# 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")



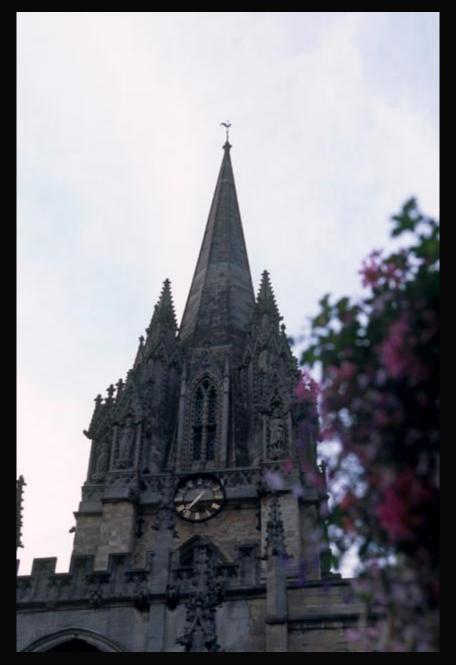
Magdalen College



Holy Trinity Church



Jack's Typewriter



University Church (Oxford)





The Kiln's



Addison's Walk



Joy Davidman Lewis

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

#### CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS

BORN BELFAST 29TH NOVEMBER 1898
DIED IN THIS PARISH
22ND NOVEMBER 1963

MEN MUST ENDURE THEIR COINC HENCE.

WARREN HAMILTON LEWIS

MADOR ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

BORN BELFAST 16TH JUNE 1895

DIED IN THIS PARISH

9TH 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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- The problem of evil in the world



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- Disbelief in miracles



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Evil: an argument against God's existence? or



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



- 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





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- "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

The mission of the CSLI is to develop disciples who can articulate, defend and live faith in Christ in public and personal life. Working in partnership with area churches, we train believers in disciplemaking, apologetics, and evangelism to serve Christ in their own congregations and in the marketplace.

#### Offerings:

Fellows Program
Conferences
Pastor's Fellowship
Publications
SJC Fellowship Groups



2009-2010 Annapolis Fellows

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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?"





 Everyday existence demonstrates there is an ultimate right/wrong



- Everyday existence demonstrates there is an ultimate right/wrong
- Right/wrong is not merely instinct.



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





Reason cannot be explained by naturalism



- 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."





- Atheistic Materialism ?
  - "self refuting"



- Atheistic Materialism ?
  - "self refuting"
- Pantheism ?
  - "nonsense"



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- Dualism ?
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- Christianity ?
  - "makes full sense of the universe"



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- 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





Christianity does not deny or ignore truth in other religions



- Christianity does not deny or ignore truth in other religions
- Atheism does reject the central truth in all other religions



- 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 claimed to be God incarnate:



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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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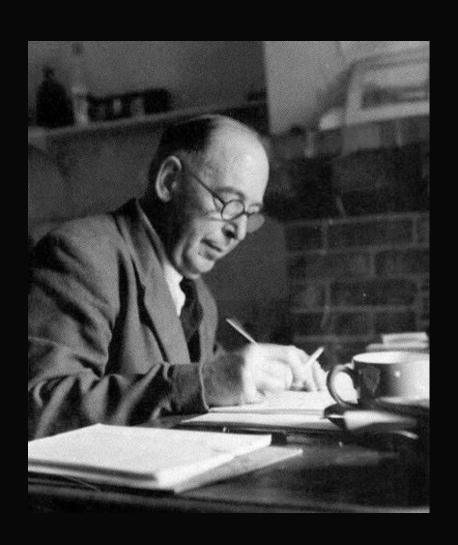
If his claims are false and:

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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