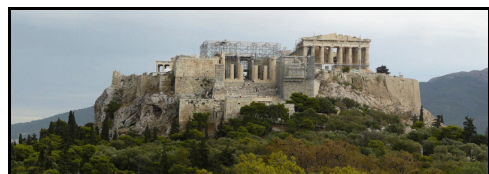




The Areopagus

Jan / Feb 2025

UPDATE



C. S. LEWIS

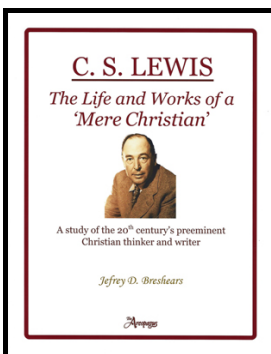
The Life and Works of the 20th Century's Most Influential Christian Thinker and Writer

by Jeffrey Breshears

The Areopagus seminar for the first semester of 2025 is one of my favorite courses in our catalogue: “C. S. Lewis: The Life and Works of a ‘Mere Christian’.” Lewis was an intellectual savant, one of the 20th century’s most gifted and prolific writers, and a wise guide as we navigate our way through life in our contemporary society and culture. A first-rate scholar, Christian apologist, poet, sci-fi writer, and author of children’s fantasy novels, he wrote with charm, wit, profound insight, and occasional eloquence. Disinterested in impressing the cultural *literati* and the secular academic elite, he wrote for the common man in a conversational and accessible tone without pandering to his audience.

Mere Christianity, Lewis’ informal primer in Christian apologetics, is often regarded as perhaps the most significant and influential Christian book of the 20th century. In the year 2000 *Christianity Today* magazine voted it the most influential Christian book of the century, and *The Screwtape Letters* was #2 on the list. More than 50 years after his death, 36 of his books are still in print, and collectively they have sold over 250 million copies.

Lewis was one of the great Christian thinkers of the 20th century. Although neither a professional philosopher, a theologian, a Bible scholar, a historian, a psychologist nor a social scientist, he wrote perceptively in all of these areas.



Furthermore –and a rarity among intellectuals – he reconciled and balanced reason and imagination with biblical fidelity. Lewis understood that when taken to extremes, reason often leads to Rationalism while imagination leads to Romanticism (and escapism).

As a Christian writing in a post-Christian age, Lewis offered a scathing critique of modernistic secular humanism, scientism and moral relativism. Like his friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis’ writings were self-consciously and often deliberately at variance with 20th century trends and fads. Paradoxically, because his writings address the most consequential

[Continued...]

The Areopagus Calendar

Areopagus Seminars

C. S. LEWIS:

The Life and Works of the 20th Century's Most Influential Christian Thinker and Writer

Wednesdays

January 8th to April 2nd

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

Room 320/340

6:30 PM

An in-depth study of the major events and influences in the life of Lewis, including his most significant writings.

- His lonely and turbulent childhood
- His service in World War I
- His early career as an atheist scholar and professor
- His conversion to Christianity
- His major works in Christian apologetics, science fiction and children’s literature
- His involvement in “The Inklings”
- His relationship with Joy Davidman Gresham

* * * * *

The Areopagus Christian Heritage Tour: The World of C. S. Lewis

An inspiring and memorable tour of the most formative and significant places in the life of C. S. Lewis

April 24 - May 4, 2025

For more information on the tour please see

www.TheAreopagus.org

Space is limited – so don’t delay!

C. S. LEWIS

The Life and Works of the 20th Century's Most Influential Christian Thinker and Writer

[Continued]

issues of life, they are timeless and always relevant.

Lewis was a “mere Christian” – a “Great Tradition Christian” as he described himself – and as such he appeals to serious believers across theological and denominational lines. Throughout his Christian life he was convinced that sectarianism is one of Satan’s most effective weapons against Christianity.

As the early Christian scholar Clement of Alexandria taught, every committed Christian should be...

- A Bible scholar;
- A theologian; and
- A philosopher;

In our day and age, conscientious Christians must also aspire to be...

- An apologist who can clearly and effectively explain and defend the rational and factual reasons why we believe the

Christian faith to be true;

- A cultural “watchman” in the midst of our increasingly secular, hedonistic, materialistic and immoral society and culture; and
- A contemplative Christian who develops a deep spiritual relationship with God through a life devoted to the traditional Christian spiritual disciplines.

To the extent that C. S. Lewis incorporated these traits, he serves as an inspiring example for us all.

Join us as we learn about this devout and gifted man who contributed so much to making the Christian faith sensible, credible and relevant to modern man. Even if you took this seminar years ago, you will find this expanded course on Lewis’ life to be all the more spiritually enriching and relevant.



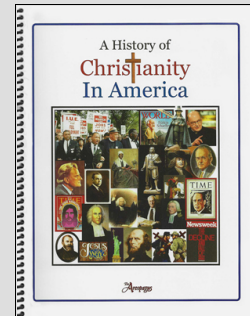
The Areopagus Calendar

A History of Christianity in America

Sunday mornings

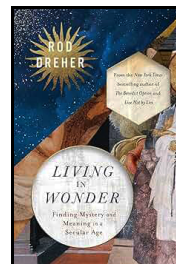
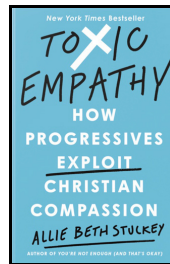
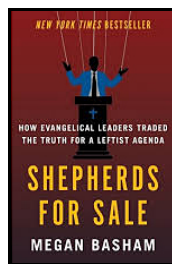
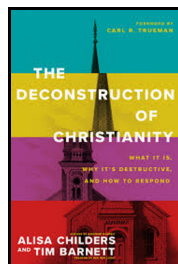
11:30 AM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 277



An ongoing seminar on the major people, issues, events and trends in American Christianity from colonial times to the present for Christians who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of America’s rich, diverse, complex, and sometimes perplexing Christian heritage.

☆☆☆☆☆ Four Relevant and Recommended Books of 2024 ☆☆☆☆☆



The Deconstruction of Christianity by Alisa Childers and Tim Barnett analyzes disturbing trends in contemporary evangelicalism that lead many young or fragile Christians to fall away from true biblical faith. Megan Basham’s **Shepherds for Sale** has sparked controversy because it identifies high-profile evangelical leaders who have become shells for many secular, immoral and even neo-Marxist trends. Allie Beth Stuckey’s **Toxic Empathy** exposes the various ways that “progressives” distort and exploit “compassion,” “tolerance” and “social justice” to advance an anti-Christian/neo-Marxist agenda. **Living in Wonder** by the astute social critic, Rod Dreher, reminds us that all the social and moral confusion of our time often distracts us from recognizing the reality that we live in an “enchanted” world in which God is an ever-present reality – as is perpetual spiritual warfare. Therefore, we must live consciously and intentionally with these realities in mind.