

WEEK TWELVE DISCUSSION GUIDE

MERE CHRISTIANITY | C.S. LEWIS

THIS WEEK

Book Four, Chapters 10-11

Lewis closes his book by discussing the new creatures we become in Christ.

ASSESSING THE TEXT

“Those who put themselves in His hands will become perfect, as He is perfect – perfect in love, wisdom, joy, beauty, and immortality. The change will not be completed in this life, for death is an important part of the treatment. How far the change will have gone before death in any particular Christian is uncertain (pg. 207).”

Why is it important to remember that our perfection isn't complete until we are with Christ again?

“There is a paradox here. As long as Dick does not turn to God, he thinks his niceness is his own, and just as long as he thinks that, it is not his own. It is when Dick realizes that his niceness is not his own but a gift from God, and when he offers it back to God – it is just then that it begins to be really his own. For now Dick is beginning to take a share in his own creation. The only thing we can keep are the things we freely give to God. What we try to keep for ourselves is just what we are sure to lose (pg. 213).”

What are the talents and gifts in your life that God has given you?

What's wrong with claiming ownership over these gifts?

“One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing cheques, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God (pg. 213-214).”

What other things or forms of wealth distract us from yearning for the Kingdom?

“If you are a nice person – if virtue comes easily to you – beware! Much is expected from those to whom much is given. If you mistake for your won merits what are really God's gifts to you through nature, and if you are contented with simply being nice, you are still a rebel: and all those gifts will only make your fall more terrible, your corruption more complicated, your bad example more disastrous. The Devil was an archangel once; his natural gifts were as far above yours as yours are above those of a chimpanzee (pg. 215).”

What are the dangers of being morally successful?

“Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in (pg. 227).”

How have you seen this paradox play out in your own life?

BRINGING IT HOME

How does this section of the book better help you defend the principles of Christianity?

How can others in the group pray for you?

Who in your life can the group pray for that might need to hear this message?