



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“THE TRAVELS OF WORMWOOD”

John Galbreath
Bible Study Series

Text: No associated text
Date: Unknown

About Westminster's Galbreath Bible Study Series:

This lesson is one taken from a sermon preached by John Galbreath at Westminster Presbyterian Church on an unknown date.

Review the outline of the sermon and how you would “fill in” the remainder of the message from the chosen passage.

Then, review the study questions posed about the lesson — whether by yourself or in your small group.

Finally, share your thoughts on the Galbreath Bible Study blog on the Westminster Intranet.

I. Introduction

- A. Screwtape Letters
- B. Wormwood's correspondence
- C. The Former letter - He becomes a Presbyterian

II. Interest in Masonry

- A. Whenever the work of the Enemy Above seemed most effective, I noted men with compass and square, or sword and crescent in their lapels.
 - 1. First thought it had some magical power for it appeared so frequently where the most harm was being done in the cause of His Satanic Majesty.
 - 2. I was soon to learn that these men composed an elite corps of the Enemy and were known as "Free and Accepted Masons."
- B. Whereas it had proved of little difficulty to become one of the "Presbyterians," I was informed that it would likely be quite difficult to become a Mason.

III. Wormwood Joins

- A. The explanation of the symbols cleared many questions.
 - 1. I had been traveling in the right circles and frequent mention had been made in a jargon that I had not been able to understand.
 - a) *One friend asked if I had travelled East.*
 - b) *This reminded me of the horrible experience with my patient in London.*
 - c) *I started to explain, then realized my error - and ended the sentence in a mumble.*
 - d) *My friend, realizing that he too had made a mistake also mumbled. A changing traffic light rescued us both.*
 - 2. It was much simpler than I thought to obtain his papers.
 - a) *Memory of how long they had known me seemed quite dim.*

b) Each was too embarrassed to ask many questions, so my petition was taken to the lodge.

3. **Wormwood is blackballed.**

a) One of the brethren was suspicious.

b) They have a method of locating the one who casts the black ball and to apply pressure.

c) They were planning to remodel the lodge and needed the fee.

IV. Opportunities in the Lodge

A. A great segment of the Enemy's forces seemed lacking – it seems that the cohorts under the Pontiff were forbidden to take part.

1. This was matter for rejoicing – for this group could have been even more devastating in the work against His Satanic Majesty.

2. I was likewise pleased to see among many a deep hatred of the Pontiff's forces.

a) This, I of course encouraged.

b) I found that great feeling could be aroused by certain innuendoes.

c) The Pontiff has not always been unfriendly toward us.

d) To those who are the "Neutrals," any strife between the Enemy's forces works to our advantage and should be encouraged.

B. The liturgy of Masonry.

1. I could not help but be interested in the pageantry of the lodge.

2. It includes much that is extremely damning to His Satanic majesty – and I blushed through much of it.

a) Fortunately, not all of those who commit the words to their minds likewise commit them to the heart.

b) At times those who most perfectly enunciated the phrases about brotherhood most quickly made cutting remarks about a "brother."

c) If we can only keep them sufficiently meticulous about their methods and accuracy, we may distract them from what it means.

3. The occasional brother who says, "The Lodge is my church."

a) *This must be encouraged.*

b) *Any great unit that becomes separated from the main fighting unit loses its effectiveness.*

C. The Benevolences of Masonry.

1. Concerned about their good will projects.

a) *We revel in the suffering of children – warp their bodies, and minds, and they are prepared to warp their souls.*

2. Our only hope is that if we can make them feel that their concern for children has to do with institutions, we may keep them from care for their own at home.

a) *We have some chance to work toward the disruption of that fortification of the enemy, the Home.*

V. The Dangers of the Lodge

A. Many opportunities may be afforded for our work, but the more I know, the more difficult I find the work to be.

1. Despite some rivalry I have been able to encourage, there is a comradeship and helpfulness to one another on the whole that seems insuperable.

2. Though I was delighted to see many enter who in fact had little knowledge or concern for the Enemy above enter its ranks, yet it awakened a concern that had been left quiet, and many have gone from there into the official work of the Church of the Enemy.

3. Through some mistake many of the allegories of Masonry of the Bible, yet a disconcerting interest has been demonstrated, and the fearsome Word has become concern to the brethren.

4. And children have been given new life, joy, health.

VI. Conclusion

Be assured I will study the situation most diligently, and will take every opportunity to serve His Satanic Majesty, but I am against awesome forces, and may soon be requesting all available aid.

Study Questions -- Part I

Bible Reading: There is no Bible reading associated with this sermon.

Study Questions -- Part II

Sermon :

I.A. According to wikipedia, "***The Screwtape Letters*** is a satirical Christian apologetics novel written in epistolary style by C. S. Lewis, first published in book form in February 1942. The story takes the form of a series of letters from a senior demon, Screwtape, to his nephew, a junior 'tempter' named Wormwood, so as to advise him on methods of securing the damnation of a British man, known only as 'the Patient'." If you had achieved the rank of "senior demon" what advice would you give to Wormwood to tempt Christians away from God?

Since Dr. Galbreath used this sermon to synopsise the book, consider reading it.