The Screwtape Letters (8)

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[0:00] This is a good thing for those of you who were not here last week. What I'd like to do is, if you'd bear with me, do some review from what we did last week.

We got a good bit of feedback about last week, and most of it, the vast majority of the feedback was that was either brand spanking new.
I'd never heard that in my life. And or, that was so helpful in my understanding of how spiritual warfare takes place in life as we get older and move through life.
So, what I'd like to do is go back to chapter 8, which I told you last week I would do a little bit of. We're basically just going to camp out there for the sake of the recording, because we didn't get to record any of it last week.
With Greg and them being gone. This week we're recording. So, I'm going to review in the first third or so, and I'll move rather quickly.
[1:10] Then I'll slow down, and we'll kind of rehearse some of these concepts together, because everything that we'll talk about tonight is foundational to the rest of the book.

It's foundational to the remainder of the ways that C.S. Lewis fleshes out, bears out spiritual warfare as Screwtape teaches Wormwood to work on this new Christian.
All right? That's what I would like to do. So, we'll have time for questions, too, and we'll kind of take this apart a little bit. And then, God willing, our plan is to go more into chapters 9 and 10 next week. If you've already read that and you're prepared, don't despair. That's a good thing. You can either review that this week and be ready, God willing, the following Wednesday, or you can take a little time off this week because you're read up and ready to go, however you want to approach it.
All right? I hope that makes sense to you, but let's dive in and see where this goes. Now, I'm going to be real instructional for at least a little while, and then we're going to give you a number of scriptures as we draw it down.
[2:17] And then you'll be able to say, hey, what about this or what about that? All right? We'll start with our consistent takeaway, which is what we've talked about each week, just in the way of reminder, pleasing the Lord Jesus and understanding that Satan wants to thwart you in pleasing the Lord.

And here's the summary. This is the summary of letter 8. It's obvious that Screwtape is becoming increasingly annoyed with Wormwood's inexperience and naive enthusiasm.
Wormwood's hopes that his patient's religious phase is dying away are quickly dashed by Screwtape's explanation of the law of undulation, details of God's master plan for humans, and how those plans contrast to Satan's master plans.
Now, you may remember from last time, we were on page, in letter 8, page 37, and we were dealing with this particular aspect that I wanted to draw on, and we're going to come back and talk about how it relates to the context of what we think Lewis is saying.
But listen to this. In the second paragraph on page 37, humans are amphibians. That is, he's trying to say they're half this and half that.
[3:47] They're half spirit and they're half animal. The enemy's determination to produce such a revolting hybrid was one of the things that determined our father, Satan, to withdraw his support from him, God.

Now, of course, that's all kind of a speculative, creative way of thinking about Satan leaving heaven. We know the scripture tells us it was all about his own beauty and pride.
He wanted to be like God, which is the same lie that he sold to Adam and Eve. This will help you be like God. What they didn't accept was they were already as much like God as God wanted them to be.
There was no sin. So that was all deception. All right, so humans are amphibians, half spirit and half animal. Now, the question we asked from last time that launched us into all of this was this idea, are

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humans actually a higher form of animal species on the earth?
Are we half animal, quarter animal, part animal? Are we just all animal? We're just a higher form and functioning animal than the animals we see around.
[4:59] And we answered, absolutely not. That's evolutionary theory. Now, most of our world believes that we are higher forms of animals. Now, I don't believe that that is exactly the nuanced context of what Lewis meant when he wrote this.

We're going to come back to that and talk about what Lewis meant, which is, I think, where Suzanne and Dale were coming from last time. We'll talk about that. But I'm seizing this to say, many, if not most, of the people that you're going to deal with in the way of this idea of what humans are and how we're made up, they're going to come at it from the perspective of we're just one more animal species on the face of the earth.
And we want to deal with that. We want to talk about what does the Bible say is our makeup. All right? Let's see. I might want to read a little bit more.
Yeah, let's go a little bit further because we're going to come back to it and deal with it line by line. But if you go a little further with me on 37, as spirits, now he's talking about this two-aspect nature, half spirit, half animal.
As spirits, they belong to the eternal world. But as animals, they inhabit time. This means that while their spirit can be directed to an eternal object, their bodies, their passions, and their imaginations are in continual change.
[6:40] Why? For to be in time means to change. Now, that's what we want to deal with to start off with.

So let's make sure that we have a pretty good foundation of where the Bible's taking us as we address this. All right? We need to better understand how spiritual warfare is involved in this issue of our dual nature, the two-nature aspect of who we are.
Because our entire world buys into, as I said, these tenets of evolutionary theory, they see humans as a higher form of animal. And that means the first thing that we need to deal with or tackle is the biblical view, God's view of our two-fold nature.
Here's the kind of things that we said last time as we just kind of catch up. All right? We went to Genesis, and we see that God teaches us that not only are we not animals, but we are actually uniquely fitted to be His image bearers.
That is something that no other animal on the face of the earth can boast about, no other living, breathing thing, not even creation. Creation can reflect certain aspects of God's divine power and that kind of thing, but we're the only people, only creation of God that actually bears His own image.
[8:09] That's unique to us. We said another thing. The physical body and the spiritual or spirit were brought together by the Lord to create a living person.

So our spirits were formed by God's own breath. That's something He didn't give to other living things. So we're not animals, and this is the second aspect of the context we need to explore.
The first, we're image bearers. We're created in a unique way by God and given spiritual life by God. Animals don't have spiritual life, do they?
No. Plants don't have spiritual life. Think of any other living thing on the planet beside us. They don't have spiritual life. Only we do.
That's the unique breathing in, or God breathing out and into us His spirit. All right? That's us. Now, the second thing, the second aspect of this context that we need to explore is this.
[9:17] A dichotomist view of our nature. The dichotomist nature of a living person. This is, again, I'll review of some stuff that we talked about.

Theologians refer to our physical bodies and our spirits as a dichotomy. Sometimes they say dualistic nature.
Dualistic can be a little bit misrepresentative because philosophy pulls on that as well. Dichotomy literally means to cut in two or to divide into two parts.
So the concept here, as it applies to our nature as human beings, simply means that there are two parts or two aspects of the whole of our being.
Now, we want to be careful to understand that as we talk about this, we can talk about two aspects or two parts of us being human, but only for the sake of trying to understand what God means there and understanding how those parts work together because those two parts are inseparable.

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[10:32] You with me? So we're talking about those two parts as they form the whole of our being. What happens if I remove or separate literally the spirit from the body?

Right. Death. Physical death. So we are going to experience that, but that's not what we were created to be. What is it that causes our death and separates our spirit from our body?
What causes that? Right. Exactly. So this invasive force. All right. So you're with me on all the dichotomy stuff.
We can say this about ourselves at Grace. We are dichotomists, dichotomists in our view of human beings because we believe the Bible teaches that we're made up of two aspects, not three or four or five, two.
Our body and our soul. Now, Jesus spoke in these terms in Matthew 10, 28. So I would like to ask you to turn to these passages with me, even as we review and see them in your own Bibles.
[11:48] Matthew 10, 28. Matthew 10, 28. Matthew 10, 28. This is Jesus speaking to this twin aspect.

He says, Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul. Rather, fear him, that would be God, who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
So even Jesus, as he spoke about the spiritual nature of the focus of our lives, talked about body and soul.
All right, friends. So all of this, let me see if I can catch up. I think I'm behind. I guess so.
Dichotomist view, body and soul. So we are embodied souls. We have a body which houses our souls.
A body which houses our souls. That's what all of this biblical teaching about the body and soul points to. We are embodied souls.
[13:00] Other terms the Bible uses for our soul. Synonyms. Synonyms. Inner man. Hidden person. Inner self. And then the most popular is the heart.

These are all terms that have little, little bitty nuanced emphases for this aspect of our nature, our spirit. But they all basically mean the same thing.
They're referring to that inner person, the heart, the spirit, the soul, rather than the body. So your spirit, your heart, lives in your body, your self, your inner self, your inner man, your hidden person is contained within this house.
What do we call this in terms of the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit lives in this temple. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Okay?
And this is where our spirit lives. Other terms, like I said, synonyms, keep that in mind. Now, the interplay between our bodies and our souls is complex, admittedly.
[14:13] But we can understand that our souls, our souls initiate and our bodies mediate. Mediate. Now, what do I mean by that?

Mediate means our bodies express or convey or carry out what our hearts, our souls desire and instruct our bodies to do.
So our souls, I'm using these terms synonymously. Our souls, our hearts, tell our bodies what to do. We love, think, desire, choose, speak, and live from our hearts. We visited Proverbs 4.23.
So I'll ask you to turn there. Proverbs 4.23. And if I remember correctly, we spent a little bit of time on this passage.
[15:16] But I'm going to highlight this verse. Watch over your heart. So that could be your inner self, your soul, your spirit.

Watch over your heart with all diligence. Why? Because from your heart flow the issues or springs of life. All of the issues of your life spring from or are grounded in or founded in the issues of your heart.
And we're going to unpack that a little more also. All that you think, say, and do comes from your heart or your soul.
Every single bit of it. You will never speak or act or think apart from what's going on in your heart.
Okay, let me pause there because we've got more that we're going to unpack. Where are we so far? Are we tracking? Is there a question, a concern, or is there any confusion about this so far?
[16:31] We good? For some of us who were here last week, it's still a bit of review. I'm just filling in a little more. Are we good? Okay.

All right. So we've been talking about how our spirits influence our bodies, but our bodies also inform our souls.

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It works both ways. But we need to understand how that works biblically. This is going to help us better understand how Satan works to tempt us.
Do you remember how the scripture in 1 John speaks of the world, the flesh, and the devil? All right. Let the world, the flesh, and the devil become his operative means, his tools, his demonic forces to tempt us regarding our bodies and our hearts.
And we want to talk more about that because this is what he's going to do with the rest of chapter 8 and in chapter 9. He's going to really hit this hard.
[17:42] So we want to make sure we're grounded in an understanding of what he means here. Let's see. Our bodies also inform our souls.

An example would be this. This is the one I gave you last week. I'll say more about this in a few minutes. An example would be your body experiencing the sensation of hunger.
And so your body, in its experience of being hungry, informs your soul about that. And that causes your soul to then react and say, all right, body, feed yourself.
But all of those actions are springing from your heart giving direction to your body. But your body informed your heart about that because your body said, I'm hungry.
That's not an operation of your soul. There's no moral aspect to that at this point. It's what you do with that hunger and how you go about dealing with that hunger that becomes more of an issue of morality, right or wrong.
[18:51] I'll hit on that in just a minute. You tracking with me? So your body does two things. Do I have that? Yep. Your body does two things in relationship with your soul or your heart.

Your body informs the intentions of your soul. And it carries out the intentions of your soul. Your body may inform your soul.
Yeah, right. I can't do that. I'm going to give you an example in a minute. Your soul may be giving your body, saying to your body, hey, we're going to do this. Have you ever heard somebody say, my mind tells me I can do this.
And then I try to do it, and my body says, hey, hold up, but, right? That's that. That's that. And it carries out the intentions of your soul.
So your body becomes a vehicle, as it were, for what your soul wants accomplished, what your heart wants accomplished. Now, why is this so important to a biblical understanding of spiritual warfare?
[20:01] Because our bodies and souls live together in a fallen world, world flesh devil, where they do not operate as they were originally designed.

Sin came into the world, we fell into sin, and now we die, we don't operate the way that we were supposed to, and we're constantly feeling that tension that goes on.
Do I have that? Yeah. So what do we need? Given this reality, we need grace and truth. We need the undeserved favor of God on our lives every hour of every day.
Not just to get saved. You get saved by grace through faith, and then you continue to strive by grace through faith. And you need truth.
We need to sort this thing out and see our way through all the deception, the lies of our own hearts. The wickedness that comes at us from other people, from inside, and it guides us and corrects the weak and sinful operations of our hearts and bodies.
[21:11] Our souls and hearts can fail our hearts and make us vulnerable to sinful temptation.

And make us vulnerable to sinful temptation. Now, I'm going to take you through some things here to help explain what I'm saying here through Scripture.
Let me give you this quote from Heath Lambert. I used Lambert's theology for this, Greg, to pull this out in light of what I'm saying here.
Look at this. When sin darkened the heart of the first couple, it made it possible for corrupt desires of the heart to guide the body into sinful behaviors.
Now, do you see that first sentence? That was not the case in the perfection of the garden before sin, was it? There were no corrupt desires. So the bodies of Adam and Eve didn't perform any corrupt behavior.
[22:22] Because there was no corruption within their heart to give birth in that way. So they acted in faithfulness. When Adam and Eve corruptly discerned that the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good, they each disobeyed and ate.

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In other words, they sinned against their own bodies. How did they do that? They used their bodies to do something against the command of God.
But their bodies didn't do anything that their hearts didn't tell them to do. Don't reverse it. Don't reverse it and say, oh, well, their bodies were the culprit there.
Satan didn't deceive their body. What did he deceive? Remember I said earlier, this will make you like God and your eyes will be opened.
That's deception. That's aimed right here. Right at the heart. Right at the inner person. Right at the spirit. In their relationship with God. Now he goes on to say, we repeat their transgression every time we have a wicked desire, corrupt, sinful desire that grows into sinful behavior.
[23:46] We betray ourselves. What did I do? There it is. Suzanne, see, I watch TV like this sometimes with this thing and I'm, you know, depends on what it is.

And all of a sudden, beep, and she'll be like, put it down. All right, I'm putting it down. We betray ourselves and use the bodies God gave us to mediate that wickedness from our hearts into the world.
God never intended human beings to use their body in this way. Now, are you starting to get a feel for the interplay now and how, why Satan wants to get in there and needle his way in and exploit this?
Oh, it gets better. It gets better. In the sense of helping us understand what's going on here. Because we are human beings. Because we are, in C.S. Lewis's terms, we are creatures who are caught in time.
We are not yet eternal beings. And what we are housed in right now will not follow us to heaven. We have not received our glorified heavenly eternal temples housing yet.
[25:08] When our spirits go to be with the Lord at the death of our physical body, God will resurrect, but we will get a new glorified body fit for eternity.

So, we are not going to have any of these issues in our glorified bodies. But in this fallen one, it still craves and moves toward the stuff of this world.
Right? If you saw the Lord of the Rings, the ring is always calling out for its master. It's always, right? And then you saw the ring drawing Frodo.
If you... That's the idea. That's our bodies. Okay. Now, let me give you this reference. Mark 14. Now, remember, I'm taking you on a journey here to where we're going to get to some more scripture to help us understand what is Satan wanting to do with this reality. And what is God, more importantly, God wanting to do with it?
[26:16] Mark 14, beginning in verse 37. Do you remember what this context is?

As you look at it real quickly, give me... Somebody tell me real quickly, what's the context? Where are the disciples in Jesus and what's going on? Right. So they're in the garden just before Jesus is going to be betrayed and arrested.
And he's asking them to pray. And he's praying. And he's asking them, keep watch. Not just keep watch around. Keep watch over your...
And this is how we're going to know that. That it's not just be vigilant and watch out. Because he knows soldiers are going to show up. He's not worried about that. He's ready to give himself into their hands.
You remember that? Nobody took him. He gave himself willingly and laid down willingly. Okay. So here's what's happening. Verse 37. And Jesus came and found his disciples sleeping.
[27:22] And notice who he said it to. And he said to Peter, Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? What's he talking about?

Verse 38. Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation. The spirit is what? But the flesh is... There it is. Our bodies also fail our souls.
Our souls can fail our bodies. Because our souls can take these desires and they can become wrong desires. Idolatrous desires.
Sinful desires. And so we tell our bodies to act on those sinful desires. That's our soul. Just like Adam and Eve.
[28:21] Acting out of the corruptness of our wrong desires. But it can go the other way. Our bodies can also fail our souls. And it can leave us prone to sinful expressions.

Think of it this way. Our decaying... You know you're decaying, right? Every minute you sit here, you're decaying. It's so encouraging. And when you start to get gray hair or no hair, you'll

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understand better what we're talking about.
Our decaying, weakening, aging, sickly bodies can put an enormous strain on our souls. Because our bodies cannot perform the desires of the soul.
Our bodies are limited, dependent, and often show weakness. We need sleep.
We get hungry. We get fatigued. We need sleep. We need sleep. So the problem is that these natural bodily desires, these natural bodily needs, like sleep, and rest, and food, are prone to the effects of sin.
[29:47] Satan wants to exploit the fact that our bodies are affected by the fall. Sin preys on these natural weaknesses.

Can you see that at the bottom? Sin preys on these natural weaknesses so that our need for rest and sleep when controlled by sin can change or morph into laziness.
You ever been guilty of that? Just a little more. Or, no, I'm not going to do that today. Or, I'm going to call in. I'm tired. Or whatever.
And then we can just start putting off responsibilities because we get a little lazy. Look, folks, we drift toward ease. That's just human nature.
Think about this. Our need for food, a very legitimate need, a very legitimate desire that our bodies will have, I'm hungry, can become gluttony.
[31:00] Obesity, bulimia, anorexia. Those are all abuses of a natural desire and need for our bodies, right?

What about our sexuality, our desire for sexual intimacy? God gave us that. He built that into human beings. That can become lust, adultery, fornication, etc.
There are all kinds of illegitimate ways that our souls and our bodies interplay to express these legitimate desires in wrong ways.
Is this making sense to you? All right. Everything that I've been talking about so far, these are all examples of your heart.
Your inner person surrendering to sin so that the desires of the body are experienced and expressed in sinful or illicit or illegitimate ways.
[32:02] That is ungodly. God didn't design you to operate like this. And here we are operating like that.

Sinful behavior, sinful behavior is always about allowing our bodies to rule over our hearts and our hearts giving in to wrong desires and using our bodies to express those wrong desires.
And Satan uses these weaknesses against us. He uses these very natural and common weaknesses against us. It doesn't matter if it's hunger.
It doesn't matter if it's a need for rest. It doesn't matter if you're taxed physically, emotionally, so that you're tired. He's going to get in there and try to exploit that.
It doesn't matter if you're sick with a cold, with the flu, if you have a disease, if you're experiencing the aging process in ways that are challenging you and you can't do the things you used to do, think the way you used to think, operate at the levels you were used to operating at.
[33:21] He wants to get in there and corrupt every bit of that and turn you away from the Lord. Make it all about you. Get you preoccupied with that.

And then how do you become toward others when you're like that? When you're so self-focused, how do you become... Alonzo was looking at me like Suzanne does.
Her whole face was saying, you better put that up. How do we get toward other people when we get like that? That's one. Short, that would be like impatient.
What else? Nasty. Nasty, like mean? Mean? Mean? Anything else? I...
Oh, very good. Watch out. Did you hear that? Let me repeat that for the tape. Halt.
[34:20] Hungry, angry, lonely, or tired. Watch out. Be warned. Let the caution start going up. That's very good.

Thank you, Rebecca. So sinful behavior, again, is always about allowing our bodies to rule over our hearts or our hearts giving in to wrong desires.
So this weakened, this weakened, sometimes even sinful interplay between our hearts and our bodies, this is where Lewis comes in with his law of undulation and how it's used by demons.
Now, the law of undulation, you can probably find in principle in Scripture, as we'll see, but the law of undulation is Lewis's brilliant. That's his brilliance coming through as he just sat and thought through this and all.

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So if you'll take your book and look at page 37 again, and now just, if you'll just listen to my voice a little more here and let me read through this with some intonation that I want to inflect and emphasize certain parts.
[35:33] Pick it up with me where he says, as spirits, they belong to the eternal world. Now, we understand that a little better, but as animals, they inhabit time.

Now, we're not animals. But we are creatures who are not yet in heaven. That's what he means. This means that while their spirit can be directed to an eternal object, their bodies and passions and imaginations are in continual change.
Because as creatures living in time, living in this earth, we are under change. The nearest approach to constancy that they have, therefore, is undulation.
That's the closest we can come to anything constant. The repeated return to a level from which they repeatedly fall back. A series of troughs and peaks.
We might say mountains and valleys. If you had watched your patient carefully, you would have seen this undulation in every department of his life.
[36:43] That is, his interest in work, his affection for his friends, his physical appetites, all of that. They all go up and down, up and down. As long as he lives on earth, as long as he is a creature captured in time, periods of emotional and bodily richness and liveliness will alternate with periods of numbness and poverty.

The dryness and dullness through which your patient is now going are not, as you fondly suppose, your workmanship. They are merely a natural phenomenon.
It's part of them living in this world, in other words. And it will do us no good unless you make good use of it.
Now, do you see what Screwtape is trying to get Wormwood to exploit? You get in there and you take this two-aspect nature of these people and you do everything you can to put them at war.
And so we have entire philosophies that are built around the idea that body is evil and spirit is good. That dualism, we have entire philosophies that are built on that.
[38:02] Anything material is bad. Anything of the spirit is good. When God made our bodies good and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, your body isn't the problem.

What's the problem? The sin. The sin within. Exactly. Lewis' point then in saying that we are both spirit and animal is to stress that we are spiritual beings living under bodily, temporal, time-based limitations.
I think I have that. Yeah, that was what I just said. There it is. Spiritual beings living under bodily, temporal, time-based limitations.
We see our world, particularly people who have a lot of money, doing all kinds of things to try and cheat that reality.
They do all kinds of things to their bodies. They do all kinds of things to their environment, their living environment, who they interact with. And it can drive them crazy.
[39:23] Some of these people get to where they never leave their homes or they build these mansions and camp out in them. You hear about what happened to Howard Hughes? Toward the end, Howard Hughes became so germaphobic, he let his fingernails grow super long, wouldn't see anybody, lived as a hermit.

Crazy, crazy stuff because he was so scared of germs and catching something. And some, you know, did anybody come up and say to him, hey, look, dude, this is disposable. You weren't meant to hang on to this.
You're going to die no matter what you do. And trying to prolong it, the Lord's numbered your days. Good luck with that. It drove him crazy. People do all kinds of things to try to thwart this temporal, time-based limitation kind of stuff we live in.
So, friends, we are spiritual creatures housed in bodies which undergo the changes brought about by time, by earthliness.
And eventually, we all suffer the separation of our spirits from our bodies. We die. We are all headed.
[40:38] Remember Ecclesiastes? The entire book of Ecclesiastes is built around this very truth. God devoted an entire book of the Bible to help us come to terms with our mortality and how we can use our lives best in service to God and build treasure in heaven so that at the end of the day, when we come to what's it all about, what did Ecclesiastes 12 at the end tell us?

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Let's go there. I don't trust my memory either. Look at Ecclesiastes 12, 13. Greg's got that and he's going to read it for us.
Please, sir. The end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty. Boom. Howard Hughes, you just, you know, that could have solved all of his issues right there.
At least got him started on a good track. There's another one that we want to look at while you're there. Ecclesiastes 12. Let me see which one I want.
Look at this one. Ecclesiastes 12, verse 7. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was and the Spirit will return to God who gave it.
[42:08] That's the end. The body is going to return to the dust from whence it came and the Spirit will return to God from whence it came. Who gave unbelievers their spirit?

God. Who's their spirit going to have to answer to at the end? God. Exactly. So our spirits are eternal but our earthly bodies are increasingly going the way of returning to the earth.
So we experience this reality at work in our lives every day in so many ways, don't we? Can I say that again? Our spirits, our spirits are going to end up with God or at least as Christians that's the truth for us.
But our earthly, because they're eternal, our earthly bodies are increasingly going the way of returning to the earth. So one is going to leave this place to go to another place and our bodies, our physical bodies as we know them are going to die and return to the dust.
Every single day of our lives we are experiencing that reality in some way or another. That tension. And I think you'll see it as we go a little further.
[43:34] Any question or anything we need to clarify before we move into some more scripture? All right.

Thoughts before we move on. What are you thinking now? I'm just very curious. What's going on in your mind as you're hearing this? What are you thinking right now as you track? What are you thinking right now? What are you thinking right now?
What are you thinking right now? What are you thinking right now? What are you thinking I think Lewis was coming from a completely different... I agree with everything that you said theologically but I don't think that's what Lewis was...
what his point was in this particular letter. All right. So... Screwtape appears to be completely exasperated over the fact that God created man with a soul and a body.
Mm-hmm. He said in the letter a few sentences down. He calls us amphibians but I believe I think today this is what you were so he's nodding that's what we got.
[44:50] that spirit and body and then he says the enemy's determination to produce such a revolting hybrid was one of the things that determined our father Satan to withdraw his support from him.

the devil the demons the angels will not experience redemption. Right. They will not experience adoption as children.
So I look at this letter as Satan hates creation. He hates God's creation.
So the composition of man and body and spirit is the focal point of what he hates. We are in constant change peace and valleys no question about that but Christ is about conforming us into the image and the likeness of the sun.
There's a sonship that has been determined and he says in the second I think it's the third paragraph to us a human is primarily food.
[46:09] Yep. it's just someone to be consumed to be completely destroyed. Yeah. But then he says one must face the fact that all the talk about God's love for men I'm not going to say the enemy but God's love for men and God's service being perfect freedom is not as one would gladly believe mere propaganda but an appalling truth.

In other words God extends a love and a freedom to his creation and then he talks about us just coming of our own volition that really torts them all.
So he's about conforming us into the image and the likeness of the sun again to Satan we're just food we're just something to be consumed but God sees us as sons.
so this is where I think the constant change the undulation the peaks and the valleys all that Screwtape is saying is you need to be aware that there are peaks and there are valleys take advantage of either one of them and oh by the way God tends to use the valleys to call people to

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himself even more so perfect now Dale we're headed there I think we are I think you'll find when we do some more that's exactly where we're going to merge what I wanted to do with this was help all of us understand this dynamic that goes on between body and spirit body and heart and how I believe he's going to continue to write about how this is exploited by demonic activity and better help you better understand how we're tempted how we're tempted how how Satan uses this reality that we live in this this time determined time limited constantly changing reality that we live in against us because again remember we weren't created like that originally before sin we didn't have to worry about all of these different kinds of ups and downs there was no roller coaster of emotions or anything else like that going on before sin right so hang on with me hang on with me and let's see see how that goes Greg you were going to say something too I think
I think I think I think it's enlightening here the dynamic between the spirit it explains so much of life right as we've read these chapters and as you've sort of gone through this it's like yeah that explains a lot of the experience I think that we all are familiar with in life yes yes and so much of counseling and maybe I'm speaking a lot more out of 30 years because that's how I started in ministry I didn't start in ministry preaching I started in ministry as a counselor and I did that for quite some time before God began to steer me in a different direction so I may be speaking more out of a counseling heart and perspective as I've dealt with people Christians over the years and listen to them talk about the issues going on in their life with little to no understanding of this body soul dynamic and how it works out and how Satan seeks to exploit it but once you start to learn this once you start to see into the enemy's playbook about what he does with sickness with the way your body ages with desires that can be very legitimate that he wants to turn and corrupt the idols of the heart when you begin to understand and think about that dynamic biblically
[50:14] I think it can help you in your fight and your striving against personal sin I know I have found that to be true especially in the work that I've done with men who are in sexual sin that is a particularly gripping sin a particularly harsh very hard thing for I have found men to move past because our sexuality has so much to do with who we are there's such a deep sense of corruption in sexual sin and of course I don't work with women in sexual sin so my experience is 90% working with men in that any of the other has been when I've worked with married couples and I've had to deal with that aspect of their married life alright so let me go a little further and see as I give you some more scripture because certainly what I want to bring out is what Dale emphasized with how God uses these very realities to draw us to Christ and that is the point but that's exactly the thing that

Satan doesn't want alright so let's look at 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 1 through 10 here's the question that sets this up how does God want us to understand and navigate the struggle challenges and implications of this interplay between our eternal souls and our earthly bodies let me say it again because that's I'll put the scripture up here in just a second how does God want us to understand navigate the struggle the challenges the implications of the interplay between our eternal souls and our earthly bodies see if I've got man I'm way behind there it is 2 Corinthians and I'll get there with you who has that anybody want to read that for us change of pace Alonzo thank you 1 through 10 of chapter 5 verse 1 for we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed we have a building from God a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens for in this tent we groan lying to put on our heavenly dwelling if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked for while we are still in the tent we groan being burdened not that we would be enclosed but that we would be further clothed so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life he who has prepared us for this very thing is God who has given us the spirit is a guarantee so we are always of good courage we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord so we walk by faith not by sight yes we are of good courage and we would rather be awake in the body and at home with the Lord so whether we are at home or away we make it our aim to please him for we must all care before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body whether good or evil does that help a little bit with this interplay that's revealing isn't it so this this heart attitude that he's speaking here this heart attitude of courage you saw that there trust hope obedience that's what Satan wants to pervert distort sabotage he doesn't want God to be honored in the issues of redemption in your life he doesn't want you to look like a redeemed being he doesn't want you to reflect the grace and glory of Jesus Christ in your life Dale was right about when he when he said see the angels can't reflect that they they reflect

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God and they were created for specific purposes in that realm but we we have this unique reality about us that the Holy Spirit has come to live in us and we have the Lord Jesus Christ as our redeemer those are beautiful aspects of the reality that we're human beings and we get to reflect God in those ways okay so Satan wants to pervert all that we just read from that verse all right now what is the law of undulation what is the law of undulation that's what I just got through saying it's the constant changes we naturally experience over the course of our lives as embodied spirits that's what he was telling us a little bit earlier when we read that in that section of the of the book so screw tape says that this natural reality will do the demons no good unless they make good use of it that's where spiritual warfare comes in it's no good to the demons unless unless they learn to make good use of this undulating reality that human beings as this dualistic person unless they can exploit that won't do them any good so that's the spiritual warfare all right if you'll take your book once again here page 38 and we're looking at this third paragraph we just finished reading the dryness and dullness through which your patient is now going are not as you fondly suppose your workmanship they are merely a natural phenomenon which will do us no good unless you make good use of it and now this to decide what the best use of it is you must ask what use the enemy wants to make of it and then do the opposite the the opposite now it may surprise you to learn that in his efforts to get permanent possession of a soul he relies on the troughs even more than on the peaks well first Peter taught us that didn't it some of his special favorites we could think of people like Moses Paul have gone through longer and deeper troughs than anyone else the reason is this to us a human is primarily food and our aim is the absorption of its will into ours the increase of our own area of selfhood at its expense but the obedience which the enemy demands of men is quite a different thing one must face the fact that all the talk about his love for men and his service being perfect freedom is not as one would gladly believe mere propaganda but an appalling truth so what are we talking about Satan wants to exploit this reality and use it to tempt us away from God away from spiritual growth and into sinful living so his strategy is to do exactly the opposite of what God uses weaknesses and suffering to accomplish in our walk with him so the question is what does God intend in our weaknesses and sufferings due to the souls and bodies that we have being under the influence of sin what does God want to do with that now we should all be able to write a treatise on that after all the weeks we've spent in first

[58:10] Peter but that's what we're dealing with Satan wants to exploit it and tempt us away from God and into sinful living what does God want to do with it well here are a couple of passages that can get us started on that beyond first Peter James 1 what does God want to do with our creatureliness James 1 2 through 4 consider it all joy my brothers when you encounter various trials are you kidding me knowing knowing knowing is a key word knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance are that or perseverance and let endurance have its perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing may you reflect the Lord Jesus Christ in many ways we're learning to get comfortable in our redeemed self we're learning to navigate as these born again new life creatures and of course Satan doesn't want us to do that he wants to keep that as messed up as possible all right he wants to do exactly the opposite that God wants to do so let's look at

Romans chapter 5 3 through 5 we'll add this one to the mix Romans 5 3 through 5 and not only this but we also exult in our tribulations this is another one like are you kidding me exult in our tribulations knowing do you see that word knowing there again knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance endurance and perseverance proven character proven character hope and hope hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us God uses the reality of our weaknesses in both body and soul the troughs of life to grow us and to glorify himself as he makes us more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ there it is the troughs of life all right I'll give you a few more passages but let's read from page 38 right at the bottom and pick up over on page 39 so that last partial sentence there at the bottom of 38 he God really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of himself creatures whose life on its miniature scale will be qualitatively like his own not because he has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to his we want cattle who finally become food he wants service servants who can finally become sons we want to suck in he wants to give out we are empty and would be filled he is full and flows over our war aim is a world in which our father below has drawn all other beings into himself the enemy wants a world full of beings united to him but still distinct united to him but still distinct if you look at Ephesians 4

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I hope this is helping you flesh out a little more on a spiritual level from scripture how this begins to come together in our fight against sin temptation and the schemes of the devil Ephesians 4 beginning in verse 20 but you did not learn Christ in this way you haven't learned to give yourself over to yourself that's not how you've learned Christ if indeed you have heard him and have been taught in him just as truth is in Jesus that in reference to your former manner of life you lay aside the old self the old nature the old heart which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self the new heart the new nature which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth therefore laying aside falsehood see laying aside lies laying aside hypocrisy these different things that are that begin in our hearts and then manifest in the way that we behave and live lay aside that speak truth each one of you with his neighbor for we are members of one another be angry and do not sin do not let the sun go down on your anger that's one of the ones Rebecca just mentioned and look at this number verse 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity now he says that because the devil wants to take all of that as an opportunity and twist it to his means his purposes every bit of it so rather than speaking the truth in love with each other he wants us to be all about falsehood and hypocrisy he wants us to be all about self-protection self-expression self-self-self-self-self-self-self what does he say lay aside the old self be the new self that you are in Christ that's what Satan doesn't want let me give you a couple more

Psalm 73 all the way back to Psalms can't leave the psalmist out this says that it's a psalm of Asaph and we'll look at I'll put that up there 23 through 28 now think about what we've been talking about body and heart body and spirit nevertheless I am continually with you you have taken hold of my right hand with your counsel you will guide me and afterward receive me to glory whom have I in heaven but you and besides you I desire nothing on earth my flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever for behold those who are far from you will perish you have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to you but as for me the nearness of God is my good

I have made the Lord God my refuge that I may tell of all your works this is the refreshment and liveliness of the spirit surrendering to God and seeking to live out all that is pleasing before the Lord let's add to that 2 Corinthians 4 16 I've just got this one and one other scripture and we'll be done 2 Corinthians 4 I wanted you to see this one because it speaks so directly to what we're trying to talk about here in terms of our body soul therefore we do not lose heart because that's it's easy to get discouraged in these realities but though our outer man is decaying yet our inner man is being renewed day by day what's our outer man what does that refer to so our body is doing what right what about our inner person our heart our spirit so here's what's happening if you get a picture of it your body is dying and wasting away and getting closer and closer to the dust while your spirit as a Christian is growing and becoming more and more full more and more aware more and more close to our creator where we're going to go home so our spirit grows matures understands longs for while our bodies continue to waste away now beloved do you not see the tension that creates don't you think do you feel it that's what the devil wants to exploit and that issue of undulation reflects the reality of our bodies going in one direction while our spirits go in another and the longer we live the more we will feel it especially as we mature and grow as Christians and so we need to understand how to help regulate that reality of our spirit growing while our body becomes less and less able to capture and carry out what our spirit wants it's a beautiful reality if you allow it to be it doesn't have to be something that we bemoan alright there's one more and it's right here it's 2nd Corinthians 3 18 it's very akin to the argument that Paul's making here as he gets down to verse 16 in chapter 4 but we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as from the Lord the spirit we are being transformed into the image of our Lord and Savior from one level of glory to another that is not referring to your body that is referring to your spirit you are becoming more and more

[70:03] Christ like inside so that what ought to happen on the outside is you're reflecting more and more consistently and constantly the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and Satan wants to get in your business and mess all that up he wants to put you at odds with your body soul reality and the fact that your spirit is growing and getting closer and closer to going home while your body is groaning and getting closer and closer to the dust and he wants to get in there and just deal with all that mess with all that he doesn't want you to be a joyful contented creature caught in time he wants you to be a disgruntled discontented complaining fearful anxious worrying you fill in the blanks and you get older and older like I am and you start feeling everything wearing out and you can't go out

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there and do what you did at 28 anymore can't do what you did at 48 anymore it's a challenge even in your mind you know

Suzanne and I were talking today and we were discussing some aspects about our plans and our future and how what we're doing with all that in the Lord and I just said to her in a reflection of what we both have talked about many times we don't have any plans to retire we don't even know what that means we want to go on serving the Lord the way we've been serving the Lord until we can't do it anymore and so we said you know we really don't know what that looks like and we only have a vague idea of how to prepare for it knowing that if God grants us old age I will get to the point where my mind won't work as well my delivery won't work as well my ability to prepare through the week to do what I do won't be there and I'll experience that deterioration that's hard to think about and something may happen to me that brings that on sooner rather than later but in all of that what God calls us to be and do is faithful don't let that reality discourage me or worry me or cause me anxiety just continue to be faithful with what he provides and allows for where we are that's your calling be faithful to the
Lord and don't allow the devil to get into the mix of your humanity and mess with your mind and your heart so that you you find your heart full of all these idols because you haven't guarded it and safeguarded the devotion of your heart all right so any before we have about two minutes anything questions comments I hope that was helpful to the future I think the devil wants you to give up is that you plural or is that aimed at me all of us yeah because I don't want you to think I'm giving up I'm not giving up thank you Michael amen that's all of us huh he wants all of us to get discouraged and just quit yeah
I hear you brother I'm just messing with you I have someone really close to me with tears said to me a few months ago I don't know what my purpose is anymore that was a hard moment you know that's a hard place for a human being to be I don't I don't know why I'm still here anymore I don't know what purpose I have or serve it's hardest when you hear that from a Christian someone who professes Christ but that's exactly what Satan wants to do to us friends well thank you for hanging on thank you for the leeway to come back and you know try to take apart some of these principles and talk about how
I think Lewis is going to use them in the near future so next week the plan is 9 and 10 Greg and I are going to meet and talk but we have to kind of regroup a little bit because I threw us off with this I'm typically the one throwing the wrench in not if you haven't figured that out Greg's pretty steady Eddie Jeff's the one that's got to rein me in so next week God willing chapters 9 and 10 and then we'll go from there we'll see alright great well let's pray and we'll be dismissed thank you for being here don't forget the goodies

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