

C. S. LEWIS

(1898-1963)

Saturday, April 18

Reading: Acts 26

Clive Staples Lewis¹ did not believe in God! As a child he watched his mother die of cancer. This caused Lewis to view God as cruel – if He existed at all. By his teens, he concluded that God did not exist and abandoned any belief in Christianity.

C.S. Lewis loved to read and write. He would graduate from Oxford University with a degree in English literature. He loved to study Greek, Roman, Norse, and Irish mythology. After graduation, Lewis served briefly in the British army during World War I before returning to Oxford as a professor at Magdalene College, which was part of the Oxford system. Lewis was a voracious reader and was impressed by the writings of G.K. Chesterton and George MacDonald. These men were both brilliant scholars and authors who wrote from a Christian perspective. God used these writings to challenge Lewis' worldview. Discussions with his friend and fellow Oxford professor J.R.R. Tolkien (author of *The Lord of the Rings*) also began to chip away at his atheism until he finally surrendered to the truth. He later wrote:

“You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”²

Not long after this, Lewis accepted the truth that Jesus is the Son of God. This changed his life. He had already published several works but now his writing would be focused on his new faith. C.S. Lewis was that rare scholar who could write on a level the ordinary person could understand. During World War II, he made a series of radio broadcasts on the BBC to comfort the British public during the frequent air raids. These talks would later become the book *Mere Christianity* which explains and defends his Christian faith.

Though he wrote over 30 books, C.S. Lewis is most remembered for his fantasy series *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Began almost 20 years after his conversion, these fantasy stories follow the adventures of various children in the mythical land of Narnia. The chief character in the books is Aslan, the great lion who is the creator and true king of Narnia. Aslan is Lewis' representation of Jesus in the stories. This is most evident when reading the first book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* where Aslan sacrifices himself to save Edmund, is killed, and then comes back to life. For a full list of C.S. Lewis books, go to <https://www.cslewis.com/us/books/>

Who influenced you to believe in Jesus? How can you help someone else come to faith in Christ?

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis
<https://www.cslewis.com/us/about-cs-lewis/>

Alton Gansky. 60 People Who Shaped the Church, “C.S. Lewis”, p. 294-298

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis#Return_to_ChristianityFriday, April 17