



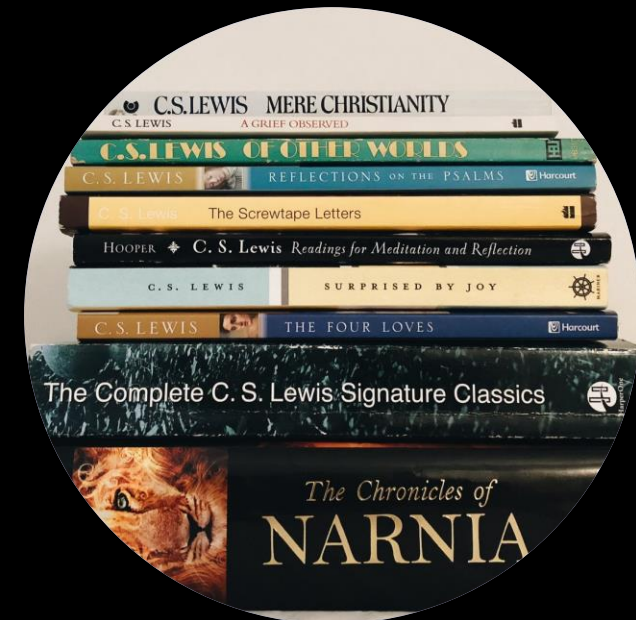
Mere Christianity

Pastor Michael Cranford

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Schedule

- Oct 22 Worldview; Book 1
- Oct 29 Book 2: What Christians Believe
- Nov 5 BREAK (Mission Sunday)
- Nov 12 Book 3
- Nov 19 BREAK (Thanksgiving, In-N-Out)
- Nov 26 Book 4(a)
- Dec 3 Book 4(b)



Mere Christianity:

Book 3: Christian Behavior

Mere Christianity: Book 3

I. The Three Parts of Morality

- a) Fair play and harmony between individuals
- b) A harmonious balance within oneself (i.e., my life working well)
- c) The alignment of our lives with the purpose we were made for

“Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever.” (74)

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2. The “Cardinal Virtues”

- a) Prudence
- b) Temperance
- c) Justice
- d) Fortitude

“We might think that God wanted simply obedience to a set of rules: whereas He really wants people of a particular sort.” (80)



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3. Social Morality

“Each of us would like some bits of [a Christian society] but I am afraid very few of us would like the whole thing. That is just what one would expect if Christianity is the total plan for the human machine.” (84-85)



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4. Morality and Psychoanalysis

“...psychoanalysis cannot do anything about it. However much you improve the man’s raw material, you have still got something else: the real, free choice of the man, on the material presented to him, either to put his own advantage first or to put it last.” (90-91)



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5. Sexual Morality

“The Christian rule is, ‘Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.’ Now this is so difficult and so contrary to our instincts, that obviously Christianity is wrong or our sexual instinct, as it now is, has gone wrong. One or the other.” (95)



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6. Christian Marriage

“Love in this second sense—love as distinct from ‘being in love’—is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God.” (109)



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7. Forgiveness

“...He has gives us the sum already worked out in our own case to show us how it works. We have then to go on and apply the rule to all the other selves. Perhaps it makes it easier if we remember that that is how He loves us. Not for any nice, attractive qualities we think we have, but just because we are the things called selves.” (109)



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8. The Great Sin

“As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.” (124)



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9. Charity

“Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.” (131)



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10. Hope

“The Christian says, ‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists... If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that I was made for another world.’ (136-7)



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11-12. Faith

“...handing everything over to Christ does not, of course, mean that you stop trying. To trust him means, of course, trying to do everything He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him.” (147)

