



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

### Lecture 2: The Screwtape Letters, Part 1

#### Outline:

##### C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

- Screwtape knows what he is doing. We are accustomed to thinking that we are rational and honest, and that the people who disagree with us are not.
- Intellectual honesty is dead and has been replaced by ideology.
- Screwtape is giving Wormwood advice to ridicule (not reason with) the question. Keep a person following their impulses and following their emotions.
  - Don't let the Patient's rational faculties wake up.
- The level of formality in address (holding one's real self back) is a way to hide yourself from someone. Hell uses some of the same words that Heaven uses. The word affection is an entirely different proposition between the two domains.
- In Letter 2, Wormwood's Patient has changed his mind and become Christian. Wormwood failed to distract the Patient away from reason and argument.
- The devils of Hell are obsessed with being proper, formal and polite.
  - Hell is alienation from other people, where all you care about is yourself.
- Throughout the letters is a progressive decay of Wormwood's efforts towards tempting the Patient into damnation.
- There is a letter in which Screwtape reveals himself to the reader and Wormwood.
- There is a letter that deals with time (Letter 21).
  - If Christianity were all true, it would make the whole thing a lot more scary, serious, and intimidating to our own personal goals.
  - If you make what you are saying something that comforts them, any habitual atheist is not going to buy it.