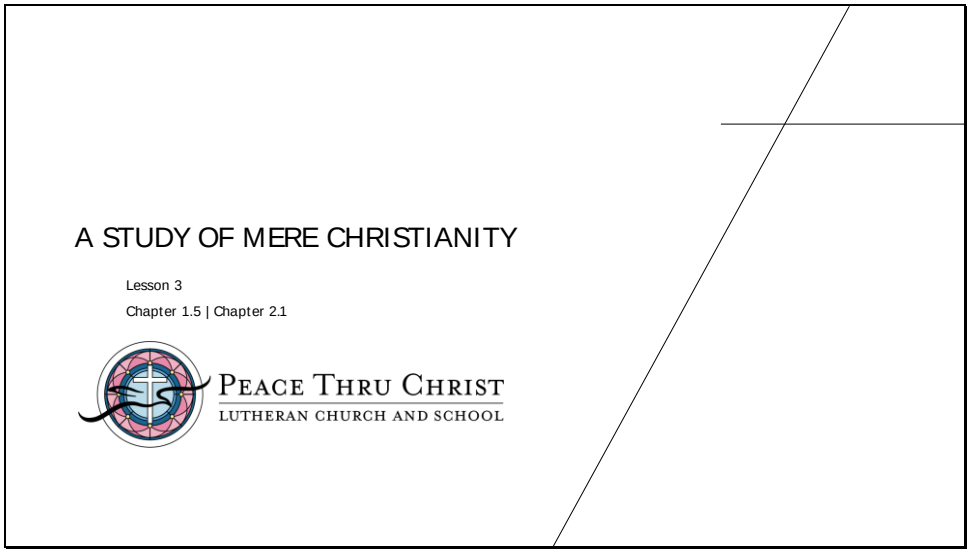
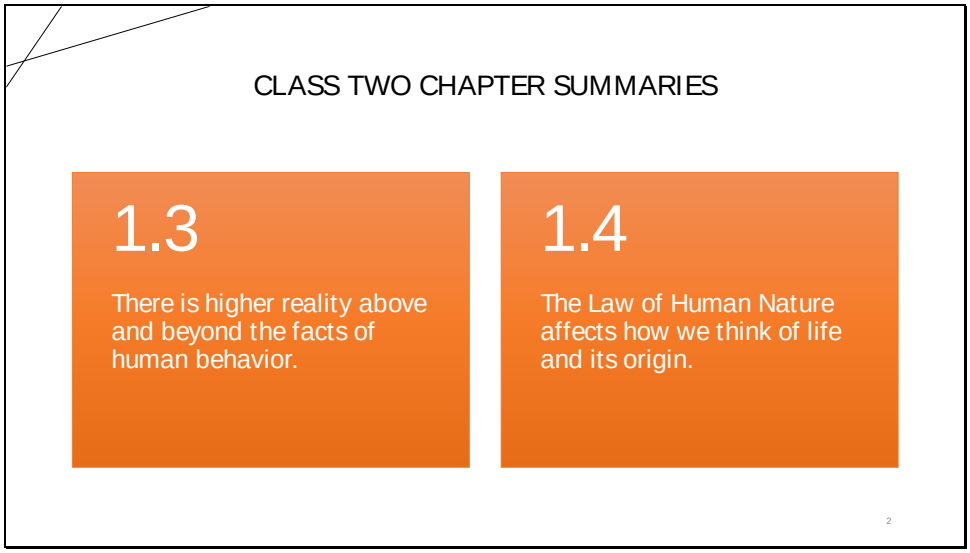
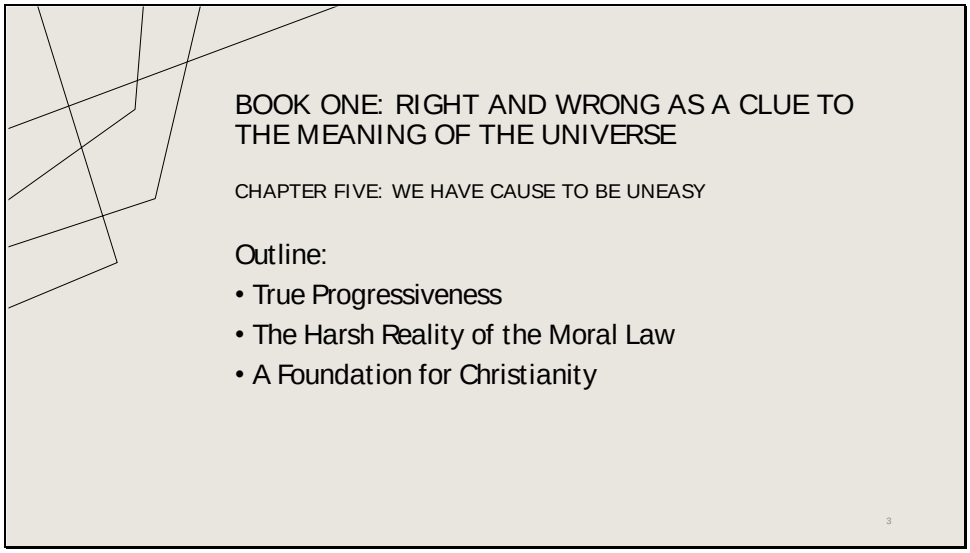
Slide 1


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY
Lesson 3
Chapter 1.5 | Chapter 2.1
PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

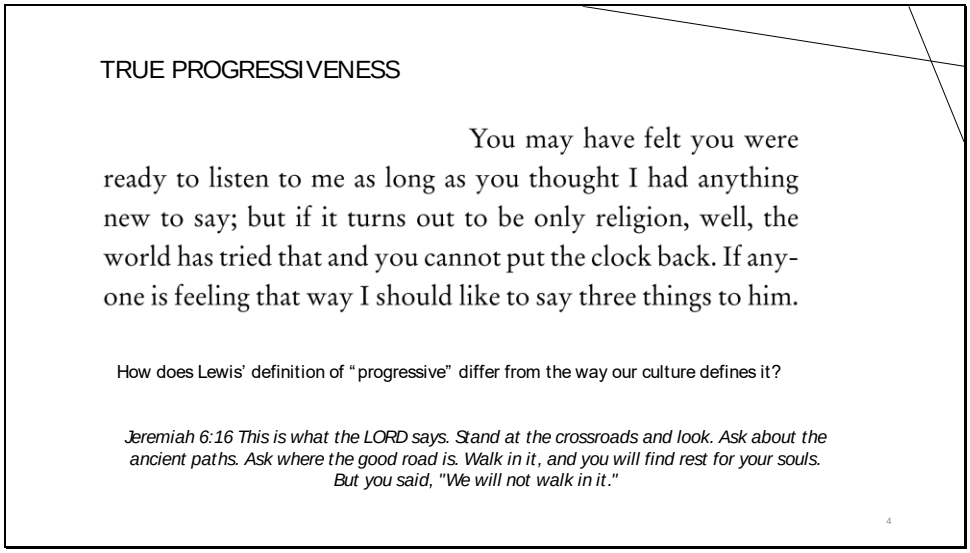
Slide 2


CLASS TWO CHAPTER SUMMARIES
1.3
There is higher reality above and beyond the facts of human behavior.
1.4
The Law of Human Nature affects how we think of life and its origin.
2

Slide 3


BOOK ONE: RIGHT AND WRONG AS A CLUE TO THE MEANING OF THE UNIVERSE
CHAPTER FIVE: WE HAVE CAUSE TO BE UNEASY
Outline:
• True Progressiveness
• The Harsh Reality of the Moral Law
• A Foundation for Christianity
3

Slide 4


TRUE PROGRESSIVENESS
You may have felt you were ready to listen to me as long as you thought I had anything new to say; but if it turns out to be only religion, well, the world has tried that and you cannot put the clock back. If anyone is feeling that way I should like to say three things to him.
How does Lewis' definition of "progressive" differ from the way our culture defines it?
Jeremiah 6:16 This is what the LORD says. Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask about the ancient paths. Ask where the good road is. Walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, "We will not walk in it."
4

Slide 5

TRUE PROGRESSIVENESS

Lewis first gave these talks in 1941. Even back then, he
distancing itself from God. That trend has continued to pr
describe our culture in America as "post-Christian." Wha
how do we bring our culture back t

Post-Christian Metrics

To qualify as "post-Christian," individuals had to meet nine or more of the following factors. "Highly post-Christian" individuals meet 13 or more of the factors (out of these 16 criteria).

1. Do not believe in God
2. Identify as atheist or agnostic
3. Disagree that faith is important in their lives
4. Have not prayed to God (in the last week)
5. Have never made a commitment to Jesus
6. Disagree the Bible is accurate
7. Have not donated money to a church (in the last year)
8. Have not attended a Christian church (in the last 6 months)
9. Agree that Jesus committed sins
10. Do not feel a responsibility to "share their faith"
11. Have not read the Bible (in the last week)
12. Have not volunteered at church (in the last week)
13. Have not attended Sunday school (in the last week)
14. Have not attended religious small group (in the last week)
15. Bible engagement scale: low (have not read the Bible in the past week and disagree strongly or somewhat that the Bible is accurate)
16. Not Born Again

POST-CHRISTIAN RANKINGS BY CITY

Barna

RANK	MARKET	%
1	Springfield-Holyoke, MA	66%
2	Portland-Auburn, ME	60%
3	Providence, RI-New Bedford, MA	59%
4	Burlington, VT	59%
5	Boston, MA-Manchester, NH	57%
6	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	56%
7	Hartford-New Haven, CT	56%
8	Rochester, NY	55%
9	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-San Luis Obispo, CA	54%
10	Seattle-Tacoma, WA	54%
11	Madison, WI	54%
12	Wilkes Barre-Scranton-Hazleton, PA	54%
13	Buffalo, NY	53%
14	Ft. Myers-Naples, FL	52%
15	Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, IL	52%
16	Tucson-Sierra Vista, AZ	51%
17	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	50%
18	Reno, NV	50%
19	Chico-Redding, CA	50%
20	New York, NY	50%
21	Monterey-Salinas, CA	49%
22	Philadelphia, PA	49%
23	Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto, CA	48%
24	Boise, ID	48%
25	Austin, TX	48%
26	Des Moines-Ames, IA	48%
27	Chicago, IL	48%
28	Detroit, MI	48%
29	Washington, DC-Haggerstown, MD	48%
30	Los Angeles, CA	47%
31	Fresno-Visalia, CA	47%
32	Denver, CO	47%
33	Sioux Falls-Mitchell, SD	47%
34	Omaha, NE	47%
35	Toledo, OH	47%
36	Pittsburgh, PA	47%
37	Wilmington, NC	47%
38	San Diego, CA	46%
39	Las Vegas, NV	46%
40	Cedar Rapids-Waterloo, IA	46%
41	Syracuse, NY	46%
42	Spokane, WA	45%
43	Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville-McAllen, TX	45%
44	Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, FL	45%
45	Flint-Saginaw-Bay City, MI	45%
46	Baltimore, MD	45%
47	Phoenix-Prescott, AZ	44%
48	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	44%
49	Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne, FL	44%
50	Peoria-Bloomington, IL	44%
51	Waco-Temple-Bryan, TX	43%
52	Green Bay-Appleton, WI	43%
53	Johnstown-Altoona-St. College, PA	43%
54	Portland, OR	42%
55	Albuquerque-Santa Fe, NM	42%
56	West Palm Beach-Ft. Pierce, FL	42%
57	Wausau-Rhinelander, WI	42%
58	Milwaukee, WI	42%
59	Columbus, OH	42%
60	Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, WA	41%
61	Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, NE	41%
62	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Sarasota, FL	41%
63	Youngstown-Warren, OH	41%
64	Eugene, OR	40%
65	St. Louis, MO	40%
66	El Paso, TX	39%
67	Cleveland-Akron-Canton, OH	39%
68	Houston, TX	38%
69	Champaign-Springfield-Decatur, IL	38%
70	Dayton, OH	38%
71	Cincinnati, OH	38%
72	Atlanta, GA	38%
73	Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News, VA	38%
74	Raleigh-Durham-Fayetteville, NC	38%
75	Colorado Springs-Pueblo, CO	37%
76	Ft. Wayne, IN	37%
77	San Antonio, TX	36%
78	Ft. Smith-Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR	36%
79	Traverse City-Cadillac, MI	36%
80	Paducah, KY-Cape Girardeau, MO-Harrisburg-Mt. Vernon, IL	36%
81	South Bend-Elkhart, IN	36%
82	Oklahoma City, OK	35%
83	Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, MI	35%
84	Savannah, GA	35%
85	Jacksonville, FL	34%
86	Lansing, MI	34%
87	Indianapolis, IN	34%
88	Columbia, SC	34%
89	Charleston, SC	34%
90	Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	33%
91	Corpus Christi, TX	33%
92	Kansas City, KS-MO	33%
93	Mobile, AL-Pensacola-Ft. Walton Beach, FL	33%
94	Richmond-Petersburg, VA	33%
95	Harrisburg-Lancaster-Lebanon-York, PA	33%
96	Salt Lake City, UT	32%
97	Wichita-Hitchinson-Dodge City-Salina-Manhattan, KS	32%
98	Baton Rouge, LA	32%
99	Knoxville, TN	32%
100	Charleston-Huntington, WV	32%

*Post-Christian is defined based on the percentage of the population that meets Barna's post-Christian metrics. See barna.com/glossary for a detailed definition.

n=43,378 U.S. Adults | 2008-2018

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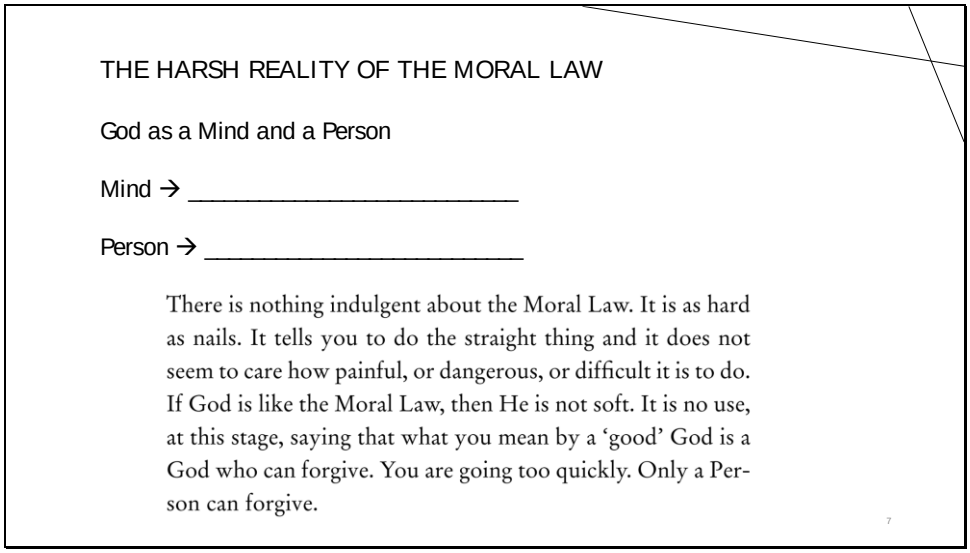
Slide 6

THE HARSH REALITY OF THE MORAL LAW

We have two bits of evidence about the Somebody. One is the universe He has made. If we used that as our only clue, then I think we should have to conclude that He was a great artist (for the universe is a very beautiful place), but also that He is quite merciless and no friend to man (for the universe is a very dangerous and terrifying place). The other bit of evidence is that Moral Law which He has put into our minds. And this is a better bit of evidence than the other, because it is inside information. You find out more about God from the Moral Law than from the universe in general just as you find out more about a man by listening to his conversation than by looking at a house he has built.

6

Slide 7


THE HARSH REALITY OF THE MORAL LAW
God as a Mind and a Person
Mind → _____
Person → _____
There is nothing indulgent about the Moral Law. It is as hard as nails. It tells you to do the straight thing and it does not seem to care how painful, or dangerous, or difficult it is to do. If God is like the Moral Law, then He is not soft. It is no use, at this stage, saying that what you mean by a 'good' God is a God who can forgive. You are going too quickly. Only a Person can forgive.
7

Slide 8

THE FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIANITY

Lewis describes what he calls, "the moment that Christianity begins to talk.":

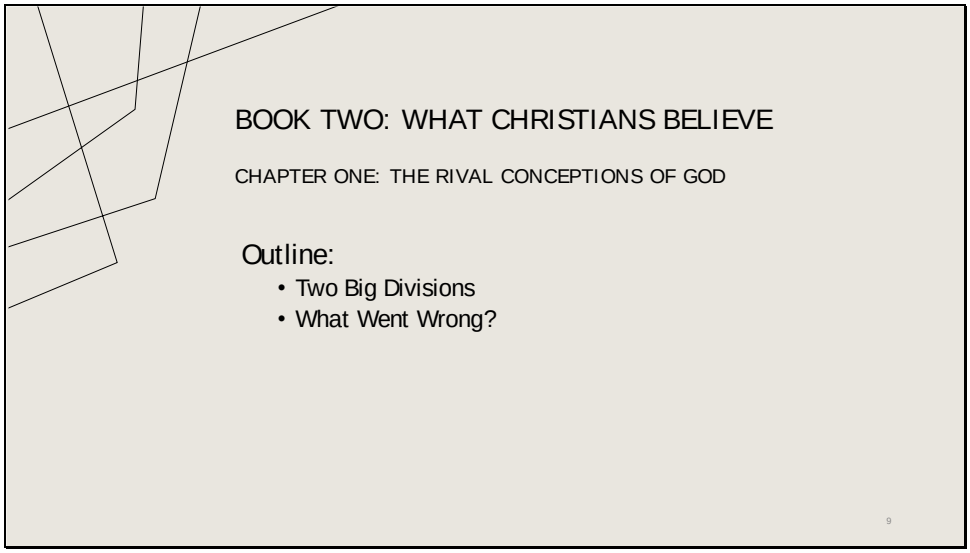
"It [Christianity] therefore has nothing (as far as I know) to say to people who do not know they have done anything to repent of and who do not feel that they need any forgiveness."

Do you agree or disagree with this thought?

Why does Lewis say that "comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it?"

8

Slide 9


BOOK TWO: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE
CHAPTER ONE: THE RIVAL CONCEPTIONS OF GOD
Outline:
• Two Big Divisions
• What Went Wrong?
9

Slide 10

TWO BIG DIVISIONS

Division One: Those who believe in some kind of god and those who do not.

Division Two: Differences between the gods (religions) that people believe in.

1. **God is part of good and evil, which is based on human perspective.**
2. **God "takes sides" between good and evil, which is based on His will.**

"The religious and philosophical system according to which God and the universe are one. While theism and deism assume a personal, transcendent God, pantheism denies the personality of God, ascribes to Him merely an immanent existence in the world, and identifies the two, asserting that they are merely two names for the same reality." (*Concordia Cyclopedia*, p.563).

"The great fallacy of pantheism is that, in addition to destroying the personality of God and reducing Him to a lower rather than higher object of worship, it also destroys the personality of man, who is merely one of the numberless parts that constitute the All." (*CC*, p.564).

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Slide 11

TWO BIG DIVISIONS

Confronted with a cancer or a slum the Pantheist can say, 'If you could only see it from the divine point of view, you would realise that this also is God.' The Christian replies, 'Don't talk damned nonsense.'* For Christianity is a fighting religion.

What does Lewis mean by "Christianity is a fighting religion."?

"If you do not take the distinction between good and bad very seriously, then it is easy to say that anything you find in this world is a part of God." (p. 37)

11

Slide 12

WHAT KIND OF GOD DO WE HAVE?

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. 16 This is what I am commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess.

Acts 17:24-15; 29-31 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. 25 Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. 29 "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. 30 Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

12

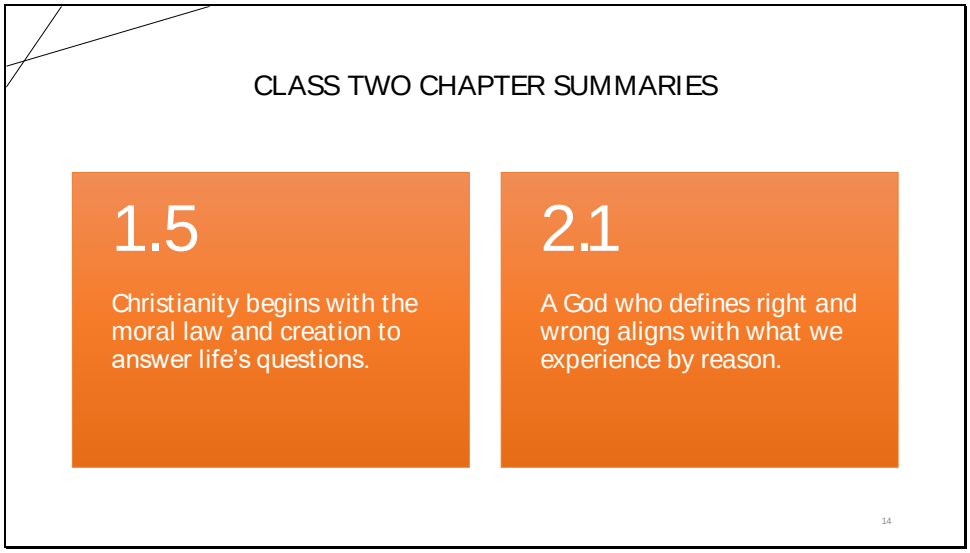
Slide 13

WHAT WENT WRONG?

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But 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? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet.

13

Slide 14


CLASS TWO CHAPTER SUMMARIES
1.5
Christianity begins with the moral law and creation to answer life's questions.
2.1
A God who defines right and wrong aligns with what we experience by reason.
14