

The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 22 ~ Bride-to-be of Christ
May 2nd, 2021

Before reading the following overview of this Letter, we suggest that you click on the link above to read the short **Letter 22**, for today's Illustrated Message, which will help you understand the following message.

In this Letter, it seems like Screwtape is going to extra lengths to complain about and be irritated at the woman who has come into the Patient's life, the woman of noble character.

Screwtape says of the Patient: *“So! Your man is in love--and in the worst kind he could possibly have fallen into--and with a girl who does not even appear in the report you sent me. I have looked up this girl's dossier and am horrified at what I find. Not only a Christian but such a Christian--a vile, sneaking, simpering, demure, monosyllabic, mouse-like, watery, insignificant, virginal, bread-and-butter miss. The little brute. She makes me vomit. She stinks and scalds through the very pages of the dossier. It drives me mad, the way the world has worsened.”*

When Adam and Eve were questioned by God after they ate the forbidden fruit, He then makes an interesting statement to the serpent, the devil, which reads as follows in **Genesis 3:13-15**; *“13 The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

There is quite huge difference between the children of Christ and the children of the devil, and it can clearly be seen by the actions of those who are not born-again of His Spirit towards those who are born-again. This goes beyond enmity with the women Eve, but with her seed which includes the saints of the Old Testament. It is specifically talking of Christ, who would by His death on the cross, reconcile to God those saints who died and went to Abraham's bosom, as well as those who became Christians by becoming born-again of His Spirit.

Galatians 3:13-18 says; *“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”), 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”*

Colossians 2:11-15 also says; *“11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body [a]of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the [b]handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

Jesus has given those who choose to become born-again of His Spirit, the opportunity to be reconciled to God and become children of God, where as before they were children of the devil who were living under a curse that began when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and believed the lie that the devil told them thru the serpent. We are

not to be surprised at the division with unbelieving family members and acquaintances that occurs when a person becomes a Christian, because Jesus speaks clearly about this in the following verses.

Matthew 10:34-38; “34 *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set[a] a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”*

John 15:18-19; “18 *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”*

In this Letter, it appears that Screwtape is singling out the Christian woman, and is attacking her morals found in her Christian faith which reveals the enmity that Satan has with the Bride of Christ, the Church body, who Jesus is coming back for any time now. It’s beyond the Christian family being established, but rather it’s the promotion of the Gospel that reconciles fallen mankind to God thru body of Christ, the church, that the devil is attacking.

Ephesians 5:22-32 talks about marriage saying; “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 [a]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, [b]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.”*

The devil, Screwtape, is attacking the woman in this Letter, but really, he’s attacking the church behind the woman. It’s a type and a shadow of Christ, the seed that was born to a virgin thousands of years later.

Screwtape says of the Patient: “*Then, of course, he gets to know this woman's family and whole circle. Could you not see that the very house she lives in is one that he ought never to have entered? The whole place reeks of that deadly odour. The very gardener, though he has only been there five years, is beginning to acquire it. Even guests, after a week-end visit, carry some of the smell away with them.*”

It would almost sound like a visit to the local church and more than just a family gathering. **2 Corinthians 2:15-16** says; “*For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life...*”

This is a type and shadow, with the Patient and woman coming together, because what’s birthed out of it is a Godly family, with Godly morals and principals, church going and God-fearing people.

What Screwtape is saying is that the Gospel, the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the eternal life found in the person of the Holy Spirit that is preached in this Christian home, and the moral values that are being lived out; are a deadly odour. The attacks on Christian morals that stem from the result of becoming born again of His

Holy Spirit are at an all-time high right now, because the devil knows his time is short and that Jesus can return at any time now and rapture His Bride to be with Him in Heaven.

No wonder there is such an attack on the body of Christ at this time. The attack that Screwtape is making on the woman goes beyond her, it's typology of him attacking her seed, which ultimately brought forth the Christ-child, which bruised his head. So this Letter goes beyond the hatred of the Christian woman, the devil is attacking and loathing Jesus, His body the believers, the bride of Christ. The devil has nothing good to say about the woman, but everything he's saying about her he's saying about the Church.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 talks about the comfort of Christ's return to rapture His Bride and this is what the devil despises; *"13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen [a]sleep, 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 [b]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 [c]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."*

This catching away, is what the devil would like the Christian to lose out on, and be left behind to face the trials that are coming on the whole world during the seven years of tribulation. This is why there is such an attack on the Christian church and why there is such a great falling away from the Christian faith taking place like never before. The following scripture shows that a Christian can backslide to a place of no return.

Hebrews 6:4-6 says; *"4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 [a]if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."*

2 Peter 2:20-22 also says; *"20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*

Screwtape goes on to boast on one of his weapons called noise, which he uses to distract people with; *"Music and silence--how I detest them both! How thankful we should be that ever since our Father entered Hell--though longer ago than humans, reckoning in light years, could express--no square inch of infernal space and no moment of infernal time has been surrendered to either of those abominable forces, but all has been occupied by Noise."*

We are living in a time where social and mainstream media is trying so hard to drown out any and all Christian family morals founded in Christianity, and replace them with a secular anti-Christian socialistic agenda that is rooted in Communism. The media for the most part, is a loud noise of lies that is ramping up like never before and propagating antichrist ideology, that in the end, will persecute the Bride of Christ, who does not bow their knee to them and embrace secular humanism as God.

We have to remember what it says about Jesus being the light of the world. It's going to get darker as the day's progress, but Christians will get brighter. The sermons will get brighter and louder in the midst of darkness. The

devil thinks he's using all the news and media to drown out the voice of the Christian, but the more he does, he causes the voice of the Christian to be amplified. The harder he tries to suppress the voice of the Christian, the louder the voice of Christians are heard. The devil cannot stop the church growing, try as he may, he never has and he never will.

Jesus says in **John 1:1-5**; *"1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word ([a]Christ), and the Word was with God, and [b]the Word was God Himself. 2 He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God. 3 All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. 4 In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines on in the [c]darkness, and the darkness did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it]."*

Jesus also says in **John 8:12**; *"12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

1 Peter 2:9 says; *"9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"*

The hatred for Christian family values and morals is not going away, but rather is here to stay so long as the god of this world, satan, is ruling and reigning, but that is not to say that Christians are to stop raising Godly families with Christian morals and stop attending Church. It's time to stand up and prepare themselves as the bride-to-be of Christ; spotless, without blemish, and be ready for His return to take them home, be it dead in the grave or alive, Christ is coming to take them to a new home that He has prepared for them.

This is what the devil is lividly mad about, it's not so much the Christian woman but rather the Godly morals, values, homes, church going and in at the end being prepared as the bride of Christ to go to heaven. He's looking beyond this woman and is seeing the Church.

Jesus says in **John 14:1-6**; *"14 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many [a]mansions; if it were not so, [b]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

This separates Christianity from all other religions. Jesus here proclaims Himself to be the only way to heaven and that's why the Church is persecuted so hard.

From the time of Adam and Eve's fall until now, there has been enmity between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light as we read in **Genesis 3:15** where satan, the serpent is cursed; *"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Jesus says in **Matthew 5:10-12**; *"10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

We see this persecution growing now more than ever as we see it in the most conservative countries, States and Provinces, places which 100 years ago was unthinkable is now on the daily news. But as a Christian, you are blessed and are to rejoice because your reward is in heaven as the bride of Christ, to be with Him forever!