



C.S. Lewis and Christian Apologetics with Dr. David Schenk

Lecture 1: C.S. Lewis,
An Excellent Thinker &
An Excellent Writer

Outline:

C.S. Lewis, An Excellent Thinker and An Excellent Writer

- His own natural mode of thinking and speaking is verbose, technical, and dense.
- He worked hard to make everything he wanted to say as clear as possible to his audience.
- In *The Screwtape Letters* and *Mere Christianity*, he used hardly any academic jargon. He kept it plain, simple, and straightforward.

Dedication to Lucy Barfield at the very beginning of *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*

- This dedication has not a single fancy word in it.
- Someday you'll be old enough to start reading fairy tales again. Someday you'll read them, and stop caring what other people think.
- We become more concerned with beauty for beauty's sake.
- C.S. Lewis made himself think through philosophical propositions.

The Screwtape Letters

- The devil cannot endure to be mocked (Luther quote paraphrase).
- This writing was spiritually draining for Lewis.
- Three main characters:
 - Screwtape
 - Screwtape's nephew Wormwood
 - And The Patient
- Screwtape helps Wormwood to succeed in assignments to tempt humans and bring them into Hell.
- In the first few pages, Lewis sees us clearly. He sees humanity clearly.
- If you want to carry out the Great Commission, you start with where they live. Who they are is in what they do when no one is looking. Don't start with arguments. Don't give them jargon. Speak plainly. Reach them with what they really do care about.