

## Introduction for C. S. Lewis

- Lewis was born in Belfast, Ireland, November 29, 1898
- Family moved to the outskirts of Belfast to “Little Lea” in 1905
- In 1908 at the age of nine, his mother died of cancer and a month later Lewis was sent to school in England
- In 1940, moves to Surrey and is tutored by W. T. Kirkpatrick (“The Great Knock”)
- 1916 reads George McDonald’s *Phantastes*. Lewis describes the experience as the baptism of his imagination. McDonald, he later claimed, was quoted in every book he would publish.
- 1917 He entered University College, Oxford, in April was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Second Somerset Light Infantry, in September; goes to the front in November.
- Wounded in action in April
- 1919-1923, he completes his college B. A. and Masters and in 1924 assumes duties as a tutor at University College
- Elected Fellow in English Language and Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford. He would serve there for thirty years as a tutor and without promotion. He would be offered in 1955 a position at Cambridge University as a Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Literature where he served until August 23, when he resigned his chair due to his illness and subsequent death in November. He served at Cambridge for nine years.
- In 1929 he becomes a theist—“the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”

- In 1931 he confesses his belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and becomes a regular communicant in the Church of England.
- 1940 publishes *The Problem of Pain*; begins lectures on Christianity to members of the Royal Air Force
- 1941 Begins a series of over twenty talks on the British Broadcasting Corporation radio, some of which will become part of *Mere Christianity*.
- 1942 publishes *The Screwtape Letters*
- 1950 to 1955 publishes the seven books of the *Chronicles of Narnia*
- 1952 meets Joy Davidman; 1956 he marries Davidman in a civil ceremony; 1957 marries her in an Anglican ceremony in January; 1960 Joy dies on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 1961 publishes *A Grief Observed*
- On November 22, 1963 Lewis dies the same day as Aldous Huxley and John F. Kennedy. He dies one week short of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.