



30 MEDITATIONS  
ON THE WRITINGS *of*  
C. S. LEWIS

PERRY BRAMLETT, RUEBEN P. JOB  
NORMAN SHAWCHUCK





# Contents

Introduction . . . . .	vii
A Guide to the Daily Office . . . . .	xii
1. Salvation . . . . .	1
2. Joy . . . . .	8
3. Serenity . . . . .	15
4. Prayer . . . . .	22
5. The Trinity . . . . .	28
6. Worship . . . . .	34
7. God . . . . .	42
8. Evil . . . . .	49
9. The Bible . . . . .	56
10. Devotional Life . . . . .	62
11. Sin . . . . .	68
12. Christian Marriage . . . . .	75
13. Jesus . . . . .	81
14. Running from God . . . . .	87

*Contents*

15.	Conversion . . . . .	93
16.	The Risk of Discipleship . . . . .	100
17.	Grief . . . . .	106
18.	Faith . . . . .	113
19.	The Holy Spirit . . . . .	121
20.	Forgiveness . . . . .	127
21.	Aslan's Country . . . . .	134
22.	Hope of Heaven . . . . .	140
23.	Spirituality in Nature . . . . .	149
24.	The Heart of a Child . . . . .	156
25.	The Church and Sacraments . . . . .	161
26.	Evangelism . . . . .	171
27.	The Grace of Good Books . . . . .	181
28.	Spiritual Direction . . . . .	190
29.	Laughter and the Comic Spirit . . . . .	200
30.	Friendship . . . . .	210
	Acknowledgments . . . . .	220
	Notes . . . . .	221
	About the Authors . . . . .	225



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1

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# *Salvation*



### *Spiritual Reading*

He came to this world and became a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has—by what I call “good infection.” Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else.

*Mere Christianity*



# On Salvation

*Rueben Job*

The doctrine of salvation “freely given” is perhaps the most difficult of the Christian doctrines for modern Americans to understand or appreciate. After all, part of the American mythos is the belief in individual agency, that people should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and be the masters of their own fates. Indeed, it is the nature of humanity to claim we are the masters of our destiny, and it troubles us to think that there may be One outside ourselves who holds our fate in hands other than our own.

And yet, Christians affirm God’s saving activity in Jesus Christ. God has done something for us in Christ that we could not do for ourselves.

The children of Israel experienced themselves as a collective people before God. As such, the salvation of each member of the tribe was contained within the community: their sins were corporate and the forgiveness God extended to them was dependent upon a corporate

acceptance of God's proffered salvation. The salvation of the Israelites relied upon a shared apprehension of God's love for the entire world (John 3:16) and God's willingness to offer salvation not as a result of one's personal holiness but as a result of being found and claimed within the community of God's people.

We who live in the modern Western world cannot begin to appreciate such a posture. A proud and independent people, we desire to be strong, solitary beings. We like to believe that our salvation is the result of our own efforts and our own solitary encounter with God.

However, sooner or later we come to realize that it is quite impossible to save ourselves. It is equally impossible to be saved and to stay saved as a lone ranger making our way through life apart from God and the community of the redeemed.

For this reason, the author of Hebrews exhorted the early church not to stop meeting together with other believers (10:25). It is within the context of the community that salvation might be experienced and enjoyed. And salvation is a true gift, not earned but bestowed, and kept current in the memory of the congregation as it rehearses the gift most precious in regular worship and teaching. Salvation is free to all who choose to be saved and live in vital connection to God.

Christianity is concerned with forming human beings into new creatures, the kind that the apostle Paul referred to as sons and daughters of God. And this is





## *Scripture*

*A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,*

*“Now, master, let your servant go in peace  
according to your word,  
because my eyes have seen your salvation.  
You prepared this salvation in the presence of all  
peoples.  
It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and a glory for your people Israel.”*

Luke 2:25-32



the most shocking part of the salvation story: Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, died for us that we might be saved from the consequences of our sins and receive our full inheritance as children of God.

Of this, C. S. Lewis says in *Mere Christianity*, the most shocking aspect of Christianity may be its assertion that by giving our lives to God, we become the sons and daughters of God. Surely it must mean something else!

Lewis was an atheist for much of his youth and young adulthood. Raised in a nominally Christian home, Lewis became angry with God when his prayers for the healing of his ill mother were not answered as he wished; she died an early, painful death. Accordingly, Lewis rejected any idea of God and became a self-avowed atheist.

But God—"the Hound of Heaven," as the poet Francis Thompson says—pursued him. In October 1930, Lewis wrote to his friend Arthur Greeves that he had started attending morning chapel but that he thought that his faith had become mere talk. He hoped that somewhere within that was a tiny seed of true faith.

The following January, Lewis again wrote to Greeves, reporting that Lewis's brother, Warren, was beginning to believe in the claims of Christianity—even though he had resisted that view. Lewis expressed gratitude that he and his friends were at the same time becoming open to Christian faith. This led to his confessing his faith to Greeves in an October letter, wherein he said that he had moved from believing in God to definite belief in Christ.

## *Salvation*

Through these letters, Lewis introduces us to his conversion from atheism to Christianity. This was a change of life perspective that wrought not only conversion for Lewis and his brother, Warren, but also a salvation that brought rescue to countless people, as they heard, thought, read, and believed. For them, and for all who believe, salvation became full and complete.

## Begin each day with a devotion based on the writings of C. S. Lewis.

A number of years ago, friends and coauthors Perry Bramlett, Rueben P. Job, and Norman Shawchuck created together a spiritual reader pairing a collection of quotations from beloved author C. S. Lewis with their own unique spiritual reflections. After their deaths, their work was recovered, and Abingdon Press is excited to share this story and this beautiful book posthumously with those looking for daily inspiration from meaningful and thoughtful Christian writing.

*30 Meditations on the Writings of C. S. Lewis* combines three strong spiritual voices writing on topics such as grief, joy, fear, loss, salvation, and love for today's readers. This collection of thirty devotions begins each day with a word from Lewis followed by a reflection from Bramlett, Job, or Shawchuck.

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**PERRY BRAMLETT** (1945–2013), a former pastor, founded C. S. Lewis for the Local Church—Interstate Ministries, a nationwide speaking ministry on the life, works, and influence of C. S. Lewis. He wrote several books about Lewis's life and influence, including *C. S. Lewis: Life at the Centre* and *Touring C. S. Lewis' Ireland & England: A Travel Guide to C. S. Lewis' Favourite Places to Walk and Visit*.

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 **Abingdon Press**<sup>™</sup>  
abingdonpress.com

RELIGION / Christian Life / Devotional US \$16.99

ISBN-13: 978-1-5018-9836-5



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