

SCREWTAPE PROPOSES A TOAST STUDY GUIDE

**A Bible Study on the C.S. Lewis Essay
Screwtape Proposes a Toast**



By Alan Vermilye

*...it will be an ill day for us if what most humans mean by
"Religion" ever vanishes from the Earth. It can still send us the
truly delicious sins. Nowhere do we tempt so successfully as on
the very steps of the altar.*

Screwtape,
Screwtape Proposes a Toast

Screwtape Proposes a Toast Study Guide

A Bible Study on the C.S. Lewis Essay Screwtape Proposes a Toast

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To learn more about this Bible study, order additional copies, or to
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Version 2

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The Screwtape Letters Study Guide

A Bible Study on the C.S. Lewis Book The Screwtape Letters

By Alan Vermilye

The Screwtape Letters Study Guide takes participants through a study of C.S. Lewis's classic, *The Screwtape Letters*.

This Bible study digs deep into each letter from *Screwtape*, an undersecretary in the lowerarchy of Hell, to his incompetent nephew Wormwood a junior devil. Perfect for small group sessions this interactive workbook includes daily, individual study with a complete answer guide available online. Designed as a 12-week study, multiple week format options are also included.

The *Screwtape Letters* Study Guide features:

- 12 Week Bible study
- Interactive Workbook with daily study
- Study questions are ideal for group discussion
- Answers to all questions included online
- Ideal for small groups or individual study

*Vermilye walks the reader through each *Screwtape* letter and wisely ask questions to bring out turns and twists in the thoughts and emotions that we each experience and that Lewis wanted us to recognize. Steven Urban PhD, Author of *Mere Christianity Study**

**Learn more at
www.ScrewtapeLetterStudyGuide.com.**

Perfect for Teenagers!

The Screwtape Letters Study Guide for Teens

**A Bible Study on the C.S. Lewis Book
The Screwtape Letters for Teenagers
By Alan Vermilye**

The Screwtape Letters Study Guide for Teens takes teenagers through a study of the C.S. Lewis classic, *The Screwtape Letters*.

Created specifically for teenagers, each daily study is designed to take them through each letter written by Screwtape, an undersecretary in the lowerarchy of Hell, to his incompetent nephew Wormwood, a junior devil.

The interactive workbook is perfect for individual study or group study to include youth groups, homeschool groups, or small groups.

The Screwtape Letters Study Guide for Teens includes:

- Daily Bible study that will take no more than 20 minutes
- Study questions are ideal for group discussion
- Answers to all questions available online
- Ideal for all teenagers
- Easy-to-lead for youth leaders

**Learn more at
www.ScrewtapeLetterStudyGuide.com.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I dedicate this study to the thousands of people who have participated in **The Screwtape Letters Study Guide** Bible study and have encouraged the creation of this one.

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Introduction

What is your favorite sequel? Is it one of the movie classics like *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Harry Potter*, or perhaps *Lord of the Rings*? Or was it a highly anticipated album from one of your favorite musicians as a teenager?

C.S. Lewis never intended to create a sequel to *The Screwtape Letters*. In fact, he never imagined the book would become a classic; moreover, he never dreamed that readers would enjoy the book so many years later. He just did not see what all the fuss was about.

However, to the delight of his fans, almost two decades later, Lewis published a short sequel, *Screwtape Proposes a Toast*, which first appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1959.

Much had changed since Lewis penned *The Screwtape Letters* in 1941. As with his apologetic classic *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters* was written to the people of Britain during a time of war when their nation was engulfed in a battle with Hitler and the Nazi regime. It was a time of great struggle—morally, physically, and spiritually.

In 1959, Lewis chose to write to an American audience experiencing very different circumstances. America was enjoying a time of financial prosperity. Rock and roll and Elvis Presley were on the mind of every teenager, and the opposition between the West and the Communist world created a state of political and military tension defined as The Cold War.

The context of Lewis' writing is also different. The original book contains a series of letters from Screwtape, an undersecretary in the lowerarchy of Hell, to his incompetent nephew Wormwood. These letters contain various methods to employ while tempting his "patient" closer to Hell.

In *Screwtape Proposes a Toast*, Screwtape is now the Supreme Strategist over a critical region of the world. This prestigious title has earned him the privilege of delivering the after-dinner speech at the annual graduation dinner of the Tempters' Training College for young demons. Now instead of just influencing Wormwood on how to destroy the life of an individual human; Screwtape sets his goals much higher in an effort to teach legions of demons to corrupt human nature.

Screwtape's speech is a public declaration of how best to corrupt education, democracy, social politics, and directly shift a cultural worldview. Although his speech is succinct, Screwtape lays out a compelling strategy for bypassing the "great sinners of the past" for the multitude of hapless fools who are easily led astray simply by altering the meaning of words.

Ironically, Lewis' writings seem strangely prophetic today probably more so than in 1959. It is almost as if the demons took *Screwtape Proposes a Toast* and used it as their playbook for the next 50 years resulting in the destruction of democracy and individualism.

If Lewis were alive today would he have created a trilogy to *The Screwtape Letters*? How would it be different? What opportunities would tempters have today that were not available 50 years ago? How would Screwtape use the digital age as a megaphone to ensnare sinners?

Screwtape and the host of young demons exiting Tempters' Training College will have to look elsewhere for good advice on how to best corrupt the next generation.

Course Notes and Study Format

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Screwtape Proposes a Toast is a short story found in the back of most publications of *The Screwtape Letters*.

In this study guide, there are 23 questions that correspond with select paragraphs in the story. The questions are marked with the symbol ¶ to direct you to the appropriate paragraph. This study can be done individually or as part of a group study. Obviously, 23 questions it quite a lot to cover in one group setting. Class discussion is encouraged to determine how many group meetings are needed to complete the study.

As with *The Screwtape Letters*, the story is short but not easily digested, so allow time to ponder each paragraph thoroughly. As you read, make notes in your book and underline or highlight sections that interest you.

The answers to each question can be found at www.ScrewtapeLettersStudyGuide.com. However, do not cheat yourself. Work through each session prior to viewing the answers.

The Abundance of Average Sinners



1. As the devils feast on human souls at the annual dinner banquet, Screwtape reminisces on the taste of “great” sinners of the past like Henry VIII and Hitler while claiming the quality of the fare today is not what it once was. Do you agree with Screwtape that the great sinners of the past are rare today? Why or why not? ¶ 4-5

2. Even though these souls of average sin are deplorable to digest, what does Screwtape claim is the hope and promise of the new era? If this is true, what would this say about the effectiveness of the church in today’s culture? ¶7

3. As the new Supreme Strategist over a critical region of the world, Screwtape plans to capitalize on this new abundance of average sinners by attacking human choice. Describe the process by which an individual choice becomes a principle. How can choice also eventually lead one to reject God's grace? ¶10

4. Screwtape suggest that even though the great sinners of the past might be few and far between, the ones that remain have large megaphones that, "can now draw tens of thousands of the human sheep with him." Provide some examples of this type of person today? What tools would be their megaphone? ¶13