



St. Mary's Church
Stone Harbor, New Jersey
We Welcome You
to Join Us
For the Adult Forum and Worship
All Year Long (well, almost)!

Sunday, May 19, 2019
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

What Lies Behind the Law

Here is the format I plan to follow:

- 1) I will open our discussions asking you "What was your takeaways?" from this Sunday's reading...
- 2) I will list some quotes that stood out in my mind from the week's reading...
- 3) I will offer some questions to evoke discussion based on those quotes and from your reading...
- 4) Towards the end, I will then ask:
"How would you summarize the chapter?"
- 5) We will conclude by reviewing next Sunday's reading assignment.

all subject to time, of course!



Here are a few quotes with their pages numbers...

I now want to consider what this tells us about the universe we live in. Ever since men were able to think, they have been wondering what this universe really is and how it came to be there. And, very roughly, two views have been held. First, there is what is called the materialist view. (p.21)

The other view is the religious view. According to it, what is behind the universe is more like a mind than it is like anything else we know. (p.22)

We want to know whether the universe simply happens to be what it is for no reason or whether there is a power behind it that makes it what it is. Since that power, if it exists, would be not one of the observed facts but a reality which makes them, no mere observation of the facts can find it. (p.24)

If there is "Something Behind," then either it will have to remain altogether unknown to men or else make itself known in some different way. (p.23)

Do not think I am going faster than I really am. I am not yet within a hundred miles of the God of Christian theology. (p.25)

All I have got to is a Something which is directing the universe, and which appears in me as a law urging me to do right and making me feel responsible and uncomfortable when I do wrong. (p.25)

continued on the opposite side

Here is a kind of summary:

At the start of chapter 4, C.S. Lewis posits two views of the universe: a scientific view and one that he calls the “religious view.” (p.22) He then goes to great lengths describing both. Three quarters into the chapter he warns us that he is not “within a hundred miles of the God of Christian theology.” (p.25) (Though it seems to this reader that he is advancing an argument of a very strong rational case to be made for belief in God.) Lewis says there is something like a mind (cf. p.22) that is directing the universe. And this “Something” appears in the form of a law urging us to do right and making us feel responsible and uncomfortable when we do wrong. This fact (Lewis seems to suggest it is so) to do the right thing is evidence of the second view of the creation of the universe.

Based on our reading and the quotes offered on the other side here are a few questions for us to consider....

Do you know of anyone who takes the “materialistic” view, or has there been a time in your life when this was your view?

Do you understand why science can’t answer the questions Lewis raises: "Why is there a universe?" "Why does it go on as it does?" "Has it any meaning?". (p.23) Do you have any opinion as to whether or not the average pew-sitter could supply such answers? (no prejudice intended to any pew-sitter; just a generalization)

Do you agree that if there is a controlling power outside the universe it couldn’t show itself as one of the facts of the universe? “The only way in which we could expect it to show itself would be inside ourselves as an influence or a command trying to get us to behave in a certain way”. (p.24) Please explain.

And do you think that since we have this ‘something’ in us (a.k.a., *a Power behind the facts, a Director, a Guide* cf. p.25) urging us to “do the right thing” that this confirms Lewis’ second view of how the universe came into existence?

Reading assignments.....

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|---|--------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 4 | May 19 | Easter 5 | What Lies behind the Law | C.S. Lewis |
| 5 | May 26 | Easter 6 | We have Cause to be Uneasy | C.S. Lewis |
| 6 | June 2 | Easter 7 | Rival Conceptions of God | C.S. Lewis |
| 7 | June 9 | Pentecost Sunday | The Invasion | C.S. Lewis |