

*The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

**Letter 15 Worksheet**

© 1999-2002 Beverly Schmitt

**Vocabulary** Define the following words with only 1-2 words

1. lull \_\_\_\_\_

2. destines \_\_\_\_\_

3. analogous \_\_\_\_\_

4. actuality \_\_\_\_\_

5. mediating \_\_\_\_\_

6. determinate \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Credit Vocabulary**

extent, resembles, biological, core, avarice, duty, posterity, vocation, hagridden, imminent, avert, pursuit, ambiguous, persuaded, tranquillity, philological

**Bonus Vocabulary**

complacency

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

1. Briefly explain: "Tortured fear and stupid confidence are both desireable states of mind."

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In recent years, it would appear that humanists have really depended on the statement in question number 1. Can you give any examples?

a. civics \_\_\_\_\_

b. science \_\_\_\_\_

c. medicine \_\_\_\_\_

d. education \_\_\_\_\_

e. other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Screwtape hold with respect to the concepts of time and eternity?

---

---

---

4. Briefly explain why the following statement would be advantageous to Screwtape. “Our business is to get them away from the eternal and from the Present. With this in view, we sometimes tempt a human (say a widow or a scholar) to live in the Past.”

---

---

---

5. From Screwtape’s perspective, why is it better to have the “patient” live in the Future?

---

---

---

6. Briefly explain: “Hence the encouragement we have given to all those schemes of thought such as Creative Evolution, Scientific Humanism, or Communism, which fix men’s affections on the Future, on the very core or temporality. Hence nearly all vices are rooted in the Future.”

---

---

---

7. Why would Screwtape exclude pleasure if he could tempt a human being without it?

---

---

---

8. Why does God have Christians look to the Future, while living in the present, and gratefully remembering the past? (*Note: Do you espy a type of trinity here — past, present, future?*)

---

---

---

9. Screwtape compares and contrasts his worldview presuppositions with that of God with respect to the Future. Briefly note how Screwtape perceives same. (Note: an example has been given for you.)

Screwtape's Perspective on the Future

Godly Perspective about the Future

Fearful of Hell

Christians are to prepare to do duty

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

10. How does the use the concept of tranquility assist Screwtape?

---

---

---

---

11. How does complacency help Screwtape?

---

---

---

---