

THEO 330 – SECTION #07 ACTIVITY (ANSWER KEY)

The University of St. Francis

Name _____

Fill in the Blank / Short Answer Essay

1. What was CS Lewis' first book published? What was the theme of the book?

Spirits in Bondage: A Cycle of Lyrics (1919) C.S. Lewis's first book; a book of poetry. Written after his experiences with World War I, these poems reflect his efforts to make sense of wartime trauma.

2. What was the primary reason that CS Lewis lost faith in Christianity and became a professed atheist?

Lewis's long journey away from, and back to, faith began with his mother's death from cancer when he was a boy. Disillusioned that God had not healed his mother, Lewis set out on a path toward full-bodied rationalism and atheism.

3. Who was responsible for CS Lewis' return to Christianity? What was his justification for returning?

Through the assistance of JRR Tolkien, Lewis came to see evil and suffering as both an argument against atheism and an argument for God and Christianity. Suffering was a dilemma for atheism; only within Christianity did Lewis find a satisfactory explanation.

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. Just how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does

not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning. (Mere Christianity, 45-46)

4. In what year did CS Lewis marry Joy Davidman (Gresham)? In what year did Joy die? What book primarily dealt with Lewis' struggles over the death of his wife and in what year did he write this book? In what year did Lewis die himself?

a. 1956

c. A Grief Observed

b. 1960

d. 1963

5. How did Lewis view prayer in light of his wife's suffering and death?

Through the ordeal, Lewis learned that prayer is not about calling down miracles on demand. He also realized God had answered his prayers by giving him and his wife more time together with the cancer's brief remission.

Matching – Match the work written about Death & Dying by CS Lewis with its proper description.

B The Screwtape Letters
A The Problem of Pain

D A Grief Observed
C The Great Divorce

A.	<i>Written in 1940, this was a fictional novel where Lewis argues that human pain, animal pain, and hell are not sufficient reasons to reject belief in a good and powerful God. Lewis proceeds to suggest some reasons why a good and all-powerful God might allow evil.</i>
B.	<i>Written in 1942, this was a fictional novel comprised of letters from a demon to his nephew, discussing how to best lead mankind into a life of temptation and sin.</i>
C.	<i>Written in 1945, this was a work of fiction that depicts the journey of spirits through Hell/Purgatory to Heaven</i>
D.	<i>Written in 1961, this was an exploration of how humanity experiences the emotion of grief.</i>

True or False

1. True CS Lewis' career spanned the genres of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction; his famous Narnia series has never been out of print since its publication, and he is considered one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century.
2. True In The Screwtape Letters, the protagonist realized that the easiest way to distract a soul from their ultimate destiny was to keep them busy with the ordinary things of life.
3. False The purpose of Uncle Screwtape writing his journal was to show Wormwood the manner in which souls could be saved.

From the Movie, "Shadowlands" ...

4. True Much of the film's setting is confined to Oxford (England), where Lewis served as a university professor.
5. False Jack & Joy's relationship began with a "love at first sight" experience, quickly leading into a loving marriage.
6. True In their relationship, Jack learned that the other side of his love and passion for Joy was his pain and suffering.
7. True The "wardrobe" depicted in the movie represents a type of "portal" which Douglas imagined as a place more secure.
8. False Throughout the movie, Jack seems to have a better grasp of reality and his senses than his brother Warnie.
9. True In the movie, Jack's developing relationship with Joy positively influenced the students and audiences to whom he interacted throughout the movie.
10. True Joy reinterprets Jack's claim that "pain is a chisel blow of God" by stating "the pain now is part of the happiness then."

From the Book, A Grief Observed...

11. True CS Lewis used the pseudonym NW Clerk and referenced his deceased wife as "H" in the book.
12. True In Chapter One, Lewis found it difficult to do the simplest things like reading a letter or shaving in the morning, referring to this as a type of laziness.

13. *False*
"Time" In Chapter Two, Lewis states that "grief" is another name for "death."
14. *True* At some point in Chapter Two, Lewis tries to reason whether God is good or bad. Later, after reflecting upon his own argument, concluding that his own "senseless writhings" are of a man who "won't accept the fact that there is nothing we can do with suffering except to suffer it."
15. *True*
Chap 3 After her death, Lewis' most vivid experiences of his wife came when he felt the least sorrowful, as when he took his morning bath.
16. *False*
Suffering In Chapter Three, Lewis stated that losing God had sufficient force to rattle his faith.
17. *True* In Chapter Three, Lewis states that the worst thing he could wish was for his wife to return to him.
18. *True* In Chapter Four, the author compared grief to a Long Winding Valley Where Any Bend May Reveal Either a Totally New Landscape or a Familiar One
19. *True* Fear was the quality which best characterizes the author's reflections of his sufferings.
20. *False*
"Alone into the Alone." The main sentiment which H. would often say to the author in reference to here suffering was, "I will always love you."

Multiple Choice

General Information about CS Lewis

1. Which of the following books by CS Lewis has been adapted for film and television?

- a. Out of the Silent Planet
- b. The Screwtape Letters
- c. *The Chronicles of Narnia*
- d. All of These

The Chronicles of Narnia has been adapted for film and television multiple times, including a televised movie in 1967, a cartoon in 1979, and a BBC series that ran from 1988 to 1990. Most recently Walt Disney Pictures and Walden Media have produced several of the books in the series as feature films.

2. Which of the following themes does CS Lewis's work often address?

- a. Agnosticism
- b. Atheism
- c. Supernaturalism
- d. *Christianity*

Much of Lewis's work has Christian themes; while Lewis was raised in a Christian home, he moved away from Christianity while at school, but returned to it in 1931.

3. What important role is J. R. R. Tolkien said to have played in CS Lewis's life?

- a. Introducing Lewis to the woman he would marry.
- b. Saving his life during World War I.
- c. *Encouraging him to convert to Christianity.*
- d. Encouraging him to write The Chronicles of Narnia.

Tolkien, a colleague of Lewis's at Magdalen and a fellow author, was largely responsible for Lewis's conversion to Christianity, which occurred after the friends spent a night talking about the Christian tradition and Tolkien's belief in its historical accuracy.

4. Which of the following was CS Lewis's first published work?

- a. *Spirits in Bondage: A Cycle of Lyrics*
- b. Mere Christianity
- c. The Screwtape Letters
- d. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Lewis's first published work was a collection of poems entitled Spirits in Bondage, published in 1919.

From the movie "Shadowlands" ...

5. At the beginning of the movie, Jack offers what metaphor below concerning the subject of pain in his opening lecture?

- a. "Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever."
- b. "Some old wounds never truly heal, and bleed again at the slightest word."
- c. *"Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*
- d. "One thing you can't hide - is when you're crippled inside."

6. In real life, Joy Gresham raised two sons, David & Douglas. In the movie, how many sons did Joy raise?

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| a. <i>One</i> | c. Three |
| b. Two | d. Four |

7. Which quote from the movie IS NOT attributed to Joy Gresham?

- a. The pain then is part of the happiness now. That's the deal.
- b. Are you TRYING to be offensive, or merely stupid?
- c. Here's your friends thinking we're unmarried and up to all sorts of wickedness, when all along we're married and up to nothing at all.
- d. *All these quotes are attributed to Joy.*

8. Which famous Hollywood personality WAS NOT involved with filming *Shadowlands*?
- a. *Clint Eastwood*
 - b. Anthony Hopkins
 - c. Richard Attenborough
 - d. Debra Winger
9. How many times were Jack & Joy married in this film?
- a. Never
 - b. Once
 - c. *Twice*
 - d. They were already married
10. Which theme below does the film best illustrate?
- a. Through their passionate feelings for each other, both Jack & Joy each grows as a person, though Lewis' transformation is more drastic and obvious.
 - b. Lewis comes to understand why and accepts that pain comes with happiness. Joy also comes to terms with this dichotomy before her death.
 - c. Lewis does not like that Joy has to suffer with her illness, that he has found love late in life but has to lose it. Yet he finds solace in prayer, he tells a colleague at one point, because it changes him. The experience teaches him about God.
 - d. *All of These.*

From the book, A Grief Observed...

11. C.S. Lewis and his wife, Helen Joy Gresham (born: Davidman), both came to faith in Christ by the "long and difficult road" of experiencing what?
- a. Hedonism to Self-Denial to Christianity
 - b. Relativism to Absolutism to Christianity
 - c. Mythology to Hero Typology to Christianity
 - d. *Atheism to Agnosticism to Theism to Christianity (Intro)*

12. With regard to other people, the grieving author wanted to experience what?
- a. *To Be Alone (Chapter One)*
 - b. To Talk with Others about His Loss
 - c. To Be Around Other People without having to Talk to Them
 - d. To hear from Them what They Missed about H.
13. What does the author state cause human beings to regard God falsely?
- a. The Way God Tests People
 - b. Organized Religion
 - c. *Tainted and Depraved Ideas*
 - d. The Devil
- (from Chapter 2)
14. In Chapter Two, which of the following truths brought comfort to C.S. Lewis?
- a. "She will live forever in my memory."
 - b. "She is happy now, and she is at peace."
 - c. "She is in God's hands."
 - d. *None of the Above.*
15. As Chapter Three begins, what does the author record that he is afraid his grief will turn into?
- a. Distorted Memories of H
 - b. Unending Sorrow
 - c. Rage
 - d. *Dead Flatness*

16. In Chapter Three, Lewis reported feeling better. It came quite unexpectedly. He said that early one morning his “heart was lighter than it had been for many weeks.” He had slept well the night before, the weather was sunny after many days of grey skies, and he believed he was recovering from weeks of physical exhaustion. His attitude toward God was also changing. After questioning whether or not God was the “Cosmic Sadist” in Chapter Two, Lewis now views Him as what?

a. *A Surgeon whose Intentions are wholly Good*

b. The Eternal Vivisector

c. A Moderately Good Being

d. A God who is Behind a Door that is Shut and Bolted

Lewis eventually concluded that bereavement was “not the truncation of married love but one of its regular phases. What we want is to live our marriage well and faithfully through that phase too. If it hurts (and it certainly will) we accept the pain as a necessary part of this phase.”

17. In Chapter Three, what motivated the author’s attempt to hit back at God?

a. Respect

b. Acceptance of H’s death

c. *Not Understanding God’s Intention*

d. Religious Conversion

18. Reviewing his notes in Chapter Four, Lewis observed that his writings had been about himself first, then H., and then God, “the order and the proportions exactly what they ought not to have been.” Lewis noted there was something missing and that he “must do more of this.” To what was he referring?

a. *Praise*

b. Confession

c. Meditation

d. Charity

19. In Chapter Four, what kind of “no answer” does the author get from God by the fourth chapter? (from Chapter 4)
- a. A Complete Answer
 - b. A Locked Door
 - c. Absolutely No Response
 - d. *A Silent Gaze*
20. In Chapter Four, who is the source of the author’s problem?
- a. God
 - b. *The Author Himself*
 - c. H.
 - d. Nobody

Long Answer Essay

1. What is behind the human tendency to blame God actively for the things we do not want in our lives but not to, with equal passion and attitude-changing constancy, praise Him for the things that are good?

A couple students asked me about the Quiz Essay this week and where that answer could be found. In the ZOOM Session last week (hint hint), I spoke a bit about the Sehnsucht, which is a kind of longing of something that we have lost, realizing the joy that we once had, a joy that often is realized only when it is gone.

One of the students wrote an excellent answer to the question, which I provide for you in this email...

According to CS Lewis says that we blame God for things that we do not want in our lives because it is easiest for us to say why would God do something so awful to someone who was a good person. As we can see by looking at CS Lewis's life, through A Grief Observed and the movie "Shadowlands", Lewis is left wondering this question during two major points in his life. The first time being when his mother died of cancer when he was a young boy. He was left wondering why God would do that to his mother and then leave him as a young boy without a mother. We then see this later in his life as

his wife is diagnosed with terminal cancer. This leaves Lewis wondering why God would put her through so much suffering even though she was a good person. It is easier for us to place blame on God when something terrible happens because we are left wondering why he would bring about something so bad. We tend to not praise him with equal passion or attitude-changing constancy because we expect God to do good things for us or to bring about good in our lives because we believe that God does good. We, as humans, can also have a tendency to ignore some of the good things in life that God brings about, and it is much easier to acknowledge and recognize the bad things that occur. An example of this can be found in A Grief Observed. CS Lewis described a time where his wife, before they were married, felt that God was trying to tell her something, but she continued to ignore it because she did not want it to be a question of a sin or deed that she did, but once she finally gave it, she entered into pure joy, and realized that it was God trying to give her joy (A Grief Observed, p. 46-47). There are times in life where we feel Gods call, but choose to ignore it, and many times, God wants to bring us joy, but if we ignore him, it would be much more difficult for us to experience this joy. This contributes to the fact that we do not praise God as much as we should for the things that are good. Lewis describes that we do not praise near enough, and praising is something he felt he needed to do more of (A Grief Observed, p. 62). Lewis goes on to also explain that we often do not realize or acknowledge when God has put something good in our lives or given us a good gift. An example of this would be the good people and the person or people that we love in our life. We often do not think of this as a gift of God and forget that all of the good things, including good people, are gifts of God. So by failing to acknowledge this, it is difficult to praise God for these good things and to acknowledge all the good in our lives. Lewis notes that by praising something, we are enjoying what we praise, and he notes that by praising, he can still in some degree enjoy pieces of his late wife (A Grief Observed, p. 62-63). Praising can bring us in a full circle because if we praise the things we enjoy, we may be able to find even more enjoyment within the things we praise. We must make the effort

within our lives to find and acknowledge and praise all of the good things that God has put in our lives, rather than only focusing on all of the bad or unwanted things he has brought for us.

The thing behind the human tendency to blame God actively for the things we do not want in our lives is our lack of understanding of God. Humans cannot possibly understand His plan and His goodness because we are not God and do not see the whole picture. Often times we are so consumed with grief and our human thoughts that we cannot comprehend God. At one points Lewis even asks himself, "Where is God?" (A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, p. 5). He goes on to explain that happiness can sometimes trick you into thinking that you no longer need Him, but if you go to Him in praise you will be welcomed (A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, p. 5-6). If you go to him during times of need it might feel as if he isn't there to help you (A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, p. 6). Because humans are uncomfortable with pain, grief, and change they want answers immediately, but it is during this time that humans actually grow and learn the most (as seen throughout the book and how Lewis's thoughts and philosophies changed over the course of it). In chapter four, Lewis explains about praise. He says that for the majority of his reflections he has talked about himself and about Joy (H) before discussing God because he was so consumed in his grief (A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, p. 62). He finally learns that praising God would've been the most beneficial to his healing process because praise brings joy and a sense of peace (A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, p. 62-63).

2. What is the need in humanity that inspires the traditions in cultures all over the world and throughout history of preserving possessions of the dead, celebrating important dates from their lives, and believing that they continue beyond this life? Why is the continuation of life beyond this life such a nearly universal belief?

3. Discuss the notion that human pain is a tool used by God to shape the human soul. Do you think that is a universal truth? How much ability do humans have to reject the shaping God would try to do?

Key Terms	
Agape, Storge, Philia, Eros	Lewis' wrote about these in his book <u>The Four Loves</u> . Storge, Philia, and Eros are the "natural loves" and Agape is the pure "gift-love."
Bodleian	The library of the University of Oxford and the repository of one of the finest collections of Lewis' manuscripts anywhere. The Bodleian collection of C.S. Lewis manuscripts began in 1967 with fifty-six letters from Lewis deposited by Sister Penelope.
Bulverism	The title given by Lewis' to the assumption of modern arguments that the man is wrong. "Until Bulverism is crushed, reason can play no effective part in human affairs."
G.K. Chesterton (Gilbert Keith)	A celebrated convert to Christianity who influenced Lewis' thinking. He wrote, like Lewis, in defense of both Christian faith and fantasy.
Chronological Snobbery	According to Lewis, is the mistaken belief that newer things and ideas ought to be preferred to older or traditional ones. Lewis defined the term in chapter 13 of <u>Surprised by Joy</u> .
De Description Temporum	Lewis' inaugural lecture as professor in the newly formed Chair of Medieval and Renaissance English Literature at the University of Cambridge. It argues that the greatest change in the history of the West took place around the beginning of the nineteenth century, and ushered in a characteristically modern mentality. Complements his book, "The Abolition of Man"

Dymer	An anti-totalitarian poem written while Lewis was still an unbeliever in Christianity. It is included in "Narrative Poems." Bitterly attacks Christianity, regards it as an illusion that must be overcome and destroyed in one's life.
Epistolary	Commonly a book or story generally written for a larger audience to get a message across; a letter is usually just for a personal or individual audience.
Joy	A longing for otherness, of which is communicated by "the stab" of joy; it has been an extensive theme through most of Lewis' writings. He develops the idea of joy when he speaks of "romantic religion;" the attempt to reach religious truth by means and techniques traditionally called romantic. Lewis concludes by explaining that joy is a foretaste of heaven.
Numinous	An object which brings about a sense of dread within us. Lewis argues that it is impossible to infer such a feeling from the facts of the universe. Nothing about the natural world would lead man to fear this type of supernatural being; but the feeling comes from man's interpretation of the universe. It is similar to beauty.
Romanticism	The kind of romanticism that Lewis' is speaking of is often referred to as "Wordsworthian" speaking to the transcendent quality of "joy." This is frequently communicated through poetry, nature, art, and music. The connections between "romanticism" and "joy" are spiritual, literary, and psychological.
Sehnsucht	The German word for joy. Lewis explained that this longing was not for joy itself, but it was for joy that pointed to otherness. That otherness was heaven.

A Severe Mercy	This is an account of love, courtship, marriage, and grief in which Lewis played an important pastoral part, mainly through letters to its author, Sheldon Vanauken. The American movingly records his romance with Jean Davis, whom he calls 'Davy', their conversation, and her subsequent early death. It is particularly important to those for whom Lewis inspires a sacramental view of Christian faith.
Shadowlands (origin of term & its meaning)	Idea that the world that we are currently living in is only a shadow of the real country that we are longing for; it is illustrated in The Great Divorce.