

Discussion Guide - 10/29/25

Chapter 28

- I. **Passage:** “They, of course, do tend to regard death as the prime evil and survival as the greatest good. But that is because we have taught them to do so.”
 - A. **Verse:** “‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ . . . But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:55–57.
 - B. **Verse:** “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Hebrews 2:14–15.
- II. **Passage:** “[I]t is so hard for these creatures to persevere. The routine of adversity, the gradual decay of youthful loves and youthful hopes, the quiet despair (hardly felt as pain) of ever overcoming the chronic temptations with which we have again and again defeated them, the drabness which we create in their lives and the inarticulate resentment with which we teach them to respond to it—all this provides admirable opportunities of wearing out a soul by attrition.”
 - A. **Verse:** “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2–4.
 - B. **Verse:** “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1.
- III. **Passage:** “Prosperity knits a man to the World. He feels that he is ‘finding his place in it’, while really it is finding its place in him. His increasing reputation, his widening circle of acquaintances, his sense of importance, the growing pressure of absorbing and agreeable work, build up in him a sense of being really at home in earth, which is just what we want.”
 - A. **Verse:** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For

where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19–21.

- IV. **Passage:** “So inveterate is their appetite for Heaven that our best method, at this stage, of attaching them to earth is to make them believe that earth can be turned into Heaven at some future date by politics or eugenics or ‘science’ or psychology, or what not.”
- A. **Verse:** “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’” John 18:36.
 - B. **Verse:** “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Hebrews 13:14.
 - C. **Verse:** “Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.” Psalm 146:5–7.
- V. **Passage:** “Real worldliness is a work of time—assisted, of course, by pride, for we teach them to describe the creeping death as goodsense or Maturity or Experience. . . . [W]here Virtue is concerned ‘Experience is the mother of illusion.’”
- A. **Verse:** “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness.’” 1 Corinthians 3:18–19.
 - B. **Verse:** “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.” Proverbs 12:15.
 - C. **Verse:** “Professing to be wise, they became fools.” Romans 1:22.

Chapter 29

- I. **Passage:** “Our research department has not yet discovered (though success is hourly expected) how to produce any virtue. . . . [W]e cannot supply these qualities ourselves, we can only use them as supplied by the Enemy—and this means leaving Him a kind of foothold in those men.”
- A. **Verse:** “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17.
 - B. **Comment:** God creates, nurtures, and loves; the Enemy comes only to steal and kill and destroy. Each and every one of us has

God's law written in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33), but the Enemy seeks to pervert it, tempting us with humanly pleasures, and through manipulation. It is always wise to ask ourselves before acting, whether we are promoting Godly virtues, and if not, to seek His restoration.

- II. **Passage:** "The tension of human nerves during noise, danger, and fatigue, makes them prone to any violent emotion[.] . . . Let him say that he feels hatred not on his own behalf but on that of the women and children, and that a Christian is told to forgive his own, not other people's enemies."
- A. **Verse:** "Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:26–27.
 - B. **Verse:** "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Matthew 5:44.
 - C. **Verse:** "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:19–21.
- III. **Passage:** "[H]atred is best combined with Fear. . . . To make a deep wound in his charity, you should therefore first defeat his courage."
- A. **Verse:** "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - B. **Verse:** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4.
- IV. **Passage:** "[C]ourage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point[.] . . . A chastity or honesty, or mercy, which yields to danger will be chaste or honest or merciful only on conditions. Pilate was merciful till it became risky."
- A. **Verse:** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9.
 - B. **Verse:** "You have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6–7.

- V. **Passage:** “[Aggravating shame and producing despair] would show that he had believed in, and accepted, the Enemy’s forgiveness of his other sins only because he himself did not fully feel their sinfulness—that in respect of the one vice which he really understands in its full depth of dis-honour he cannot seek, nor credit, the Mercy. . . . Despair is a greater sin than any of the sins which provoke it.”
- A. **Verse:** “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10.
- B. **Verse:** “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:18–19.
- VI. **Passage:** “[P]recautions have a tendency to increase fear. . . . What you must do is to keep running in his mind . . . the vague idea of all sorts of things he can do or not do, inside the framework of the duty, which seem to make him a little safer. Get his mind off the simple rule (‘I’ve got to stay here and do so-and-so’) into a series of imaginary life lines (‘If A happened—though I very much hope it won’t—I could do B—and if the worst came to the worst, I could always do C’).”
- A. **Verse:** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6–7.
- B. **Verse:** “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10.
- C. **Verse:** “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?” Psalm 56:3–4.
- VII. **Passage:** “[K]eep him feeling that he has something, other than the Enemy and courage the Enemy supplies, to fall back on[.] . . . By building up a series of imaginary expedients to prevent ‘the worst coming to the worst’ you may produce, at that level of his will which he is not aware of, a determination that the worst shall not come to the worst. . . . For remember, the act of cowardice is all that matters; the emotion of fear is, in itself, no sin.”

- A. **Verse:** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.
- B. **Verse:** “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ‘For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.’” Hebrews 10:36–38.

Chapter 30

- I. **Passage:** “If you have often seen men led by [fatigue] into anger, malice and impatience, that is because those men have had efficient tempters. The paradoxical thing is that moderate fatigue is a better soil for peevishness than absolute exhaustion. . . . It is after men have given in to the irremediable, after they have despaired of relief and ceased to think even a half-hour ahead, that the dangers of humbled and gentle weariness begin.”
 - A. **Verse:** “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9.
 - B. **Verse:** “We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” 2 Corinthians 4:8–9.
 - C. **Verse:** “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34:17–18.
 - D. **Verse:** “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:29–31.
- II. **Passage:** “Exaggerate the weariness by making him think it will soon be over; for men usually feel that a strain could have been endured no longer at the very moment when it is ending, or when they think it is ending. . . . [T]he thing to avoid is the total commitment. Whatever he says, let his inner resolution be not to bear whatever comes to him, but to bear it ‘for a reasonable period.’”

- A. **Verse:** “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” Matthew 24:12–13.
 - B. **Verse:** “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12.
- III. **Passage:** “[M]ake full use of the fact that up to a certain point, fatigue makes women talk more and men talk less. Much secret resentment, even between lovers, can be raised from this.”
 - A. **Verse:** “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13.
 - B. **Verse:** “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverbs 15:1.
- IV. **Passage:** “You will notice that we have got them completely fogged about the meaning of the word ‘real’. . . . The general rule which we have now pretty well established among them is that in all experiences which can make them happier or better only the physical facts are ‘real’ while the spiritual elements are ‘subjective’; in all experiences which can discourage or corrupt them the spiritual elements are the main reality and to ignore them is to be an escapist.”
 - A. **Verse:** “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18.
 - B. **Verse:** “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29.
- V. **Passage:** “The hatefulness of a hated person is ‘real’—in hatred you see men as they are, you are disillusioned; but the loveliness of a loved person is merely a subjective haze concealing a ‘real’ core of sexual appetite or economic association.”
 - A. **Verse:** “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:6–7.
 - B. **Verse:** “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.” 1 John 4:20.
- VI. **Passage:** “The creatures are always accusing one another of wanting ‘to eat the cake and have it’; but thanks to our labours they are more often in the predicament of paying for the cake and not eating it.”

- A. **Verse:** “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26.
- B. **Verse:** “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.” Jeremiah 2:13.
- C. **Verse:** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

Chapter 31

- I. **Passage:** “There was a sudden clearing of his eyes (was there not?) as he saw you for the first time, and recognised the part you had had in him and knew that you had it no longer. Just think (and let it be the beginning of your agony) what he felt at that moment; as if a scab had fallen from an old sore, as if he were emerging from a hideous, shell-like tetter, as if he shuffled off for good and all a defiled, wet, clinging garment.”
 - A. **Verse:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - B. **Verse:** “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” 1 Corinthians 15:53–54.
- II. **Passage:** “But that is the cursed thing; the gods are strange to mortal eyes, and yet they are not strange. He had no faintest conception till that very hour of how they would look, and even doubted their existence. But when he saw them he knew that he had always known them and realised what part each one of them had played at many an hour in his life when he had supposed himself alone, so that now he could say to them, one by one, not ‘Who are you?’ but ‘So it was you all the time.’”
 - A. **Verse:** “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, . . . ‘I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:20.
 - B. **Verse:** “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there

Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.”
Psalm 139:7–10.

- III. **Passage:** “The dim consciousness of friends about him which had haunted his solitudes from infancy was now at last explained; that central music in every pure experience which had always just evaded memory was now at last recovered.”
- A. **Verse:** “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
Psalm 16:11.
- B. **Verse:** “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9.
- IV. **Passage:** “He saw not only Them; he saw Him. . . . What is blinding, suffocating fire to you, is now cool light to him, is clarity itself, and wears the form of a Man.”
- A. **Verse:** “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14.
- B. **Verse:** “Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8.