Questions for the Reading of:

C. S. Lewis

The Problem of Pain

Human Wickedness

[1] What is the first difficulty treated by Lewis in regard to human wickedness?

[2] What are the causes for the fact that Christianity now first has to preach the diagnosis before it can preach the cure?

[3] What is the trouble with kindness?

[4] Why does Psychoanalysis make it difficult to preach the diagnosis?

[5] What is the common reaction to Shame?
[6] What is the real meaning of Shame?

[7] In what does the first condition for understanding what Christianity is consist?

[8] How does Lewis show that we cannot even wish for a God Who would not look upon our guilt with unappeasable distaste?

[9] Under what condition does God's wrath appear to be a mere corollary from His goodness?

[10] What is the intention of the rest of this chapter?

[11] What does Lewis mean by our being deceived about ourselves by looking on the outside of things?
[12] How do we conceal our true inner state even when we expressly admit it?

[13] Why does Lewis not think that it is our fault that we cannot tell the real truth about ourselves?

[14] What is the danger in the idea of corporate guilt?

[15] What effect does time have on our sins?

[16] What does the following sentence mean?: "Perhaps the lost are those who dare not go to such a public place."

[17] How does Lewis argue against the feeling that there is 'safety in numbers'?
What evidence does Lewis find for the possibility that the whole human race is just a local pocket of evil?

How does Lewis go about showing that there may be a larger society to which he contrasts the human 'pocket'?

How does Lewis explain that we are an increasingly cruel age?

What is Lewis’ opinion of the claim that Christianity is more than a morality?

How does Lewis argue against the position that our badness is an inherent necessity in the nature of human life?

How does Lewis argue against the doctrine of Total Depravity?
[24] In what does the value of the emotion of shame consist?

[25] What is Lewis’ opinion about sadness?

[26] Why is it not the humble person but the high-minded unbeliever who is really sad?

[27] What is the intention of this chapter?

[28] Why is it practically dangerous to interpret the humility in the saints as being a pious illusion?