

## C.S. Lewis's Big Ideas

Every author of note will generally focus on a few big ideas in the midst of the many topics that occur in their writing. C. S. Lewis was certainly such an author. There are themes that reverberate throughout his published work, themes worthy of consideration for any thoughtful Christian. This is a seminar that looks at the big ideas in Lewis: defining them, illustrating them from his work; and applying them to Christian ministry.

**Jerry Root** is a Professor of Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College and serves as the Director of the Evangelism Initiative. Jerry is a graduate of Whittier College and Talbot Graduate School of Theology at Biola University; he received his PhD from the Open University. Jerry is the author or co-author of numerous books on C.S. Lewis, including *The Surprising Imagination of C.S. Lewis: An Introduction*, with Mark Neal, *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil: An Investigation of a Pervasive Theme*, and *The Soul of C.S. Lewis: A Meditative Journey through Twenty-six of His Best Loved Writings*. Jerry is the co-author of *The Sacrament of Evangelism* and co-editor, with Wayne Martindale, of *The Quotable C.S. Lewis*. He also teaches graduate courses (MA in Evangelism and Leadership Program) and undergraduate courses (Christian Formation and Ministry Department) at Wheaton College. In addition, Jerry has been a visiting professor at Talbot Graduate School of Theology and Biola University from 1990 to the present. He and his wife, Claudia, have four grown children - all of whom are married - and thirteen grandchildren.

- I. Introduction to C. S. Lewis.
  
- II. Lewis and a Big Idea: The Objectivist in Quest of Reality.
  - A. An Oxford Lecture in the 1930s.
  
  - B. Reality Infused with the Presence of God.
  
  - C. What Must God Be Like?
  
- III. Lewis's Biggest Idea: "Reality is Iconoclastic"
  - A. As Lewis said it.
  
  - B. Sources from Which Lewis Drew Inspiration.
  
  - C. Implications for Us.

- IV. Lewis and Another Big Idea: The Deep Longings in Quest of an Object of Desire.
  - A. Lewis's Quest.
  - B. What Lewis Discovered.
  
- V. Lewis and Another Big Idea: An Objective Fact "There Are No Ordinary People; You've Never Met a Mere Mortal."
  - A. The Weight of Glory
  - B. The Burden of my Neighbor's Glory
  
- VI. Conclusion

***Suggested Readings:***

LEWIS, C. S., *The Weight of Glory*.

LEWIS, C. S., *The Great Divorce*.

LEWIS, C. S., *Till We Have Faces*.