Questions for the Reading of:

C. S. Lewis

The Problem of Pain

Human Pain

[1] What is the meaning in Lewis’ argumentation of the following sentence on page 87: "Not all medicine tastes nasty: or if it did, that is itself one of the unpleasant facts for which we should like to know the reason."

[2] What is the proper good of a creature?

[3] Why should our cure be painful?

[4] What is the first way treated by Lewis in which the pain of ‘mortification’ is made easier by pain?
[5] Explain the following sentence: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

[6] What is, according to Lewis, the good element in the idea of retribution?

[7] What is according to Lewis the second operation of pain?

[8] How does Lewis explain why Christ regarded the vices of the feckless and dissipated so much more leniently than the vices that lead to worldly success?

[9] What is according to Lewis the third operation of pain?
[10] What role does inclination play in the third operation?

[11] How does Aristotle differ from Kant in regard to inclination?

[12] In what regard does Lewis agree with Kant?

[13] What is the peculiarity of Christian faith in regard to the doctrine of accepted death as being the supreme enacting of self-surrender?

[14] Why does Lewis say, "I am not arguing that pain is not painful"?

[15] How does Lewis go about showing at the end of the chapter that the effects of poverty on those who suffer it can be good?