

## C. S. Lewis and American Protestants, 1936-1947

Tonight: "Mainline Protestants"                      Fundamentalists and Evangelicals  
                 American Protestantism in the 1940s      And today?

### (I) "Mainline Protestants"

- (A) *The Christian Century*: --patronizing  
    --W. H. Auden's Episcopal rector, George Anderson
- (B) Enthusiasm elsewhere
- (C) Chad Walsh in *The Journal of Bible and Religion*

### (II) Fundamentalists and Evangelicals

- (A) *The Christian Herald* (editor Daniel Poling): positive but superficial
- (B) Conservative Presbyterians
  - Henry Welbon on *The Pilgrim's Regress* (1936) and "mere Christianity"
  - Paul Woolley, *Westminster Theological Journal* (1944): commendation with critique
  - Cornelius Van Til: Lewis as "destructive of evangelical faith"
  - Edmund Clowney, *Westminster Th. J.* (1947): again, commendation with critique
- (C) The issues for the conservative Presbyterians
  - weak on "the noetic effects of the fall"
  - mistaken on not presupposing the God of Scripture
  - confused on the relationship between "creature/creation" and "creator"
- (D) Cornelius Van Til and Prof. Clyde Kilby
- (E) *Moody Monthly* and *United Evangelical Action* (NAE)
- (F) *The Sunday School Times* and Elizabeth Howard
- (G) *HIS Magazine* (IVCF)
- (H) Harbingers of things to come
  - Elisabeth (Howard) Elliot
  - Kenneth Taylor
  - Margaret Clarkson

### (III) American Protestantism in the 1940s

--from "fundamentalists" to "evangelicals"                      --An unappreciated center

### (IV) And now

- (A) Lewis as a model:    --deeply learned
  - theologically focused                      --unusually creative
  - savvy    --courageous
- (B) But a changed world
- (C) A last lesson: character before creativity

## Publication or Availability of C. S. Lewis' books in the U.S., 1935-1947\*

### Literary Scholarship

1936. *The Allegory of Love* (Clarendon, 1936; no separate U.S. publication until 1960)
1939. *Rehabilitations and Other Essays* (OUP, 1939; no separate U.S. publication listed)
1939. *The Personal Heresy*, with E. M. W. Tillyard (OUP, 1939; no separate U.S. publication listed)
1942. *A Preface to Paradise Lost* (OUP, Oct. 1942; no separate U.S. publication listed)
1947. As editor, *George MacDonald: An Anthology* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1946)

### Imaginative Writing

1935. *The Pilgrim's Regress* (Sheed & Ward; in U.K., 1933).
- 1943, Feb. 16. *The Screwtape Letters* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1942)
- 1943, Sept. 28. *Out of the Silent Planet* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1938).
- 1944, Apr. 11. *Perelandra* (Macmillan, also Avon paperback; in U.K., 1943).
- 1946, Feb. 26. *The Great Divorce* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1946).
- 1946, May 21. *That Hideous Strength* (Macmillan; also Avon paperback, in U.K., 1945).

### Christian Exposition

- 1943, Sept. 7. *The Case for Christianity* (Macmillan; in U.K., as *Broadcast Talks*, 1942)
- 1943, Oct. 26. *The Problem of Pain* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1940).
- 1944, Jan. 18. *Christian Behaviour* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1943).
- 1945, Mar. 20. *Beyond Personality: The Christian Idea of God* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1944).
- 1947, Apr. 8. *The Abolition of Man* (Macmillan; in U.K., OUP, 1943).
- 1947, Sept. *Miracles: A Preliminary Study* (Macmillan; in U.K., 1947).

--In Protestant publications, almost no attention to Lewis's literary scholarship.

\*From Walter Hooper, *C. S. Lewis: A Complete Guide to His Life and Works* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996).