



Influential Christian Literature

*Exploring Essential Works That Shaped
Christian Thought*

Wilbur Reid, summer of 2025

ALTMILLER | COTTRELL | HARLOW | MCCABE | PRUETT | REESE | SCOTT | SPEARS JULY/AUGUST 2025

CHRISTIAN STANDARD

Spiritual Warfare

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: WINNING THE
FIGHT WE CANNOT SEE
Dr. Mark Scott

40

SATAN'S WORK TODAY
Jack Cottrell

46

THE POWER OF PRAYER
IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE
Greg Pruett

52

THE INNEVITABLE RABBIT HOLE:
COUNTERING SATAN'S IMPACT ON YOUNG
PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA
Ricky Altmiller

58

A STORY OF DELIVERANCE
Interview by Tim Harlow

64

SPIRITUAL WARFARE & MENTAL HEALTH:
A CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR'S PERSPECTIVE
Doug Spears, Ph.D., LPCC/s

70

OUT FROM DARKNESS
Ginny McCabe

74

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE
TO THE OCCULT
Christopher L. Reese

80

IN EVERY

6-7 FROM THE EDITOR

14-15 62: EFFECTIVE ELDERS
The Leader and
Spiritual Warfare
David Roadcup

16-18 ENGAGE
Should Christians join
the backlash against
D.E.I.?
Tyler McKenzie

22-23 HORIZONS
Community Change Brings
Life Transformation
Laura McKillip Wood

26-28 INTENTIONAL
The Parent's Post:
Stewarding Adult Children
with Grace, Grit, and Snacks
Rudy & Oshayre Hagood

32-33 PREACH
Preaching with Your Own
Voice
Chris Philbeck

36-38 METRICS
Beyond the Budget:
Navigating Church Giving
and Finances
Kent E. Fillingner

92-95 INTERACT

96-97 MOTIVATE
A Peek at the Devil's
Playbook
David Faust

The Armor of God

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).

Belt of Truth

(Ephesians 6:14)

Sword of the Spirit

(Ephesians 6:17)

Feet of Peace

(Ephesians 6:15)

Helmet of Salvation

(Ephesians 6:17)

Breastplate of Righteousness

(Ephesians 6:14)

Shield of Faith

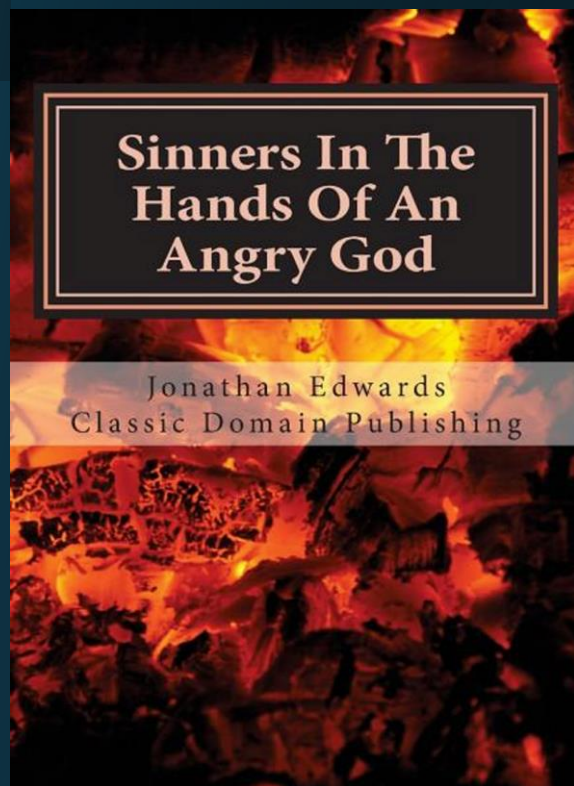
(Ephesians 6:16)



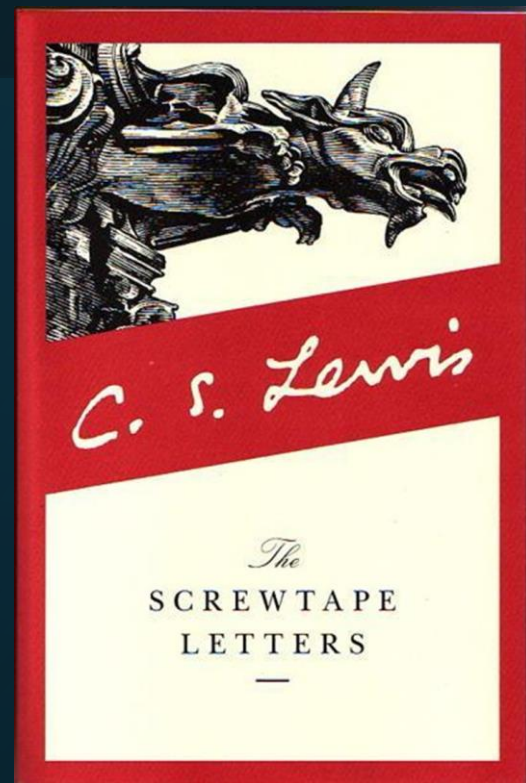
Paul and Spiritual Warfare

- “For we wanted to come to you—
certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—
but Satan blocked our way”
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:18.
- “I was given a thorn in my flesh, a
messenger of Satan, to torment me”
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7
- "The God of peace will soon crush
Satan under your feet“
 - Romans 16:20

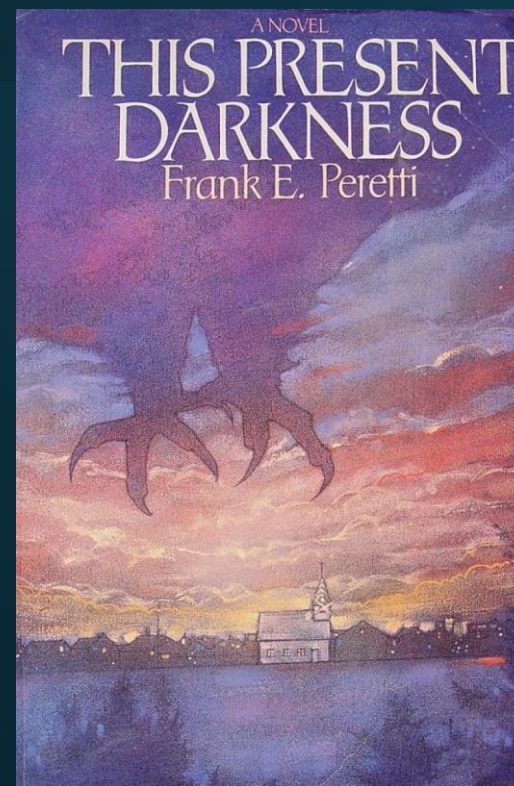
Spiritual Warfare



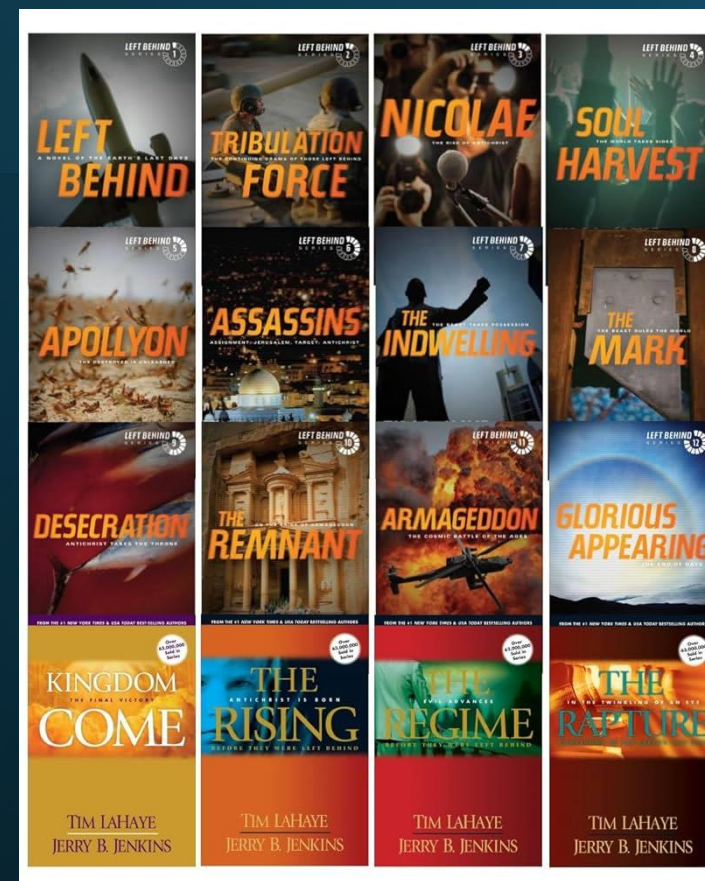
1741



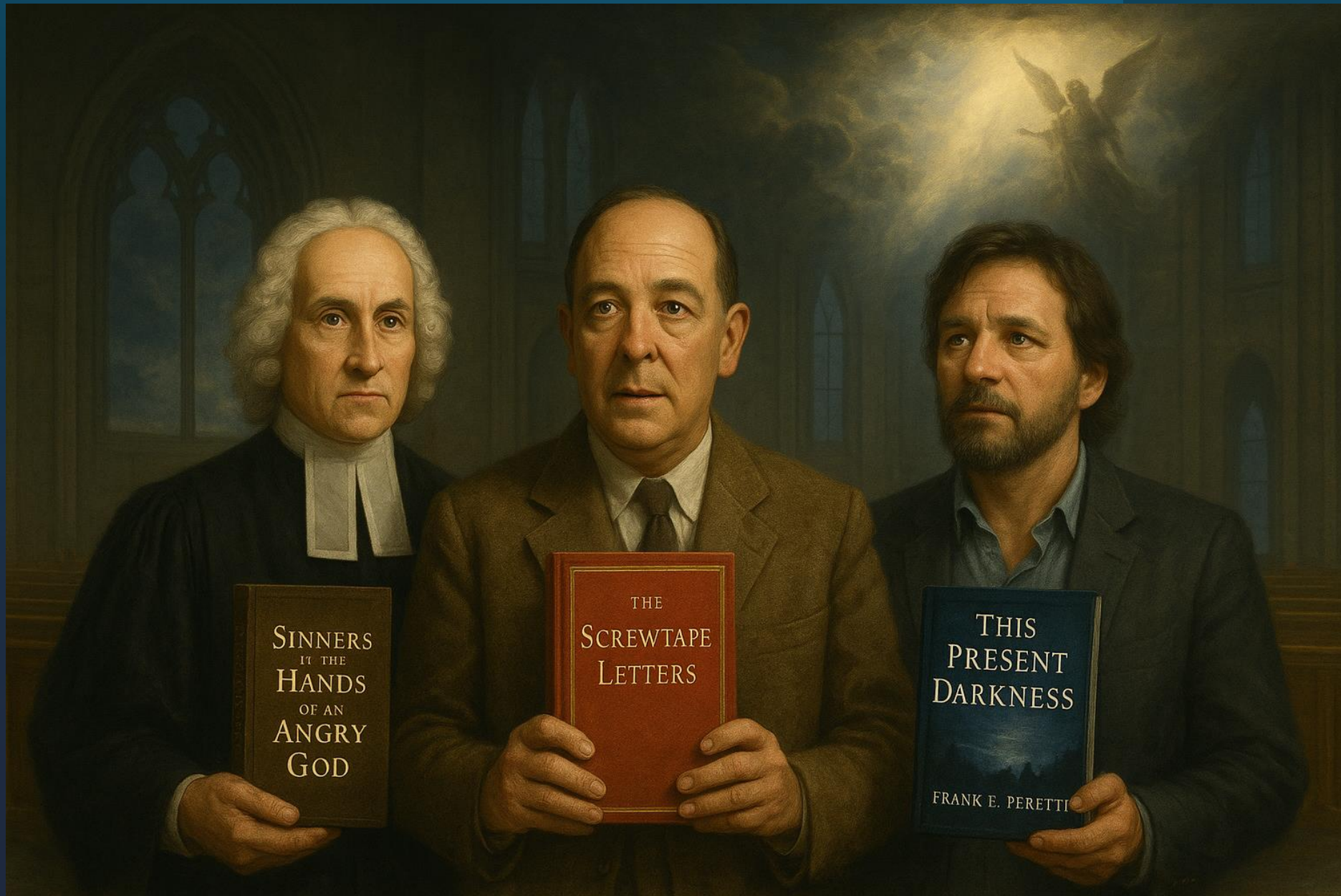
1942



1986



1995 - 2007



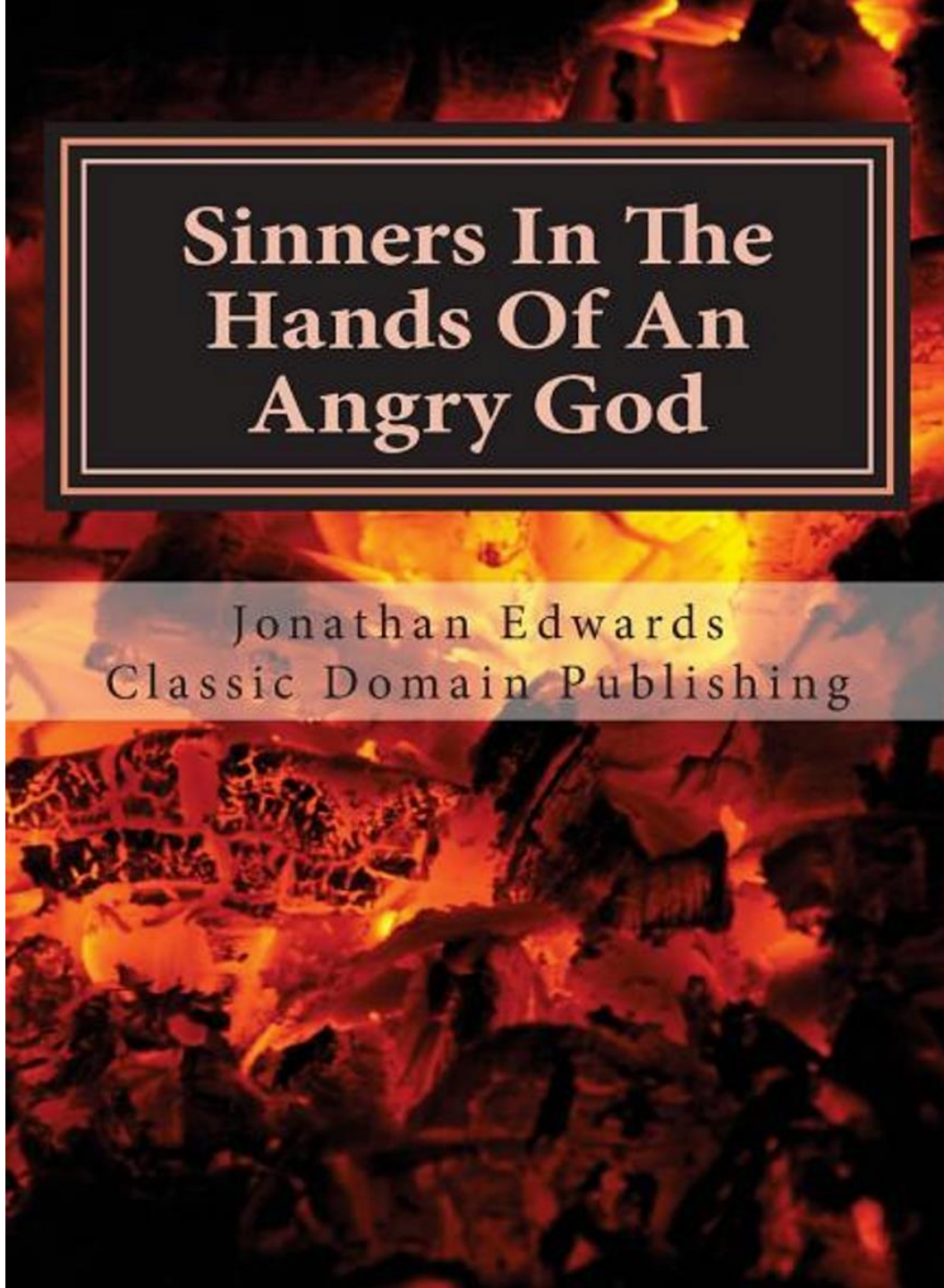
SINNERS
IN THE
HANDS
OF AN
ANGRY
GOD

THE
SCREWTAPE
LETTERS

THIS
PRESENT
DARKNESS
FRANK E. PERETTI

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God (1741)

- **Author:** Jonathan Edwards
 - American Puritan preacher, theologian, intellectual, and philosopher
 - Yale at 13, president of Princeton, launched the first Great Awakening
- **Summary:** A powerful sermon depicting humanity's precarious position before God's judgment and the urgency of repentance.
- **Quote:** "There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God."

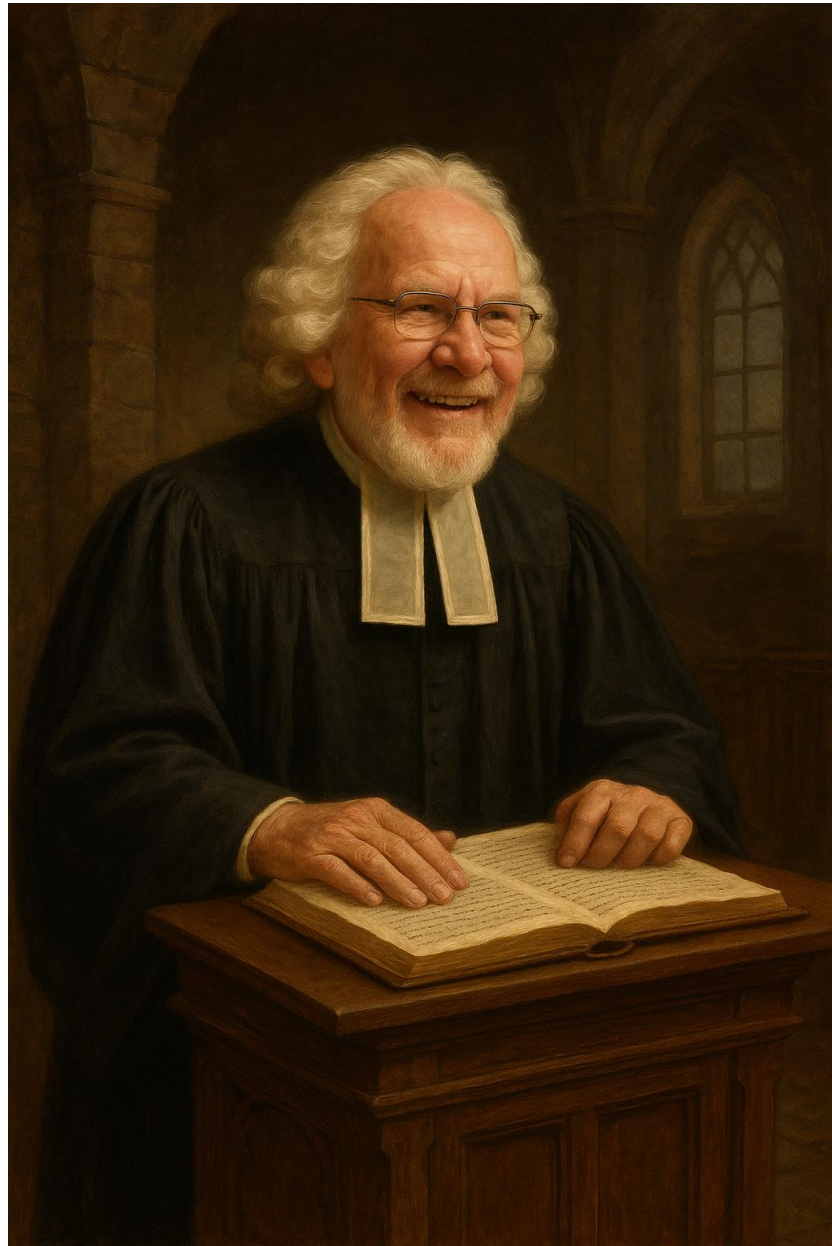


Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God

Jonathan Edwards
Classic Domain Publishing



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God



The Screwtape Letters (1942)

- **Author:** C.S. Lewis
 - British professor, writer, and apologist
 - 31 letters
- **Summary:** A satirical correspondence between senior demon Screwtape and his nephew Wormwood on tempting humans away from God. Idea from Hitler.
- *"Though I had never written anything more easily, I never wrote with less enjoyment...But though it was easy to twist one's mind into the diabolical attitude, it was not fun, or not for long...It almost smothered me before I was done."*



C. S. Lewis

The
SCREWTAPE
LETTERS
—



Screwtape's Strategies

- **Distraction and Delay** – Keep the patient from deep thought or prayer by filling his mind with trivialities, news, or everyday busyness. Even ordinary annoyances are useful if they prevent serious reflection about God.
- **Small Sins Over Great Sins** – Encourage small, socially acceptable sins (pride, gossip, selfishness, laziness) rather than scandalous sins. These are less likely to awaken conscience and more likely to create a slow drift away from God.
- **Distortion of Virtue** – Twist good things into vices: turn humility into pride in one's humility, love into possessiveness, or patriotism into hatred of enemies.



Screwtape's Strategies

- **Church Hypocrisy and Division** – Keep the patient focused on flaws in other Christians, politics within the church, or outward rituals instead of genuine faith.
- **Materialism and Worldliness** – Encourage him to live as if this life is all that matters, seeking comfort, wealth, and reputation instead of eternal things.
- **Complacency and Indifference** – The safest path to hell, Screwtape says, is “the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

THE Screwtape LETTERS

Max McLean as Screwtape

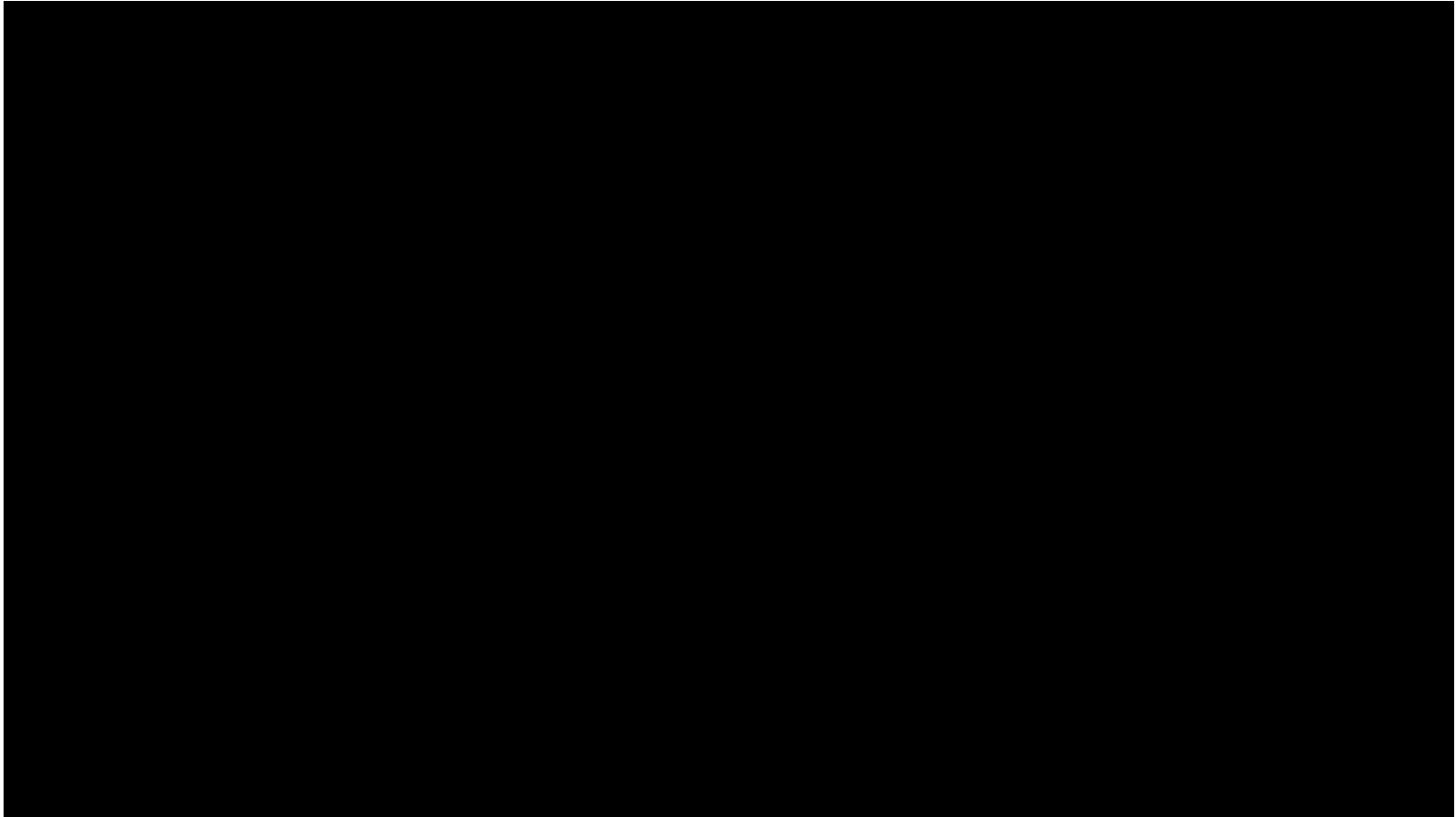
Toadpipe

"A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE!"

- Christianity Today

**"THE DEVIL HAS RARELY BEEN GIVEN
HIS DUE MORE PERCEPTIVELY!"**

- The New York Times




[Read sample](#)

The Marduk Letters: Diabolically Eliminating Level 5 and Servant Leaders Paperback – September 1, 2022

by [Wilbur Reid](#) (Author)

5.0 ★★★★★ (1)

[See all formats and editions](#)

 No better price found

Our Father Below is pleased with the work of the demons in the Lowerarchy of hell to create division and contention among the people of Earth in the twenty-first century. However, he is angered by the growing interest in the ideas of humility and zeal that Christian leaders have discovered in the Enemy's two-thousand-year-old propaganda. These ideas have been formalized into two related, abhorrent concepts: servant leadership and level 5 leadership. Servant leadership describes individuals who begin with a natural desire to serve first, and then conscious choice causes them to aspire to lead. Level 5 leadership, from *Good to Great* by Jim Collins, combines the paradoxical blend of humility and zeal. Marduk, a thoroughly ruthless and cruel demon, mentors his naïve and hapless nephew Slugtoad. Marduk assigns Slugtoad to a male and a female patient in America who have the potential to be strong Christian leaders. In his letters, Marduk advises Slugtoad to guide the patients away from effective leadership. The first section of the book is comprised of the Marduk letters, while the second section provides the scholarship and research of servant and level 5 leadership.

 [Report an issue with this product or seller](#)

Print length



126 pages

Language



English

Publication date



September 1,
2022

Dimensions



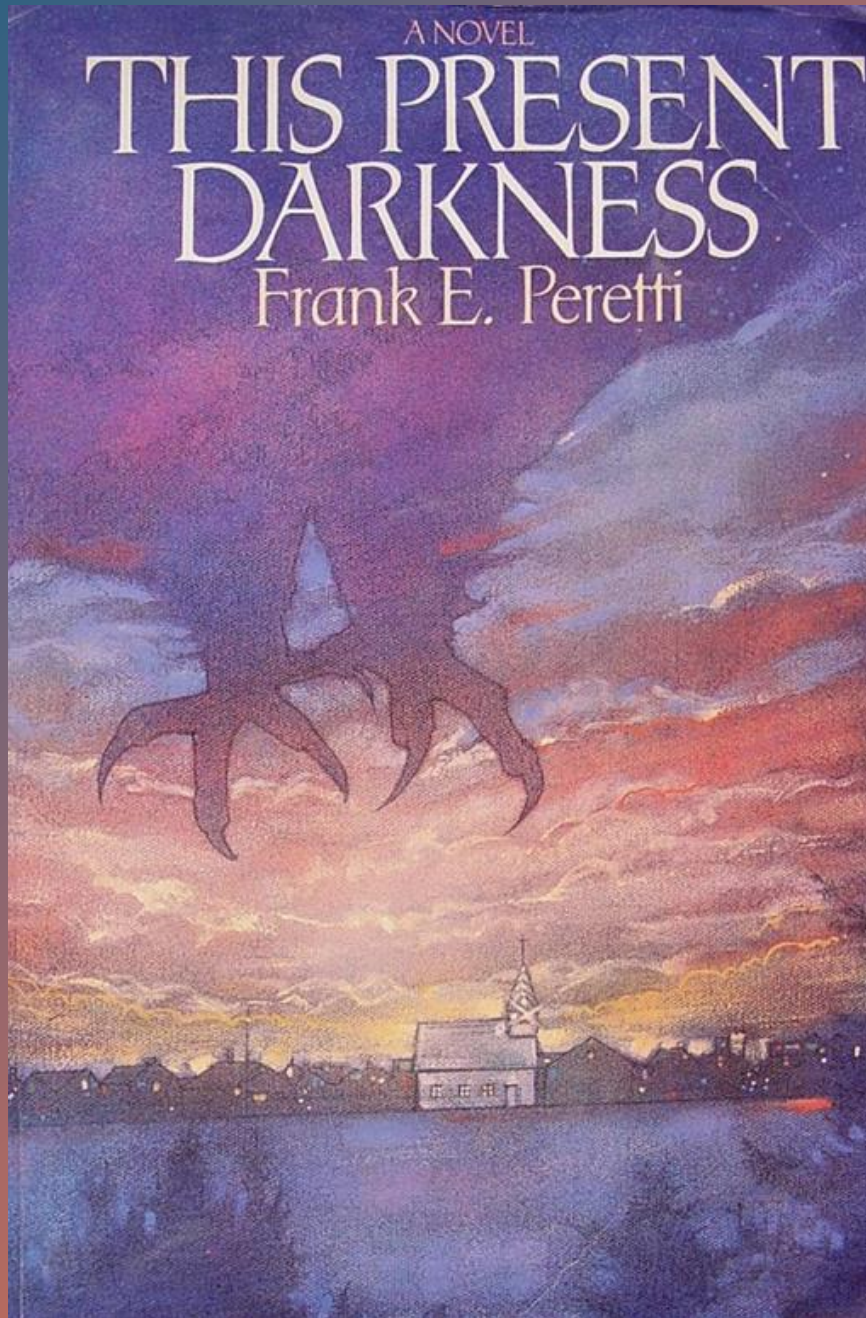
5.5 x 0.29 x 8.5
inches

ISBN-10



1725290464





This Present Darkness (1986)

- **Author:** Frank Peretti
- **Summary:** A modern Christian novel that portrays the unseen battle between angels and demons influencing a small town, highlighting the power of prayer and spiritual warfare.
- **Quote:**
 - “No prayer is ever wasted. No matter how feeble, no matter how small, no matter how weak, it is still prayer.”
 - “Prayer was the only weapon strong enough to turn the tide.”

Themes

- **Prayer as Spiritual Weapon:** The novel dramatizes the idea that prayer literally empowers angels and restrains demons.
 - **The Reality of Spiritual Warfare:** Peretti paints a vivid picture of Ephesians 6:12—"our struggle is not against flesh and blood."
 - **Courage and Truth:** Both Marshall and Hank show that integrity and faith often require standing against cultural pressure.
 - **Deception of New Age Movements:** The UCS represents false spiritualities that seem harmless but are deeply destructive.
-



For we do not
wrestle against
flesh and blood,
but against the
rulers, against the
authorities, against
the cosmic powers
over this present
darkness, against
the spiritual forces
of evil in the
heavenly places.



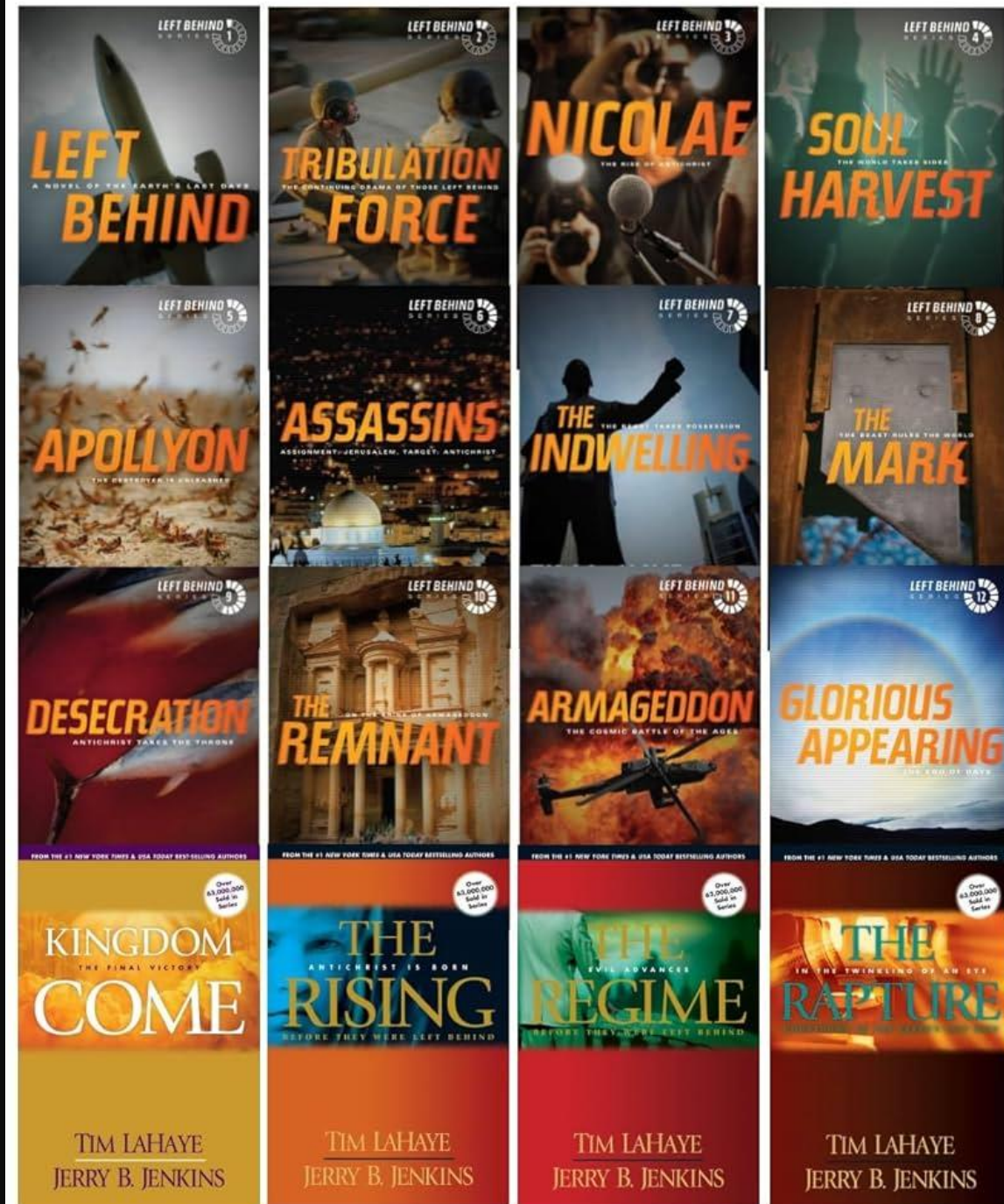
FICTIONCHICK

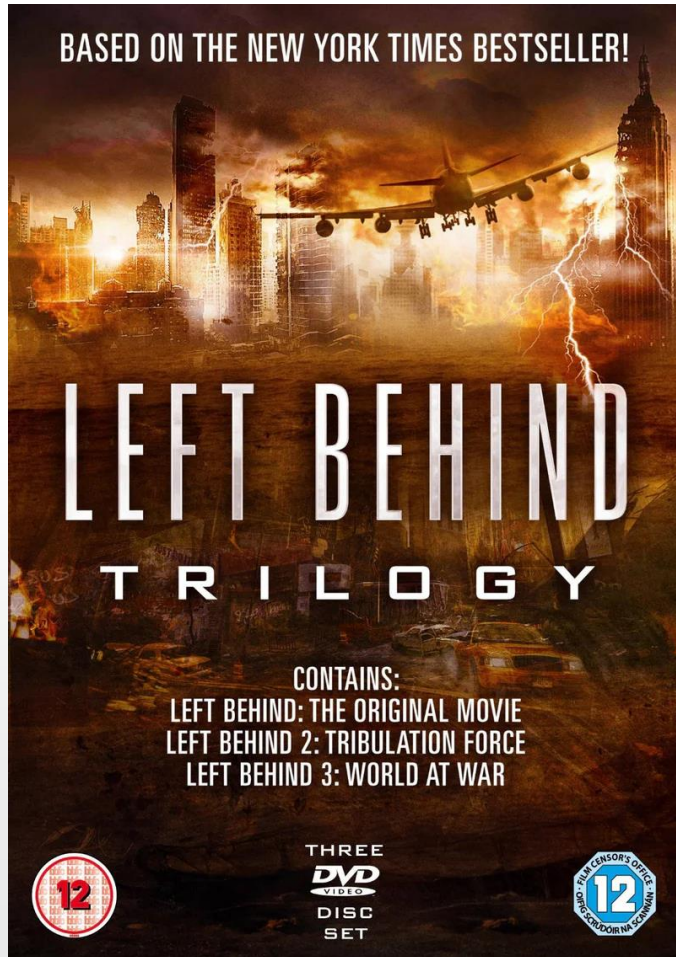
Ephesians 6:12

“When you walk
in obedience,
even the weakest
saint is a terror to
the powers of
darkness.”

Left Behind series (1995-2007)

- **Authors:** Tim LaHaye, Jerry Jenkins (*father of Dallas*)
 - 16 books, 80 million copies sold, 5 movies
 - **Summary:** What happens on earth after the Rapture, when Christians are suddenly taken to heaven and those “left behind” must face the Tribulation.
 - **Quote:** “He was gone. All of them were gone. The stewardess who had been standing in the aisle—her uniform crumpled on the floor. A businessman’s suit lay empty in his seat. The air was filled with screams and sobs. Rayford Steele’s mind reeled. The Rapture had happened, and he had been left behind.”
-





Kirk Cameron
2000, 2002, 2005



Nicolas Cage
2014

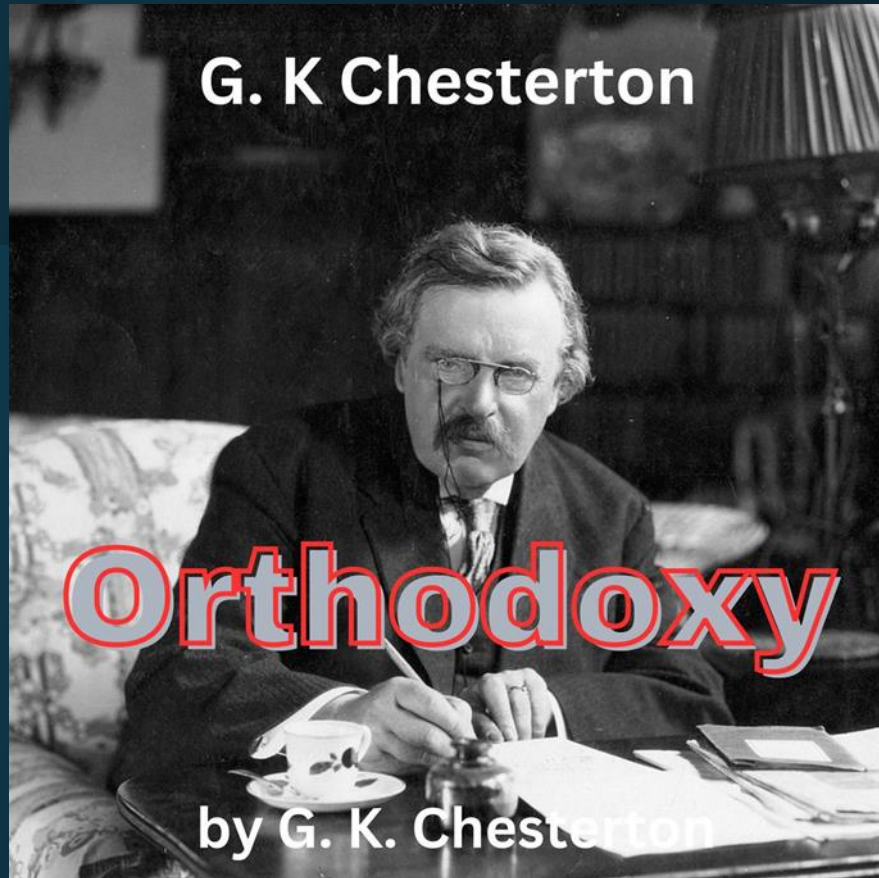


Kevin Sorbo
2023

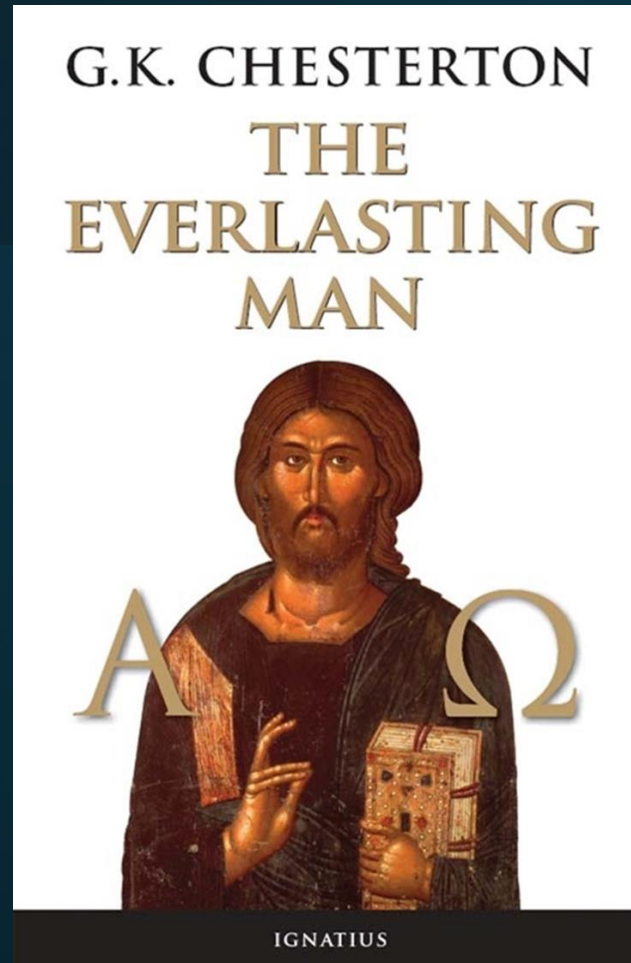




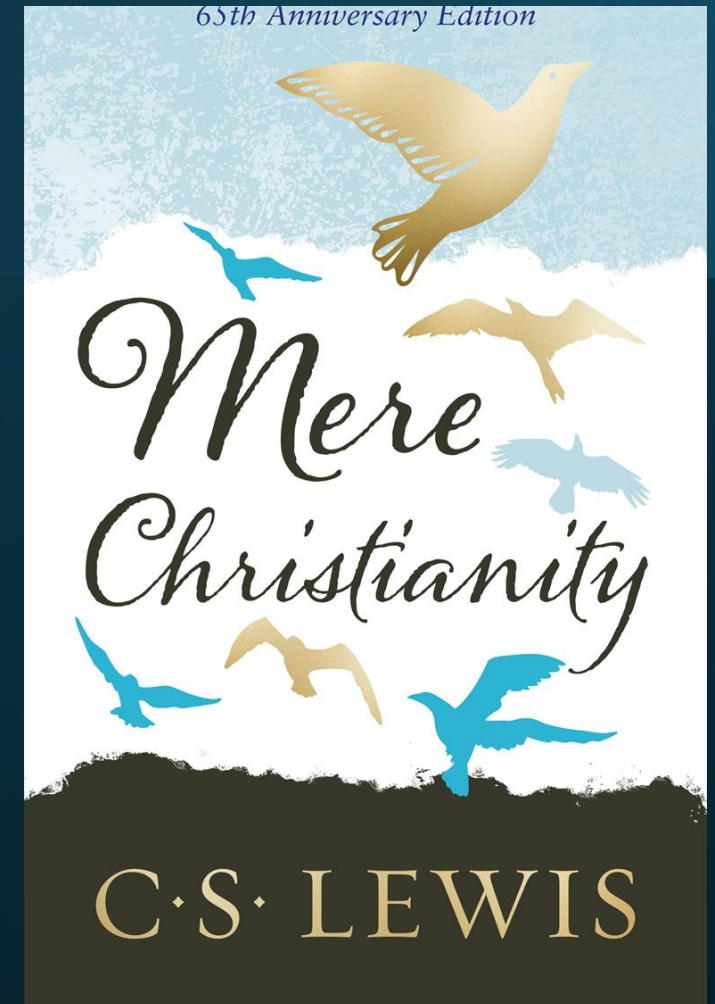
Next Week: Defending the Faith



1908



1925



1952

Twelve Unifying Themes

1. The Foundation of Faith

What we believe and why

Luther, Calvin, Campbell

2. Knowing God's Character

His attributes and nature

Aquinas, Tozer, Packer

3. Authentic Conversion

What real faith looks like

Augustine, Edwards

4. The Cost of Discipleship

Following Christ isn't easy

Bonhoeffer, Chan, Platt

5. Pursuing God's Presence

Intimacy with the Divine

Kempis, Lawrence, Tozer

6. Spiritual Warfare

The battle for our souls

Lewis, Edwards, Peretti, LaHaye/Jenkins

7. Defending the Faith

Christianity makes sense

Chesterton, Lewis

8. Christian Worldview and Society

Faith and public life

Augustine, Chesterton, Colson

9. The Pilgrim's Journey

Life as movement toward God

Bunyan, Dante, Sheldon

10. Faith, Reason, and Wonder

Christianity appeals to the whole person

Tolkien, Lewis, Aquinas

11. Life's Purpose

Why are we here?

Warren, Misc others

Books,
ranked
by
reading
level

Rank	Title	Author	Reading Grade Level	Difficulty	
1	Summa Theologica	Thomas Aquinas	Graduate/16+	Most Difficult	★★★★★
	The City of God	Augustine	Graduate/16+	Most Difficult	★★★★★
	Institutes of the Christian Religion	John Calvin	Graduate/16+	Most Difficult	★★★★★
4	Divine Comedy	Dante Alighieri	College/14-16	Very Difficult	★★★★☆
	The Christian System	Alexander Campbell	College/14-16	Very Difficult	★★★★☆
	The Everlasting Man	G.K. Chesterton	College/14-16	Very Difficult	★★★★☆
7	Orthodoxy	G.K. Chesterton	College/13-15	Difficult	★★★☆☆
	Religious Affections	Jonathan Edwards	College/13-15	Difficult	★★★☆☆
9	Confessions	Augustine	College/12-14	Difficult	★★★☆☆
10	The Imitation of Christ	Thomas à Kempis	High School/11-13	Moderately Difficult	★★★☆☆
	Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God	Jonathan Edwards	High School/11-13	Moderately Difficult	★★★☆☆
12	The Pilgrim's Progress	John Bunyan	High School/10-12	Moderately Difficult	★★★☆☆
	Luther's 95 Theses	Martin Luther	High School/10-12	Moderately Difficult	★★★☆☆
14	How Now Shall We Live	Chuck Colson	High School/9-11	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
	Knowing God	J.I. Packer	High School/9-11	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
	The Knowledge of the Holy	A.W. Tozer	High School/9-11	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
	The Cost of Discipleship	Dietrich Bonhoeffer	High School/9-11	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
18	Mere Christianity	C.S. Lewis	High School/8-10	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
	The Screwtape Letters	C.S. Lewis	High School/8-10	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
	The Lord of the Rings	J.R.R. Tolkien	High School/8-10	Moderate	★★☆☆☆
21	The Pursuit of God	A.W. Tozer	Middle School/7-9	Moderately Easy	★★☆☆☆
	The Practice of the Presence of God	Brother Lawrence	Middle School/7-9	Moderately Easy	★★☆☆☆
23	Chronicles of Narnia	C.S. Lewis	Middle School/6-8	Easy	★☆☆☆☆
	Radical	David Platt	Middle School/6-8	Easy	★☆☆☆☆
	Crazy Love	Francis Chan	Middle School/6-8	Easy	★☆☆☆☆
	In His Steps	Charles Sheldon	Middle School/6-8	Easy	★☆☆☆☆
27	The Purpose Driven Life	Rick Warren	Elementary/5-7	Easiest	★☆☆☆☆

Great Christian Literature Course Schedule

Woodlawn Christian Church - Fellowship in Christ Class

Week	Date	Theme	Description	Texts		
1	July 13	The Foundation of Faith	Explore how the Reformation's call back to Scripture laid the groundwork for returning to biblical simplicity.	<i>Luther's 95 Theses</i>	<i>Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>	<i>Campbell's The Christian System</i>
2	July 20	Knowing the Character of God	Discover God's attributes through three different eras showing He is both knowable and beyond full comprehension.	<i>Tozer's The Knowledge of the Holy</i>	<i>Packer's Knowing God</i>	<i>Aquinas' Summa Theologica (selections)</i>
3	July 27	The Journey of Conversion and Confession	Examine authentic spiritual experience from autobiography's father to America's greatest theologian.	<i>Augustine's Confessions</i>	<i>Edwards' Religious Affections</i>	
4	Aug. 3	The Cost of True Discipleship	Challenge comfortable Christianity through voices that demand everything in following Christ.	<i>Bonhoeffer's The Cost of Discipleship</i>	<i>Platt's Radical</i>	<i>Chan's Crazy Love</i>
5	Aug. 10	The Pursuit of God's Presence	Discover that God desires intimate fellowship with ordinary believers across three centuries of seeking.	<i>Tozer's The Pursuit of God</i>	<i>Brother Lawrence's The Practice of the Presence of God</i>	<i>Thomas à Kempis' The Imitation of Christ</i>
6	Aug. 24	The Reality of Spiritual Warfare	Explore the spiritual battle for human souls through wit and fire-and-brimstone warnings.	<i>Lewis' The Screwtape Letters</i>	<i>Edwards' Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God</i>	<i>Peretti's This Present Darkness</i>
7	Aug. 31	Defending the Faith	Witness the golden age of Christian apologetics demonstrating Christianity's intellectual credibility.	<i>Chesterton's Orthodoxy</i>	<i>Chesterton's The Everlasting Man</i>	<i>Lewis' Mere Christianity</i>
8	Sept. 7	The Christian Worldview and Society	Understand how Christians should engage the world through voices from Rome's fall to modernity's rise.	<i>Augustine's The City of God</i>	<i>Chesterton's Orthodoxy (selections)</i>	<i>Colson's How Now Shall We Live</i>
9	Sept. 14	The Pilgrim's Journey	Experience the Christian life as a journey toward God through cosmic vision, everyman allegory, and practical action.	<i>Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	<i>Dante's Divine Comedy (selections)</i>	<i>Sheldon's In His Steps</i>
10	Sept. 21	Faith, Reason, and Wonder	See how Christianity engages both mind and imagination through rational foundation and imaginative power.	<i>Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia (selections)</i>	<i>Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings (selections)</i>	<i>Aquinas' Summa Theologica (selections)</i>
11	Sept. 28	Purpose and Meaning in Life	Compare contemporary approaches to purpose with insights from earlier authors on life's fundamental question.	<i>Warren's The Purpose Driven Life</i>	<i>Selections from various authors</i>	
12	Oct. 5	The Unity of Christian Truth	Demonstrate the remarkable unity of Christian truth across 1,600 years of faithful witnesses.	<i>Synthesis of major themes</i>	<i>Brief readings from multiple authors</i>	