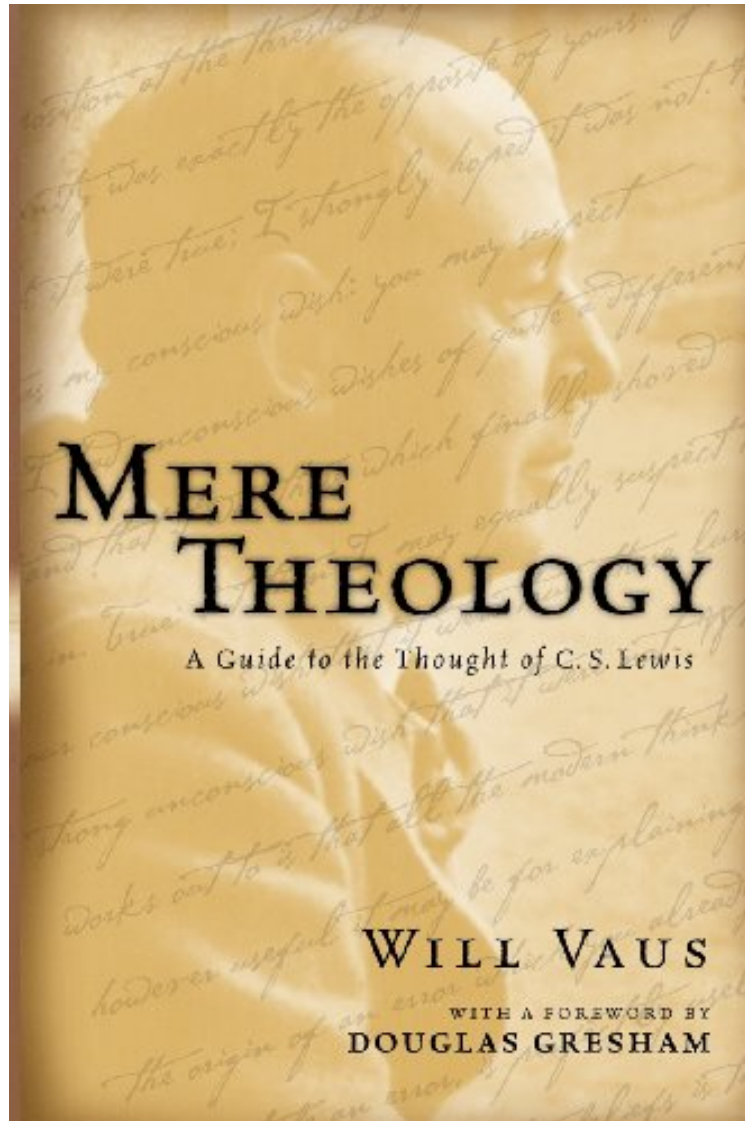


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Mere Theology: A Guide to the Thought of C. S. Lewis

Will Vaus

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Will Vaus : Mere Theology: A Guide to the Thought of C. S. Lewis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mere Theology: A Guide to the Thought of C. S. Lewis:

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urge any theologian or layman interested in God's Holy Word to read this text. There is much wisdom here and faith between these pages. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Mark WilliamThanks1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great for Lewis LoversBy Gregory VruginkThis is an invaluable book for those who love and study Lewis. A word about the audience for the book: this is not for readers that are new to Lewis. If you are just beginning with his work, your best option is to read Lewis himself. If you are looking for a deeper study of his writing and thought, this is the book for you. It is impeccably researched and plumbs the depths of all of Clive's writing, even giving attention to his letters and lesser known works. If you love to study Lewis and his thinking, this is certainly a necessary book for your library.

What did C. S. Lewis believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, heaven, hell, creation, the Fall, the forgiveness of sins, marriage and divorce, war and peace, the church and sacraments, masculinity and femininity? Lewis was not a professional theologian, but anyone who has read his writings--whether fiction or nonfiction, essays or correspondence--knows that profoundly Christian convictions permeate them all. The more one reads, the more it becomes clear that Lewis could write with charity and simplicity while preserving theological accuracy because he was well informed and thoroughly grounded in the Christian faith. Will Vaus has masterfully brought together Lewis's thought from throughout his voluminous writings to provide us a full-orbed look into his beliefs on twenty-five Christian themes. This book gives us not only a comprehensive view of Lewis's theological convictions but also guidance and encouragement for our own spiritual journeys toward the God whom Lewis found so real, personal and present.

From Publishers Weekly"Over the years I have met many Lewis enthusiasts who have wondered, 'What did Lewis believe about ____?' (You fill in the blank)," writes Vaus. "This book is written to answer those many questions about what Lewis believed." Arranged topically, Vaus's book takes readers through Lewis's published thoughts on subjects such as creation, the Fall, Scripture, the Trinity, prayer, war, God's sovereignty, human free will and Satan. (There are also chapters on Venus, by which Lewis means sexual morality, and "the Tao," a term that he dully enough uses to refer to the Jewish understanding of the law.) Vaus's chapters are remarkably concise and even-handed. In the mind of Douglas Gresham, Lewis's stepson and the author of the foreword to this book, that accessibility may actually be a vice: Gresham fears that this guide "may make the study of Jack's Lewis's theology almost too easy" and drive students away from Lewis's corpus of theological writing. Despite such trepidations, most readers will agree with Gresham that Vaus has given us an exemplary introductory guide to Lewis's thought. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In this exposition of Lewis' theology, Vaus remarks in passing that during World War II Lewis' voice was the second most recognizable in Britain (after Winston Churchill's) because of his broadcast theological talks. If his physical voice has been forgotten since, his Christian apologetics in such books as *The Problem of Pain* and *miracles* have grown in popularity, helped by the even greater continuing success of his Christological fantasies for children (of all ages), the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Lewis advocated what he called "mere Christianity," by which he meant a commonly comprehensible understanding of the faith, unadulterated by admixtures with secular ideologies and other religions (e.g., Christian Socialism, Buddhist Christianity), by which Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox alike could live. In graceful, common language that mirrors Lewis' writing, Vaus distills Lewis on Christianity in 25 chapters on such topics as defending the faith, the Trinity, marriage and divorce, war and peace, prayer, the sacraments, and aspects of the afterlife. An ideal introduction to Lewis' warm, humane religious thought. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Remarkably concise and even-handed. . . . An exemplary introductory guide to Lewis's thought." ("Religion BookLine" from Publishers Weekly (April 7, 2004)) "In this book Will Vaus has carefully and thoroughly examined all of Jack's published thinking and followed his trains of thought through a lifetime of development, showing us how the theology that governed Jack's life grew and ripened through his letters, his books and his essays until we can understand not only what Jack believed but also why he believed it and how he arrived at that belief. For those of us trying to grow in our faith and thus come closer to the Lord Jesus, this is a valuable addition to our libraries." (Douglas Gresham (from the foreword)) "Mere Theology is a powerful and convincing expression of Christian faith and practice, for it is iconic as the lucid and comprehensive outline of C. S. Lewis's apologetics, interpreted by the selflessness of the author. For Will Vaus only interposes his own critique on appropriate occasion, as few other commentators of Lewis have done before him. Historically it also exposes the growing gulf between the theological orthodoxy of Mere Christianity and the Christian cultural compromises made since the 1960s." (James M. Houston, Board of Governors' Professor of Spiritual Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, Canada) "Vaus organizes Lewis's brilliant welter of arguments, stories and evocative illustrations into an orderly account of his entire view of the way things are under God. It is a job very well done, with meticulous precision and minimal comment. Lewis-lovers will be most grateful." (J.I. Packer, Professor of Theology, Regent College)