

College Christian Study -- Sunday, Feb.13th, 2005 -- **Mere Christianity – by C.S. Lewis**
Book I: Right and Wrong: Clue to the Meaning of the Universe (*chapters 4-5*)

Book I has five chapters, each treating some question regarding the “Law of Human Nature.” C.S. Lewis attempted to establish that we have an innate sense of law, of right and wrong, and that we need to have a belief in God for that sense to take on any real meaning.

-Chapter 4 discusses what lies behind the law of nature and the possible explanations for the existence of the universe.

-Chapter 5 discusses the implications of the existence of natural law with regard to both human and divine “goodness” and explains why an understanding of natural law is necessary before one can see the need for Christianity.

Chapter 4: What Lies Behind the Law

Lewis concluded that there must be more than one kind of reality – something above and beyond the ordinary facts of behavior but still real. Next he considered what this means, what it tells us about our world, our universe. Two views are discussed: the **materialist view** and the **religious view**.

-People who hold the **materialist view** believe matter and space just happened, or have always existed, and no one really knows why. Human beings, (i.e. thinking creatures), were produced by some fluke.

-According to the **religious view**, something is behind the universe which is more like mind than anything else. In other words, it is at least intelligent, and at the very least conscious, has purposes, and chooses between options. This mind made the universe at least in part so that it could create creatures like itself – creatures with minds.

SO, moral law, in itself, can be evidence of more than one kind of Reality. ‘*Spiritual*’ reality’ *in* ‘*physical reality*’ can show that existence is not reducible to natural, material, and mechanical types of reality. Can you give an example to help support this idea? There are many arguments for the existence of God and for the Christian worldview...what would be evidence for an Atheist’s question: what is so-called ‘spiritual’ reality?

Chapter 5: We Have Cause to Be Uneasy

Critics claim religion has already been tried, and that it has failed. They believe that time has run out on ‘spiritual’ answers, and have moved to avenues, that we know are only leading them astray from the all-powerful Creator of the world...our Lord.

C.S. Lewis urges his readers to understand that Christianity really might not make sense until you face the facts (physical and spiritual realities) and realize that it is God in control. We might search many avenues for comfort in answers we want to hear, but in the end it is God that chooses us and we follow the path in faith because of His gracious love and mercy.

Progress...the key word of chapter 5. Progress is defined as “getting nearer to the place where you want to be.” Therefore if we have made a mistake, simply going forward will not get us there. We have to correct our course. How do we, and maybe better yet how should we, get back on track? Think of your faith and goals you have set in life – then try to remember some set-backs, but better yet how you overcame these obstacles?

“An absolute goodness” – is there such a possibility in the actions of humans?
The truth: God is the only comfort, but at the same time can be terrorizing in the minds of men and women. He is what we need most, but we have made ourselves His enemies.

C.S. Lewis has made the important point that Christianity is about repentance and forgiveness. First, we must as individuals come to grips with our own need to be forgiven...and until we do this, we are not likely to understand Christianity.