



FAITHFUL

IN A CHANGING WORLD



BIBLE
BY THE BEACH



Simon Vibert

OVERALL SEMINAR TITLE:
Faith for the Fight



BIBLE
BY THE BEACH



Simon Vibert

- Stand firm in your fight against the Devil
- Put to death the sinful nature
- Resist the pull of the world



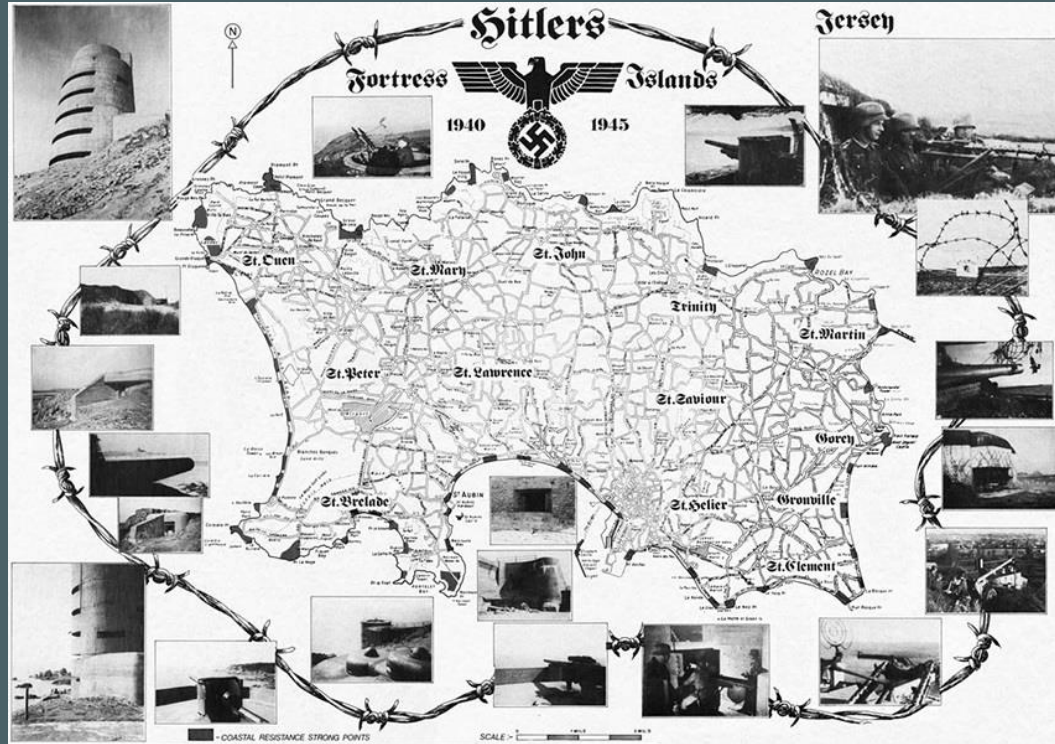
BIBLE
BY THE BEACH

Seminar One

Saturday 11.45-12.45

“Stand firm in your fight against the Devil”

Occupation



J.C Ryle, *The Fight*

“With a corrupt heart, a busy devil and an ensnaring world, (we) must either fight or be lost”.

Revelation 12

The hideous picture of Satan – and
his final doom

C.S. Lewis

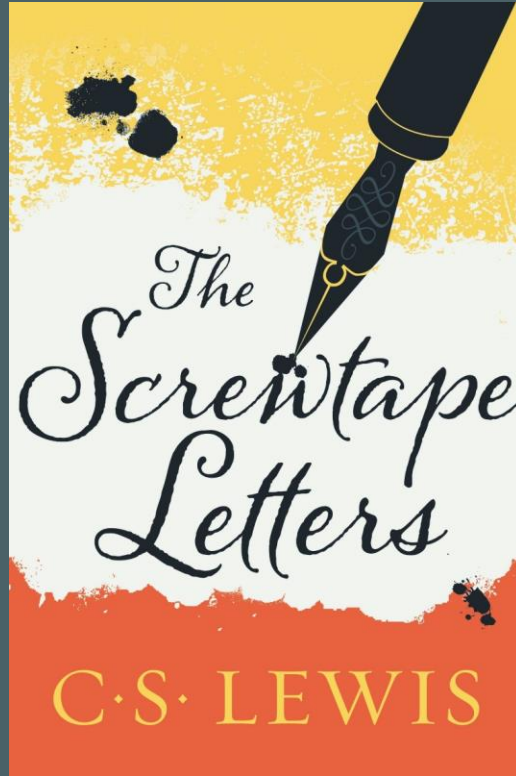


C.S. Lewis

29 November 1898 - 22 November 1963

“An active, energetic man who looked like a farmer but talked like a philosopher ... who relished the love of friendship, was surprised by the love of a woman, and cultivated the love of God”.

C.S. Lewis



PRAYER

The best thing, where it is possible, is to keep the patient from the serious intention of praying altogether. When the patient is an adult recently re-converted to the Enemy's party, like your man, this is best done by encouraging him to remember or to think he remembers, the parrot-like nature of his prayers in childhood.

PRAYER cont...

In reaction against that, he may be persuaded to aim at something entirely spontaneous, inward, informal, and unregularised; and what this will actually mean to a beginner will be an effort to produce in himself a vague devotional mood in which real concentration of will and intelligence have no part.

PLEASURE

Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure, all the same, it is His invention, not ours. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasure which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways or in degrees, which he has forbidden.

PRIDE

I see only one thing to do at the moment. Your patient has become humble; have you drawn his attention to the fact?

PRIDE

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call “humble” nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him
(Mere Christianity)

CHURCH

He must be made to feel (he'd better not put it into words) "how different we Christians are"; and by "we Christians" he must really, but unknowingly, mean "my set"; and by "my set" he must mean not "The people who, in their charity and humility, have accepted me", but "The people with whom I associate by right"

Positive Counteraction

** prayer * pleasure * pride*

Replace pride with humility and godliness. True humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.

Replace “Churchianity” with a genuine love for the saints. Think of fellow Church members as family who you covenant to love, and sometimes to learn to love.

Positive Counteraction

** prayer * pleasure * pride*

Replace competitiveness with a resolve to build others up. Allow others to take credit for things, rejoice with them in their successes, and lament with them at their losses.

Remember that the battle has already been won. We are merely involved in the mopping up operations. Casualties may still be taken, but the final victory is secure.

William Gurnall & The Full Armour of God

The 3 things we know about William Gurnall

J.C. Ryle –

Except the three facts, that [William Gurnall] was a Puritan divine of the seventeenth century, that he was minister of Lavenham, and that he wrote a well-known book of practical divinity, most persons known nothing of William Gurnall

“The Christian in Complete Armour”, 1655, 1658, 1662

- **Subtitle**
- *The saints’ war against the Devil, wherein a discovery is made of that grand enemy of God and his people, in his policies, power, seat of his empire, wickedness, and chief design he hath against the saints.*

The Solemnity of the task

The subject of the treatise is solemn: A War between the Saint and Satan. And it is such a bloody one that the cruellest war ever fought by men will be seen as but sport and child's play compared to this. It is a spiritual war that you shall read of;

The Solemnity of the task cont...

not a history of what was fought many ages past and is now over, but of a war now going on – the tragedy is present with us, and it is not taking place at the farthest end of the world; it concerns you and everyone who reads of it. The stage on which this war is fought is every man's own soul. There are no neutrals in this war. The whole world is engaged in the quarrel, either for God against Satan, or for Satan against God

The armour – worn out by battle, but also rendered useless by neglect.

In an army called to active duty, weapons are frequently battered and broken. One man has his helmet dented, another his sword bent, a third his pistol broken. In heaven we shall appear, not in armour, but in robes of glory. But here these are to be worn night and day; we must walk, work, and sleep in them, or else we are not true soldiers of Christ

Beware of Satan's wily ways

- Newly converted
- Under affliction (e.g. Job)
- In disguise (an angel of light)
- Subtle (“Has God said?”)

The call to arms – to be Holy

- Let the accusations make you more careful
- Let them make you more humble
- Let them show you the fallacy of his logic

Truth fortifies for action

... if Christ's grace reigns in you, victory is assured! That is why putting on the armour of God is so important – it guarantees you will persevere and overcome at last. True grace can never be vanquished. Scripture promises that everyone "...born of God overcometh the world" (1 Jn 5:4)

Remember the true enemy

Rest easy, worried Christian. The duel is not between the church and Satan, but between Christ and Satan. These are the champions of the two sides. Gather round and watch the all-wise God joust with His crafty opponent.

Remember the true enemy cont...

You shall behold the Almighty and smite off this Goliath's head with his own sword, and take this wicked knight in the trap of his own schemes. That faith which ascribes greatness and wisdom to God will shrink up Satan's challenge into a thing of nothing. Unbelief fears Satan as a lion; faith treads upon him as a worm.

We fight for our lives

Wrestling is one-on-one combat
And there is no vacation

*We do too little if we do not fear Satan at all. But
we flatter him overmuch when we fear him more
than we trust God.*

Paul – an ambassador in chains

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, divine utterance may be given me, so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should.”

Ephesians 6:19-20

The work of Satan and the work of God contrasted

The greatest blow Satan can strike at your courage is to cause you to nourish too great a fear of him in your bosom... Satan's power {is not only} derived and limited, it is also subservient to the overruling power of God... we do too little if we do not fear Satan at all.

The work of Satan and the work of God contrasted cont...

But we flatter him overmuch when we fear him more than we trust God. If you are Christ's, nothing can come into your life without the permission of God. The One who has given life to be yours, has given death also.

Spiritual wickedness is in the heart – watch out!

All error, no matter how innocent it seems, is a parasite. And as ivy saps the strength of the tree it intertwines, so error saps the strength of truth. The soul that feeds on tainted truth cannot grow fat and healthy.

A serious attitude towards sin is only achieved by seeing the richness of heaven

Though Satan often convinces us to the contrary, there is nothing we enjoy that Christ cannot make provision for, should it be taken away. In heaven there will be light but no sun, a rich feast and yet no meat, glorious robes and yet no clothes. Not one thing will be missing - yet none of the earthly things we esteem so highly will be there.

Drive this truth home – put on the armour of God!

If [preachers] were more sensitive to their congregations, they would realise that unless they hit the truth squarely on the head, they are not likely to penetrate the consciences of their hearers. Most of us are spiritually hard-headed. We need to have the truth hammered home with repeated blows.

The Belt of Truth

Truth without courage makes a man like a swordfish. He has a sword in the head but no heart to use it (2:32). The pastor who does not have enough love and courage to defend truth in the pulpit will not likely defend her at the burning stake

The Breastplate of Righteousness

We should strive for righteousness of life by:

Meditating on the holiness of God

Meditating on the holiness of man's innocent state

Meditating on our own human inadequacy

The Gospel of Peace

Satan has played his game cunningly among us in that he has often changed his instruments into angels of light and made gullible souls think they might find more grace and power in this artificial light than in the revelation God provides.

The Shield of Faith

The evil one's accusations cannot penetrate the heart of faith because "... faith intervenes between the believer and this arrow, coming to the relief of the Christian's understanding"

The Gospel of Peace cont...

But then he trips men and with clever manoeuvring of their fleshly lusts, making them fall so far as to accept the pleasures of the world as the full and only payment of his promises. I hope this display of the devil's mis-shaped plot will make you love the gospel even more and stay in its everlasting arms as long as you live.

The Helmet of Salvation

As the helmet defends the head, a principal part of the body, so this 'hope of salvation' defends the soul, the principal part of man. The helmet protects the believer from dangerous or deadly impressions of sin or Satan. It defends the Christian because it is hard for temptations to snare a person who is satisfied with princely favour and who stands on the stairs of hope, expecting to be called at any time to the highest place a king can bestow.

The Sword of the Spirit

We should also be convinced of the supernatural effects of the word of God:

It has power to search the heart (Jer. 17:10; 1 Jn 3:20; 1 Cor. 14:25);

It has power to convict the conscience (Acts 2:37);

It has power to comfort (Prov. 18:24; 1 Pet. 1:8; Ps. 94:19, 107:17);

It has power to convert (Matt. 11:4f.) (3:237-240).

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit?

Take a stand on Scriptural principles and practices;

Let Scripture teach you more fear of God and less fear of man;

Surrender your lusts to the sword of the Spirit
(1 Pet. 2:20-23);

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit? Cont...

Strengthen your faith in God's promises concerning persecution ("My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise" Ps. 57:7);

Do not come to the word with an unholy heart (rather, with the mind of Christ, 1 Cor. 2:16);

Do not make your own reason the rule by which to measure Scriptural truths;

Do not prejudice the teachings of the word;

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit?

Pray to God to unlock the mysteries of Scripture (“when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”, Jn 16:13).

Compare Scripture with Scripture;

Consult with faithful authorities in the Church;

Collect Scriptural pictures of sin’s deformity – it is a poison, it defiles;

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit? Cont...

Find Scriptural answers to Satan's false reasoning: he tempts and deceives;

Hide the Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11);

Plead the promise against sin at the throne of grace;

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit?

Know your right to (and therefore claim) God's promises (Is. 26:20). Ask these questions:

Are you united to Christ by faith?

What effect does the promise have on your soul?

How does your heart respond to God's command?

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit? Cont...

“After you have viewed the promises, and disposed your heart to the riches of it, then get you to the throne of grace and spread it before the Lord, as David did:

“Remember the word unto the servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope” (Ps. 119:49)”. (3:311)

Particularly to preacher: Know the Word and handle it faithfully.

3 key lessons from Gurnall

We need to gain our Father's perspective on the trials and warfare which we suffer – everything remains under God's sovereign control

We must appreciate that the end of the battle is in sight - it won't last beyond this earthly life!

We should be secure and confident in the provision he has made for our certain victory – as we put on Christ and wear the full armour of God, we will find the Holy Spirit as our constant help and strength.