been good now to yield to public and peer pressure, they'll be good then to surrender their wills.

**1 Corinthians 3:18-23** says; *“18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; 20 and again, “The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” 21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.”*

So, you have the comfort and assurance of salvation, but you can slip into worldly wisdom that can cost you eternal life, can separate you from God for eternity, and can lead you down a road of destruction. Examine your hearts today where you're allowing worldly wisdom to creep in. See where the demonic wisdom has entered your ear-gate somewhere, where demonic wisdom has gotten into your head with false teaching. Rewire the board, your mind today, with God's word. The devil is a liar, and as the song goes, 'liar, liar, your pants are on fire, they're hanging from the telephone wire'. Don't buy into his lies. Let's submit ourselves to God's Word as

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the standard that we're to live for. When lies come up, get into the Word, find out what is truth. If you think things are far-out coming from the pulpit, get into the Word and show me, I'm open, but above all, avoid worldly wisdom.

The Bible makes it clear, that God blessed Solomon with wisdom in how to go out and how to come in. God can and will give you this wisdom today but by the person of the Holy Spirit, who is wiser than Solomon. He'll give you wisdom as to how to go out and come in, through His Word. You might need to soak in His word for a long time, just to wash away false teaching.

There is a heart cry of the Holy Spirit for holiness, it's not legalism, it's not even in ones appearance, it's not in how you dress or how you talk or walk, it's not about what you drive or what you don't drive, how hip and cool you are in the pulpit, how fashionable you are or aren't. It has nothing to do with image, but has everything to do with obeying the Word. That's what's going to make you holy today. The Holy Spirit came to live inside you and He will continue to sanctify you by the Word. Give us a heart to be holy, to obey your Word, because your Word says that without holiness no man shall see God.