



Toss the Dross

by Martin Drummond

No matter how messed up we find ourselves because of spiritual mistakes, there's reason for hope.

We simply have to make the decisions that allow God to refine the ore of our imperfect lives into something more valuable.

If God can transform a murderous Pharisee like Saul, then He can certainly transform stumbling believers who acknowledge their flaws and their need for spiritual restoration.

We've all had times when our behavior took the smile off of God's face. Remember, He's a Daddy and it affects Him when we disobey Him.

He's a loving Redeemer, though, and He wants us to get back on the right track rather than be stuck in a ditch of disobedience.

A potent reminder of God's desire and His ability to do so was given me this morning when I read Proverbs 25:4.

"Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel."

Yes, I had to extrapolate the earlier reminder from the verse above. But it's clearly there, in my opinion.

Because God has given every human a free will, God will not force spiritual transformation onto anybody.

It has to be desired and choices have to be made to repent of that which is opposed to God.

When we admit that we've allowed tainted choices to corrupt our lives and we segregate those choices into a "repent" pile, God's grace — paid for with Christ's blood — will wash them away.

A refined life results and the perfect "silversmith" — God — produces a vessel that brings glory to the Creator.

Please join me in looking for the dross and repenting of whatever we find.

We'll become better silver for the Lord to shape and use for His glory.

October is PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

PASTOR APPRECIATION....REVISTED

by Daniel F. Case from www.case-studies.com

Most “average Christians” in the pew don’t really have a clue when it comes to what their Pastor does between Sundays. I’m reminded of a Southern Baptist Pastor who once told me about a deacon who started in on the old “the Pastor really only works a day and a half every week” line of thought. Recognizing the need for some practical education, the Pastor handled this less-than-mature deacon with great wisdom, inviting him to spend a day working at the Pastor’s side, to get a feel for what his typical day is like. In that Pastor’s words, “God really blessed us with a horrendous day!” The deacon dropped out before lunch time, and became one of the most outspoken supporters of his Pastor, both privately and publicly. He even supported giving the Pastor a raise in salary—in a Southern Baptist church, there is no higher (or more unusual) level of appreciation.

Many Pastors—and their families—live their lives under spotlights and magnifying glasses. Faults and flaws that are easily dismissed in others somehow seem bigger and more significant when observed in someone involved in vocational ministry, and it can be even worse when those flaws appear in that minister’s spouse and children. Some churches even have a pattern of bringing in new Pastors, expecting impossible levels of perfection, and then driving them away when the fact that they are imperfect fellow humans comes to light. Some Pastors have been through that cycle so many times that they have learned to live inside a protective shell, hiding their heartaches and struggles from those who ought to be supporting them the most. Sadly, there are many gifted men who have left vocational ministry behind them as a result of that abuse.

So, how should we honor our Pastors during Pastor Appreciation Month? Well, to start with, honor them during the other 11 months of the year, as well. That’s the whole premise of my original column on the subject. Your Pastor has unique needs, so pray over it, get creative, and let the Lord lead you. Here are twenty specific ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

1. Ask him if you can go along on those Hospital and Shut-in visits.
2. Discover your Spiritual Gifts, and actually DO something with them in your church.
3. When you see him on Wednesday, tell him about the new insights you have as a result of meditating on last Sunday’s sermon.
4. Meditate on last Sunday’s sermon.
5. Grow up.
6. Anonymously (if possible) leave his favorite candy bar on his desk or in his mail slot.
7. Invite him to go fishing, golfing, or some other shared interest—without an agenda.
8. Call him on the phone and ask what his prayer needs are.
9. Actually pray for his needs after he tells you what they are.
10. If he’s married, call his wife and do #8 and #9
11. If he’s not married, quit trying to “fix him up” with someone.

12. Mow his lawn—anonously—while he’s away from home.
13. Ask him how you can help him.
14. Actually help him after he answers #13.
15. Quit complaining.
16. Compliment him when he does things right.
17. Say “Amen!” (at the appropriate times) while he’s preaching. *Saying “Amen” to a preacher is like saying “sic ‘em” to a dog.*
18. Hug him and tell him you love him.
19. If he’s married, send his wife flowers and a thank you note—she plays an important support role. Also see #11
20. Now that you’ve read this list, actually *do* some of it—**now**.



As a Halloween alternative, this was a great event last year and to make it even better this year we need everyone’s participation. **WE NEED TRUNKS!** Decorate your car trunk with any theme of your choosing. Each car will provide their own candy to hand out. We ask that everyone donates a pack or 2 of hot dogs. To sign up or for more information, please see Tania Veloz.

T R U N K O R T R E A T



**October 31
6pm to 8pm
in the church parking lot**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 7PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

We will have games, crafts, and a light snack. Invite your friends!



**HOPE DEPOT MINI RETREAT
OCTOBER 29TH from 8:30am-1:30pm**

Join us for a morning of Faith, Hope, and Love. We will have several different speakers. Breakfast and lunch will be included. Please sign up with Martin or Eddy to bring supplies for the meals. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life and receive some fresh words of encouragement.



**Join us Wednesday nights at 7pm
in the Fellowship Hall for our
midweek bible study being led by
Martin Drummond.**

Lesson theme:

"Success is a fruit:

How to make good decisions"

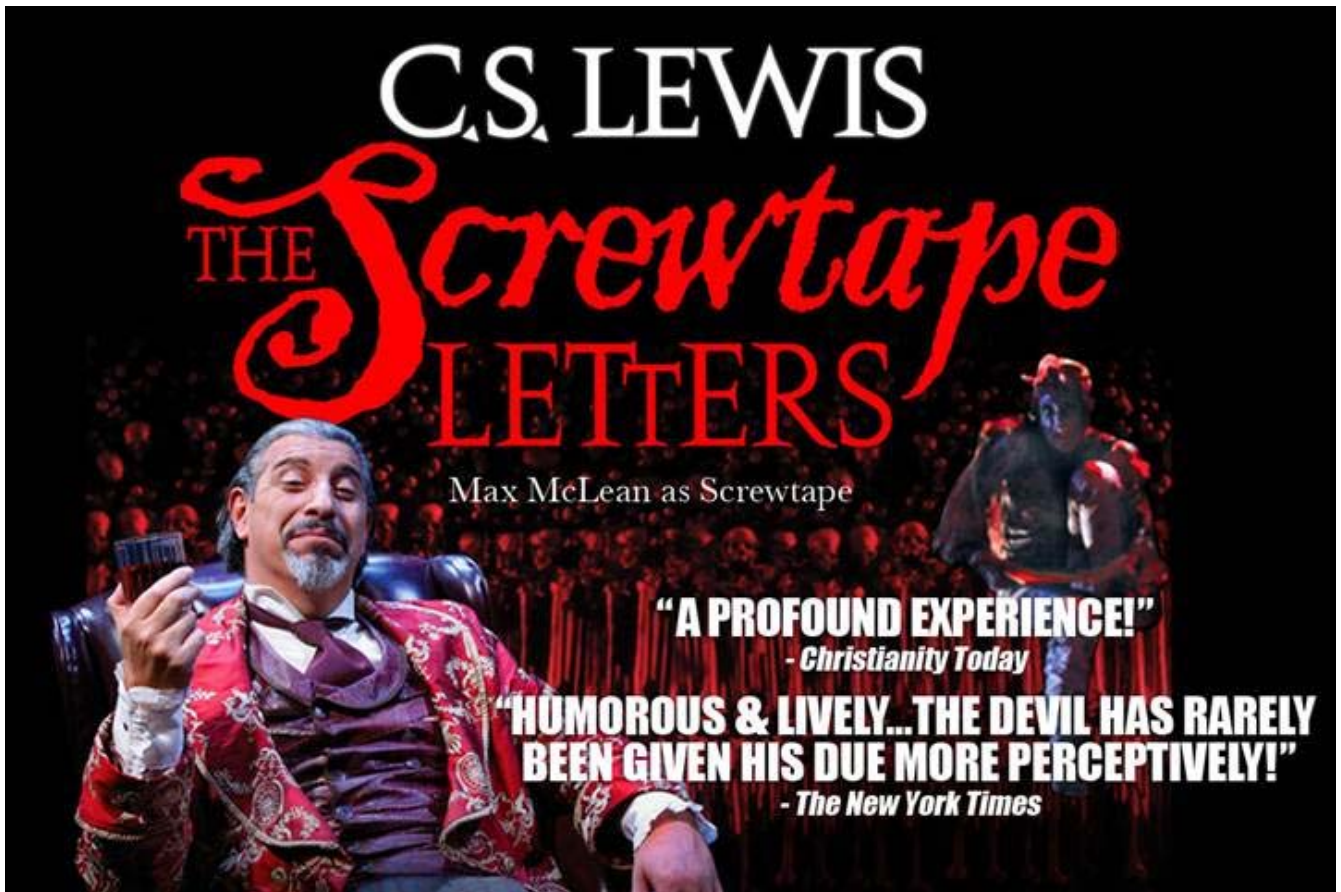
**Morning prayer will be held in
Room #4 from 8:45 am - 9:15 am
Every Sunday morning**

All are welcome to come and pray for the service, for those things listed on the prayer list, for the church body, and anything else that the Lord lays on your heart. Also, anyone who wants to be prayed over is welcome to join us.

For more details, please contact Lori Drummond.



COMMUNITY NEWS



C.S. Lewis' brilliant novel, **The Screwtape Letters**, reveals spiritual warfare from a demon's point of view. This funny, provocative, and wickedly witty theatrical adaptation, starring Max McLean as Screwtape was a hit in New York where it ran for nine months and a sold out sensation in Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta & Washington D.C.!

“A Gripping, Sizzling Dramatization!” *World Magazine*

“Fascinating, Entertaining and True to the Book!” *Catholic Herald*

THREE GREAT OFFERS!

- **Save \$10 on Great Seats!** (When buying two \$49 or \$59 tix. Use code HPR11)
- **Save More on Groups of 10 or more!** Call 866.476.8707
- **Limited Number of \$29 Tix!**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
AT 4 P.M. AND 8 P.M.

at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts,
174 East Flagler Street, Miami

For tickets call 305.372.0925 or visit

www.ScrewtapeonStage.com

This is limited offer, subject to availability and not valid on previously purchased tickets.
Venue service fees apply on all purchases.



**Pastor
Appreciation
Month**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12  11am	13	14  7pm	15
16	17	18	19	20	21  7pm	22
23 Board meeting 5pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Trunk Treat  6pm-8pm					



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 5th Gene & Leah Kinnaird
- 7th Eli Medder
- 9th Johanna Velásquez
- 9th Zaida Velásquez
- 12th Margot Portal
- 13th Alfonso & Patricia Henriquez
- 13th Ravi Moolah
- 15th Jose Casas
- 15th Teresita Terán

- 17th Sherry Medder
- 17th Eppy & Keren Suarez
- 18th Eddy & Wendy Garrido
- 24th Sophie Chin
- 25th Pete & Patrice Moolah
- 27th Marc & Julie Hargraves
- 28th Oscar Garcia
- 30th Christine Alameda
- 30th Sandy Keffer
- 31st Marilyn Redden Doyle



Serving Schedule

OCTOBER 16

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Marc Hargraves

COMMUNION SERVERS

David Medder*
Eli Medder
Danny Abdo
Mark Schoenfeldt

DONATION COUNTERS

Gene Kinnaird
David Hiers

OCTOBER 23

Eppy Suarez

Marc Hargraves*
David Medder
Eli Medder
Jake Mills

David Medder
Bobby Veloz

**Will lead offering prayer*



Pauta de Servicio

16 DE OCT

ORACION OFRENDA

Reinaldo Alvarez

ORACION SANTA CENA

José Casas

LECTURA DE LA PALABRA

Flory White

SIRVIENDO A LA MESA

Nelson Garrido
Sixto Rosa
Gregorio Belmont
Marino Polanco

23 DE OCT

Gregorio Belmont

Reinaldo Alvarez

Ada Rosa

Pedro Madera
Marino Polanco
Nelson Garrido
Alfonso Henriquez



Email us at sdchurch@bellsouth.net and we'll do our best to get you answers!

Got Questions?



If you do not wish to receive this e-Newsletter, please contact the church office via email (sdchurch@bellsouth.net) and advise us.