

Ministry News

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My Top Five C.S. Lewis Books

1. *Perelandra*. This is the second book in the Space Trilogy. Ransom, the hero of the series, encounters the Evil One in a new form in an Edenic setting on the planet Venus. My favorite aspect of this book is Lewis' imaginative portrayal of an unfallen world.

2. *The Screwtape Letters*. A senior devil gives advice to a junior devil on temptng humans. Both hilarious and deadly serious, this book has deep and rich insights into the Christian life.

3. *The Great Divorce*. People from hell take a bus ride to heaven, where they are met by people they knew in their former life who try to persuade them to stay. The encounters are filled with spiritual insight into the motivations of our heart.

4. *The Weight of Glory*. A collection of five essays/sermons, some of the best of Lewis' imaginative applications of Christianity to life.

5. *Mere Christianity*. Simply a classic. The first book I read during my faith crisis and immensely helpful.

C.S. Lewis and Grad Student Ministry

I had been a new Christian for 6 months. I was on my way to bed in the Sigma Nu house at Oklahoma State University when I overheard a discussion about the deity of Christ between two of my fraternity brothers, one a Christian and one an agnostic. At the time, the agnostic seemed to have far more lucid arguments for his unbelief than my Christian friend had for his faith. As I left the discussion, I was fighting back what could only be described as overwhelming despair as a question haunted me: "What if Christianity isn't true?"

If it wasn't true, I wasn't sure there was any meaning to life, at least any that I could find. In the following weeks, I immersed myself in the writings of C.S. Lewis. I was desperate to fill the hole in my heart and soul created by this despair. C.S. Lewis' cogent arguments, his humble and winsome style, and his imaginative fiction helped me to see that Christianity was indeed *plausible*, and that becoming a Christian did not mean committing intellectual suicide.

Plausibility is an important issue for faith in the university environment. For something to be plausible means that it seems to be reasonable or true. In the modern academic environment, Christianity is presented as overwhelmingly implausible, a worldview that no thinking person should embrace. We counter these prevailing views by hosting lectures by thinking Christians on various issues (such as the Veritas Forum; see www.veritas.org), and our recently successful Food for Thought lunch time program.

But perhaps our most important strategy for countering this mood in the university is the grad students involved in our ministry. Many of them will go on to become professors and lecturers at a influential universities across the nation. One of the most encouraging experiences a Christian undergrad student can have is to encounter a believing professor during their years at university. *Thank you for your role in helping to deploy these academic missionaries into a very strategic mission field.*

Thanks for your support and prayers!
Kenny