A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY Lesson 4 Chapter 2.2 Chapter 2.3 PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL	

CLASS THREE CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1.5

Who is this power who made this world and put a conscience in me? He could not like my wrongful behavior.

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Denying God's existence is not logical.

BOOK TWO: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE CHAPTER TWO: THE INVASION Outline:	
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CHRISTIANITY AND DUALISM

- "The assumption of two mutually hostile superior beings, one representing everything morally good and beneficial to man, the other the source of all sin and evil." (*Concordia Commentary* p. 216)
- "Ethical dualism falsely assumes that every principle must have its real opposite. It says that if there is something eternally good such as God, there must be something eternally evil that exists as well. In contrast, Christianity affirms that the evil in the world is the product of the exercise of the free will of God's creatures. Because these creatures have not existed from eternity, there is no eternally existing evil." (*Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics* p. 182)

CHRISTIANITY AND DUALISM

In the last lesson, we looked at the distinction between God as a Mind and as a Person. Lewis builds on that distinction in this chapter when he talks about the meaning of "religion." In your experience, how do most non-Christians define "religion?"

You must be on your guard against these people for they will change their ground every minute and only waste your time. Notice, too, their idea of God 'making religion simple'; as if 'religion' were something God invented, and not His statement to us of certain quite unalterable facts about His own nature.

THE HARSH REALITY OF THE MORAL LAW

How is it comforting to see that Christianity has complicated elements and is not entirely simple?

What impact does Hebrews 11:1 have on the thoughts of this chapter?

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see.

	1.	Evil is only understood in relation to what is good. Evil can only exist by what is good being used incorrectly. In practicality, goodness exists for its own sake, evil does not.	

A RECAP OF CONTRASTS

1. Christianity and Atheism.

What we know by observing creation and by looking into our heart shows there is more than nothingness and chaos. Order and logic indicate a Designer.

2. Christianity and Pantheism.

Good and evil cannot be a mixture of the same thing. The fact that we feel the pressing weight of what we should do, as opposed to what we should not do, indicates that they are separate. The same is true of God, who defines right and wrong.

3. Christianity and Dualism.

Good and evil are opposites, but not equals. Good exists on its own, but evil is only understood in relation to what is good. This indicates a design of life that was good, but has been corrupted.

Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening-in to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going. He does it by playing on our conceit and laziness and intellectual snobbery.

Are "conceit" "laziness" and "intellectual snobbery" examples of evil for its own sake? Does this nullify Lewis' argument from earlier in the chapter?

Outline: • Free Will • What God Did to Correct the Problem	10
BOOK TWO: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE CHAPTER THREE: THE SHOCKING ALTERNATIVE	

FREE WILL

Two Issues Connected to Free Will

- 1. If we deny free will, we fail to understand how God created us and how evil entered the world.
- 2. If we make too much of free will, we fail to understand the limitations that sin has brought upon our lives and our ability to follow God.

FREE WILL

It is probably the same in the universe. God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go either wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.

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WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF MAN'S FREE WILL?

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 "Look, I have found only this: I have found that God made mankind upright, but they have gone off looking for many schemes."

Psalm 94:11 The LORD knows the thoughts of mankind. He knows that they are just vapor.

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WHAT GOD DID TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM

- 1. God gave mankind a conscience to know right and wrong.
- 2. God gave "good dreams" of His truth in other religions and cultures.
- 3. God selected the Jews as His chosen people.
- 4. Through the Jews, God gave a Savior in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Why is it wrong (from a logical perspective) to say that Jesus was just a moral teacher and not God?

The "Shocking Alternative" is...

- · Jesus claimed to forgive sins.
- This forgiveness was not just for offenses against Himself, but for offenses by others and against others.
- Jesus did this without "silliness and conceit," but instead was "humble and meek."

CLASS TWO CHAPTER SUMMARIES

2.2

Dualism does not provide an answer for what we experience in our conscience about God's moral law.

2.3

Free will has something to say about the state we are in. God's plan of salvation through Jesus is the Christian answer to our questions about God's moral law.

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