

# Mere Christianity

Wednesday Bible Study  
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, Lansing, MI

## Lewis' Biography

Clive Staples Lewis (born November 29, 1898, Belfast, UK. died November 22, 1963, Oxford, UK. Professor at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Fell away from the faith in childhood and became atheist, returning to Christianity at age 32 (1930). Member of the Church of England (Anglican). Married Joy Davidman in 1956 but she died of cancer four years later. Honored with a memorial in the Poets corner in Westminster Abbey, London.

Notable works:

The Pilgrim's Regress (1933)  
Space Trilogy (1938, 1943, 1945)  
The Problem of Pain (1940)  
The Screwtape Letters (1942)  
The Abolition of Man (1943)  
The Great Divorce (1945)  
Miracles: A Preliminary Study (1947)  
The Chronicles of Narnia (1950-1956)  
Mere Christianity (1952)  
Surprised by Joy (1955)  
The Four Loves (1960)  
A Grief Observed (1961)  
God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics (1970)

## Mere Christianity

Originally radio addresses, then published as three separate parts

The Case for Christianity (1943)  
Christian Behavior (1943)  
Beyond Personality (1945)

Tried to speak broadly to include many denominations – common truths of Christianity rather than denominational distinctives. Common / central / 'mere' Christianity. Published together under the title "Mere Christianity" 1952.

## Outline

Preface

Book I – Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe.

Book 2 – What Christians Believe

Book 3 – Christian Behavior

Book 4 – Beyond Personality: or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity

**For Discussion:**

1. What are the arguments against Christianity these days?
2. How do people relate the Christian faith with human reason?
3. Where do you go to find reasonable arguments for our Christian/Lutheran faith?

1 Peter 3:15, *"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."*

**Read the Preface, p. 5-12**

How does Lewis treat doctrinal differences and disputes among various Christian confessions?

How does Lewis use the word "Christian" in this book?

What is Lewis' illustration of the "halls and rooms" of Christianity mean?

**For next week, read Book 1, chapters 1-3**

Email questions or insights to Pastor Wangelin – [pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org)