

# C.S. Lewis' Case for Christ

Mere Theology (by Will Vaus)

Case for Christ (by Art Lindsley)

Mere Christianity (by C.S. Lewis)



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# Outline

- Who was C.S. Lewis ?
- What were his obstacles to faith in Christ?
- How did he overcome these obstacles?
- What was his case for Christ?
- Is Christianity coherent?
  - Just a psychological crutch?
  - The only way or one of many paths?
  - Is Jesus God or just a good, moral teacher ?



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Clive Staples Lewis ("Jack")



Magdalen College



Holy Trinity Church



Jack's Typewriter



University Church (Oxford)







The Kiln's



Addison's Walk



Joy Davidman Lewis

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MY BROTHER

CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS

BORN BELFAST 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1898

DIED IN THIS PARISH

22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 1963

*MEN MUST ENDURE THEIR GOING HENCE.*

WARREN HAMILTON LEWIS

MAJOR-ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

BORN BELFAST 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1895

DIED IN THIS PARISH

9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1973



“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”



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- Difficulties with prayer



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- Early pain over the loss of his mother
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- Tension between reason and imagination
- Disbelief in miracles



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# The Problem of Evil



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- Evil: an argument against God's existence? or



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- Evil: an argument against God's existence? or
- Evil: an argument for God's existence !



# The Problem of Evil

- Evil: an argument against God's existence? or
- Evil: an argument for God's existence !
- Why does evil exist?
  - Free Will
  - Natural Law
  - Soul Making



# Christianity is a Myth



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- “All religions (mythologies) are merely man’s invention.” (Lewis)
- “All myths are lies!” (Lewis)
- “No they are not !!” (Tolkien)
- “The gospel is the best ‘eucatastrophe’ in history!” (Tolkien)



# Miracles



# Miracles

- Naturalism self-destructs



# Miracles

- Naturalism self-destructs
- Three common objections to miracles
  - They are impossible
  - They are improbable
  - They are inappropriate



# C·S· LEWIS INSTITUTE

*Discipleship of Heart and Mind*

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## Offerings:

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# C.S. Lewis Case for Christ

- Argument from Longing
- Argument from Morality
- Argument from Reason
  
- Argument from Christ



**Theism is True!**



**Christianity is True!**



# Argument from Longing





# Argument from Longing

- “Being hungry doesn’t prove that one will get food, it does prove that there is such a thing as food.”



# Argument from Longing

- “Being hungry doesn’t prove that one will get food, it does prove that there is such a thing as food.”
- “If we are really the products of a materialistic universe, how is it we don’t feel at home in it? “



# Argument from Morality



# Argument from Morality

- Everyday existence demonstrates there is an ultimate right/wrong



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- Right/wrong is not merely instinct



# Argument from Morality

- Everyday existence demonstrates there is an ultimate right/wrong
- Right/wrong is not merely instinct
- Moral codes are universal:
  - “Law of Human Nature”



# Argument from Reason



# Argument from Reason

- Reason cannot be explained by naturalism





# Argument from Reason

- Reason cannot be explained by naturalism
- Reason can only come from outside of nature



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“If there is no meaning to the universe, we should never have found out.”



# Argument from Christ



# Argument from Christ

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  - “self refuting”



# Argument from Christ

- Atheistic Materialism ?
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# Argument from Christ

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- Pantheism ?
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- Modernist Christianity ?
  - “too simplistic”
- Dualism ?
  - “self refuting”
- Christianity ?
  - “makes full sense of the universe”





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# Psychological Crutch ?

## (Wish Fulfillment)

- Some things we wish for do exist
- Marx and Freud's theory is self-refuting
- Many religious beliefs are opposite of what we desire
- Disbelief in God is wish fulfillment



One of Many Paths to God ?



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- Christianity does not deny or ignore truth in other religions





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# One of Many Paths to God ?

- Christianity does not deny or ignore truth in other religions
- Atheism does reject the central truth in all other religions
- Which view is more narrow minded and arrogant?



# Jesus: God or Good Teacher ?



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If his claims are false and:



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If his claims are false and:

He did not know it ..... Lunatic;



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He did not know it ..... Lunatic;

He did know it..... Liar;

If his claims are true ..... Lord !

# Summary



# Lewis' Conclusion

- "I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

(C.S. Lewis)





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