

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

The Screwtape Letters ~ Letter 7

Patriots, Pacifists, and Conscientious Objectors of the Kingdom of Heaven?

November 8th, 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 7**.

Let's read the overview of Letter 7 from [Sparknotes](#); *"Screwtape reminds Wormwood that the present policy of Hell's High Command is for devils to keep themselves concealed and invisible. This, he says, was not always the case, but it helps to make humans skeptics. One day, Screwtape hopes, people will worship the "forces" of science without believing in invisible "spirits." The modern image of devils as comical figures, Screwtape writes, will keep the Patient skeptical and, ultimately, help Wormwood corrupt him. Next, Screwtape considers whether to make the Patient a patriot or a pacifist. Except extreme devotion to God, he writes, all extremes are good for their cause. Because the Patient is afraid of the war, Screwtape recommends Wormwood try to make him a pacifist. The Patient may feel himself a coward, and, hopefully, become a hypocrite. But, if Wormwood decides to push patriotism, the objective is the same to make the Patient think his cause is religious. As long as pamphlets and earthly causes mean more to the Patient than prayers and true charity.*

Screwtape says: *"I wonder you should ask me whether it is essential to keep the patient in ignorance of your own existence. That question, at least for the present phase of the struggle, has been answered for us by the High Command. Our policy, for the moment, is to conceal ourselves."*

We've heard it said by Christians that they're, 'going in stealth', that, 'they don't know that I'm a Christian but will see by my example', and that, 'I'm not a Bible thumper, I let my light shine before men that they might see my good works and glorify God'. I'd ask you, what's the problem with being a Bible thumper? People will not get saved by your good works. They'll get saved by you preaching the gospel and giving them the understanding that they need to be born again. Are you ashamed of carrying around your Bible? It's a good question to ask yourself today.

Are you one of those '007' or 'stealth' Christians? You know from what we've read is that the devil goes '007', and will plant the seed of compromise in you to not preach the gospel, but have you totally rely on your good works to be a witness. Good works can't save a soul. Only the gospel of Jesus being preached can save souls, then your good works will come in play and then they'll glorify your Father. They'll know you're a Christian because you've preached the gospel to them. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and when preached to the unsaved, will pierce their heart causing them to reason right from wrong and expose the sin in their lives so they can repent. This won't happen by them just observing your good works.

You see, the devil doesn't want you to believe he's real, he wants to keep you ignorant of his existence.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** says; *"13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*

In times spiritual warfare, satan transforms himself into an angel of light, with the intent of causing Christians to believe false teaching and remain as children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

The Apostle Paul says this in **Ephesians 4:11-16** when talking about the ministries of the Holy Spirit; *"11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [a]edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature*

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

*of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

What we read is the example of the body of Christ, which as a Christian, you must be a part of. But the devil wants to keep you out of the body, the church. That’s also why he wants to keep you in ‘stealth’ or ‘007’ or ‘under the radar’, by attending the church of me, myself and I. But it’s clear from what Paul says that you need to be knit together with other Christians as the body of Christ, in church.

Screwtape says; *“If once we can produce our perfect work--the Materialist Magician, the man, not using, but veritably worshipping, what he vaguely calls "Forces" while denying the existence of "spirits"--then the end of the war will be in sight.”*

So long as demons can keep a Christian from operating in the Gifts of the Spirit, in exchange for the worship of creation and science, and deny the existence of demonic spirits, the spiritual warfare for their soul is over and they become what Screwtape calls, the Materialist Magician; or what the Bible describes as worshippers of creation.

We read about that in **Romans 1:18-25**; *“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who [a]suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is [b]manifest [c]in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and [d]Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like [e]corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

Screwtape says; *“The fact that "devils" are predominantly comic figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that (it is an old textbook method of confusing them) he therefore cannot believe in you.”*

If demons can keep you in the dark about their existence, you are going to believe one Bible doctrine today and another tomorrow, and there will be no stability to sound biblical doctrine. Keep in mind, it doesn’t matter to the demons whether you are a patriot or a pacifist in regards to spiritual warfare in the Kingdom of Heaven, because so long as they have removed the belief of them or of their existence out of a Christians life, the only thing left is an individual who’s easily swayed to not believe doctrines of demons.

Screwtape says; *“I had not forgotten my promise to consider whether we should make the patient an extreme patriot or an extreme pacifist. All extremes, except extreme devotion to the Enemy, are to be encouraged. Not always, of course, but at this period. Some ages are lukewarm and complacent, and then it is our business to soothe them yet faster asleep.”*

There are many patriotic Christians who have extreme devotion and vigorous support with regards to the Kingdom of Heaven, and yet at the same time are believing in doctrines of demons created by false teachers. Patriotic, yet deceived. Deceived when it comes to spiritual warfare.

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

There are also pacifist Christians who believe that spiritual warfare is unjustifiable and not necessary in regards to the Kingdom of Heaven and also believe in doctrines demons created by false teachers.

Whether a Christian believes in spiritual warfare or not, it will not change the future Apostasy that's coming on the Church. Now is not the time to be believing in false doctrines.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2** says; “*4 Now the Spirit [a]expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.*”

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** also says; “*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 [a]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 [b]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 [c]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 [d]mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only [e]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.”*

What condemned them? They didn't believe the truth and had pleasure in unrighteousness. I think it's important to realize that we are in the end of days, and Jesus is going to be returning soon to rapture His Church before the antichrist is revealed. Now is no the time to believe in doctrines of demons.

It's obvious with all that is going on right now in our world events that the stage is being set up for the lawless one. Again, **vs. 11-12** says; “*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.*”

Now is not the time to not believe the truth found in sound Bible doctrines nor to take pleasure in unrighteousness, for this will only lead to coming under a strong delusion sent by God and end up believing a lie.

In our present day, the demons are setting the stage for the lawless one, and if you notice that there has been a great falling away taking place in regards to Church attendance, and is being replaced with the worship of creation (especially on Sundays or church ministry days) and more focus on radio and TV churches, than congregating in a local church fellowship setting. It's just a matter of time that Christian media will be removed and replaced with Antichrist agendas and what was once freedom of religion, will be replaced with state churches.

Screwtape says; “*We want the Church to be small not only that fewer men may know the Enemy but also that those who do may acquire the uneasy intensity and the defensive self-rightousness of a secret society or a clique. The Church herself is, of course, heavily defended and we have never yet quite succeeded in giving her all the characteristics of a faction; but subordinate factions within her have often produced admirable results, from the parties of Paul and of Apollos at Corinth down to the High and Low parties in the Church of England.*”

Demons have no qualms with the Church of Me, Myself and I (Christians who would rather listen to radio and TV preachers than be part of a local Church fellowship), simply because he knows it's just a matter of time and

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

the plug will be pulled. That is already happening now where Christians who are on social media are being monitored, censored and deleted. It will eventually be replaced with the Antichrist agendas.

We are in a spiritual war, and now is not the time to be a conscientious objector in the Church by rejecting sound doctrine in exchange for doctrines of demons.

Jesus says in **Mark 8:34-38**; “*34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*”

A lot of Christians halt at this point because of the cost of discipleship and will consciously object to it, yet will embrace false doctrines that won’t cost them anything.

Jesus experienced this when the majority of His disciples left Him after He taught the following in **John 6:53-65**; “*53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is [a]food indeed, and My blood is [b]drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a [c]hard saying; who can understand it?” 61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples [d]complained about this, He said to them, “Does this [e]offend you? 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”*”

Jesus is talking about communion, the Eucharist. So, if you’re rejecting communion, the breaking of bread which symbolizes Jesus’ body and the drinking of wine which symbolizes Jesus’ blood; in exchange for the church of me, myself and I; you’re offended with Jesus, just as these disciples who left Him were. Communion, or the Eucharist is celebrated whenever two or three are gathered together in Jesus’ name, gathered together in Church. The Father called you to be a part of the body of Christ, you didn’t call Him.

Screwtape says; “*Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your man, and it makes very little difference what kind of worldly end he is pursuing. Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades, matter more to him than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours--and the more "religious" (on those terms) the more securely ours. I could show you a pretty cageful down here.*”

Protestant sacraments are water baptism and the Eucharist or communion. I’d like to present you with a few questions in closing. Do you believe in demons? When it comes to spiritual warfare with demons, are you a patriot or a pacifist for the Kingdom of Heaven? Do you believe in doctrines of demons in the Church? Are you a conscientious objector of Christ’s requirements of you as a Christian? What matters more to you today; religious meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades or prayers, sacraments (water baptism and the Lord’s supper) and charity? If you died today are you safe in God’s House in Heaven or Satan’s House in Hell?

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

Jesus says in **John 14:1-3** that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; “*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.”*

For more teaching on the Holy Spirit, His gifts and manifestations, please go to The Holy Spirit Power Series on our website.