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WHAT ABOUT C.S. LEWIS?

C. S. Lewis has been given a lot of press lately. Was he a true “born again” believer? Should Christians read his books? In case you are not informed, C.S. Lewis was an atheist who turned to Christianity as the answer to the issues of life. However, he reasoned his way to “faith” which is not Bible faith. Here is a quote from his book, *Mere Christianity*. Note how he says one becomes a Christian: “I am not asking anyone to accept Christianity if his best reasoning tells him that the evidence is against it... Now faith...is the art of holding onto things *your reason* has once accepted...” p.121. That is not Bible faith! How does one become a Christian? Lewis says, “There are three things that spread the Christ life to us: baptism, belief and that mysterious action which different Christians call by different names - Holy Communion, the Mass, the Lord’s Supper.” That is rank heresy - salvation by works. Here are some other serious heresies, found in this book, which reveal this man was not a Bible believing Christian. He taught where there are different beliefs, Christianity is not necessarily always right. He believed in universalism, saying that a man who never heard of Christ may also be saved (Billy Graham, Pope John Paul II have since said the same thing), that other religions lead to God and all would eventually be saved. Here are his own words: “There are people in other religions...who thus belong to Christ without knowing it.” In *Christianity*, (12/20/63) Dr. W. Schrader, an enthusiast of Lewis’ answered questions by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones. Schrader said, “Lewis would never embrace the fundamentalist view of the Bible. He would accept no theory of ‘total depravity.’ Lewis was a beer drinker, and I have it on good authority that he was a heavy beer drinker and he was strongly addicted to the weed and was never seen without his pipe. Lewis also held to pluralism of all religions (all religions lead to God.)” *FBIS* (12/20/05) stated: “Lewis lived for thirty years with Janie Moore, a woman 25 years his senior to whom he was not married...Moore was separated from her husband... At age 58 Lewis married Joy Gresham, an American woman who pursued a relationship with Lewis while she was still married to another man.” In *The Berean Call* (2/93), Dave Hunt was asked how he could support Lewis when he had so many heresies. Hunt acknowledged the following of him: “Lewis, though an Anglican, leaned toward the Roman Catholic Church (Ed. When dying, he asked for a priest to give him the last rites), rejection of the literal resurrection of the body, he affirmed that we are to become gods and supported theistic evolution.” In the light of such ungodliness (God’s Word says, “*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”) how could this man be a genuine Christian? He held many grave heresies; one wonders how any serious believer in Jesus Christ could accept this man as a true child of God. In 1999 J.I. Packer, a leading New Evangelical wrote in *Christianity Today*: “C. S. Lewis today is beloved of Evangelicals.” Then, he said: “By ordinary evangelical standards, his idea of the Atonement (archetypal penitence) {*penance-to do something to pay for your sin*}, rather than penal substitution {*one paying for another's sin*}, and his failure ever to mention justification by faith when speaking of the forgiveness of sins, and his apparent hospitality to

baptismal regeneration, and his non-inerrantist view of biblical inspiration, plus his quiet affirmation of purgatory and of the possible final salvation of some who have left this world as nonbelievers...” Yet Packer closes the article saying: “He was a Christ-centered, great tradition, mainstream Christian.” Unbelievable! We’re not bigoted! We are called to “*earnestly contend for the faith...*” We are also commanded to “*Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.*” ~II Timothy 4:2,3. Christianity is not an old shoe that fits every foot as some people would have it. Regardless what men think, salvation is based on what the Bible says; one cannot deny or twist vital truths and be a child of God. Just one example: You can’t deny bodily resurrection and be saved; it is vital to the Gospel. I Corinthians 15:3,4: “**For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.**” Rom. 10:9 also says that belief in the resurrection is necessary for salvation. “**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**” Resurrection of the dead is an essential doctrine. Jesus said, “**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**” ~John 6:44 (See also I Corinthians 15:21-26, 42-57; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Lewis has become even more popular with the movie version of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. It has been heralded by many New Evangelical and other *Christians* as a wonderful thing, for it is getting the gospel to the masses (they say). But is it really promoting the Gospel? Lewis didn’t seem to know the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Is the Gospel of God to be promoted with witches, the occult, etc.? I don’t have space to go into it here, but much in Lewis’s stories can also be found in most of the imagery in the accounts and myths in ancient religions. There is the worship of the sun which was universal in the mystery religion emanating from Babylon. Here are a few quotes from some who were involved in the movie version. This is taken from *Religion Today* (11/21/05), “The cast and the crew of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, are down playing the significance of Christian symbolism in the movie version of C.S. Lewis’ novel. ‘Faith is in the eye of the beholder,’ said actress Tilda Swinton, who plays the white witch, Jadis. ‘You can make a religious story out of anything if that’s what you’re interested in.’ She described the themes of the story as more ‘classical’ than overtly Christian, saying, ‘It feels like an ancient myth.’ Director Andrew Adamson said it is ‘open to the audience to interpret,’ citing resurrection simply as a theme common to the fantasy genre, as in *Matrix* and *Star Wars*. Author Philip Pullman says, ‘If Disney Corporation wants to market this film as a great Christian story, they’ll just have to tell lies about it.’” Lon Allison, director of Illinois’ Billy Graham Centre: “We {still} believe that God will speak the gospel of Jesus Christ through this film.” Why not, Graham believes some of the same things as Lewis; that people who never even heard of Christ may be saved through Him. We are living in the end time - a time in which almost any thing will pass for Christianity! God says, “**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**” ~I John 4:1. God says, “**Be not deceived...**”