

The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis
Letter 9 Worksheet

© 1999-2002 Beverly Schmitt

Vocabulary Define the following words with only 1-2 words

1. potential _____

2. innocuous _____

3. perversions _____

4. contaminated _____

5. concomitants _____

6. anodyne _____

Extra Credit Vocabulary

expansive, redolent, formula, ardours (ardors), misconception, desponding, acquiesce, excessive, moderation, conceivable, proposition, superior, patronising, criticised (criticized), antithesis

Bonus Vocabulary

adolescent

Comprehension Questions Answer the questions briefly (full sentences are unnecessary)

1. Explain Screwtape's statements: "The health and spirits which you want to use in producing lust can also, alas, be very easily used for work or play or thought or innocuous merriment. The attack has a much better chance of success when the man's whole inner world is drab and cold and empty."

2. What does Lewis mean when he says, "Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's own ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours."

3. Why do you think Screwtape, Wormwood and Satan cannot produce one *real* pleasure?

4. Do you think Screwtape’s statement, “To get the man’s soul and give him *nothing* in return—that is what really gladdens Our Father’s heart,” true or false? _____ True _____ False Why?

5. Many have said, “To despair is to deny God.” How do you think Screwtape and his cronies exploit this?

6. What does Screwtape recommend to Wormwood in the temptation of those that fall in the wishful-thinking category?

7. What does Lewis mean with the statement, “A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing”?

8. Explain: “When you have caused him to assume that the trough is permanent, can you not persuade him that ‘his religious phase’ is just going to die away like all his previous phases?”

9. Do you think Christians can, at times, be subtly tempted with ... “ ‘I am losing interest in this’ to the proposition ‘This is false.’ ”? ____ yes ____ no Why?

10. How does Screwtape recommend using jargon to Screwtape to tempt the “patient”?
