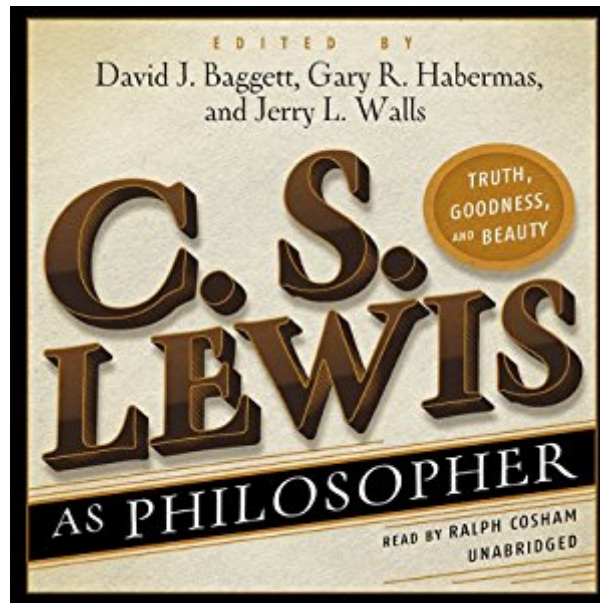




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C. S. Lewis As Philosopher: Truth, Goodness, And Beauty



Synopsis

What did C. S. Lewis think about Truth, Goodness, and Beauty? The 15 essays collected here explore these three major philosophical themes from the writings of Lewis. This volume provides a comprehensive overview of Lewis' philosophical thinking on arguments for Christianity, the character of God, theodicy, moral goodness, heaven and hell, a theory of literature, and the place of the imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'C. S. Lewis as Philosopher: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty' is a valuable contribution to the critical literature of a neglected aspect of Lewis' work. Owen Barfield once said that everything Lewis thought was evident in anything he wrote; to get at the heart of his popular fiction, juvenile and adult, and his Christian apologetics, the Lewis reader needs to understand at least in part Lewis' philosophic positions because he was, by training and at least partially by disposition, a philosopher. This collection of essays delivers on its promised explorations of Lewis' ideas about 'Truth, Goodness, and Beauty' in the breadth of its explorations, the depth and cogency of its arguments, the beauty of the book inside and out, and the clarity and crispness of the prose, which, though written predominantly by professional philosophers, is mercifully free of academic jargon. Three essays I enjoyed very much and which stretched my thinking as well as my understanding and appreciation of Lewis were Victor Reppert's 'Update on Lewis' Argument from Reason,' Gregory Bassham's 'On the Power of the Imagination,' and Peter Kreeft's opening work on 'Truth, Goodness, and Beauty' that sets the engaging, challenging tone of the collection. What I

learned from this fraction of the whole (a fifth!) justified many times the cost of the book. Again, Lewis as Philosopher and Lewis as Social Critic are the neglected aspects of this brilliant Renaissance Man (as much as the Medievalist might have disliked that term). 'C. S. Lewis as Philosopher' is a valuable addition to the growing awareness of this don and his relevance in understanding virtue, art, and reality.

I came to this book in a haphazard fashion. I was reading *Becoming Who You Are: Insights on the True Self* from Thomas Merton and *Other Saints*, which dug deeply into some of Thomas Merton's thinking. For instance, "Why do we have to spend our lives striving to be something we would never want to be, if we only knew what we wanted? Why do we waste our time doing things which, if we only stopped to think about them, are just the opposite of what we were made for?" This somehow led me to listen to a talk by the celebrated philosopher Peter Kreeft (who recently wrote *Jacob's Ladder: Ten Steps to Truth*), on the Good True and Beautiful. I found it online. Kreeft's numerous references to C. S. Lewis and the brilliant thoughts quoted from him were enough to warrant spending some of my time with the thoughts of Lewis. I chose this book because of its title and especially because Peter Kreeft was the author of the first essay found inside, "Lewis's Philosophy of Truth, Goodness and Beauty," which is probably the best essay in the book. Since, Philosophy is the "love of Wisdom," calling Lewis a Philosopher is merely owning up to the fact that wisdom is found throughout all of his works. The range of his thought is not captured in a single volume. Rather, it is found in the rich nuggets spread throughout all of his works.

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