

EVERYDAY FAITH

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

*Everyday Faith keeps straight
using things and loving people*



Beauty Without Regret, by Makoto Fujimura

*For those who mourn, and those who would bear them up
—in the hope of the Incarnation*

“Liturgy in Blue” Service

December 2 | 5pm | Grace Mills River

See bulletin or GraceMillsRiver.org for details



Be patient, therefore. . . .

v. 7a

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient.

v. 7b-8a



John Updike, "Hoeing"

*I sometimes fear the younger generation
will be deprived
of the pleasures of hoeing;
there is no knowing
how many souls have been formed by this
simple exercise.*

*The dry earth like a great scab breaks,
revealing
moist-dark loam-
the pea-root's home,
a fertile wound perpetually healing.*



*How neatly the green weeds go
under!*

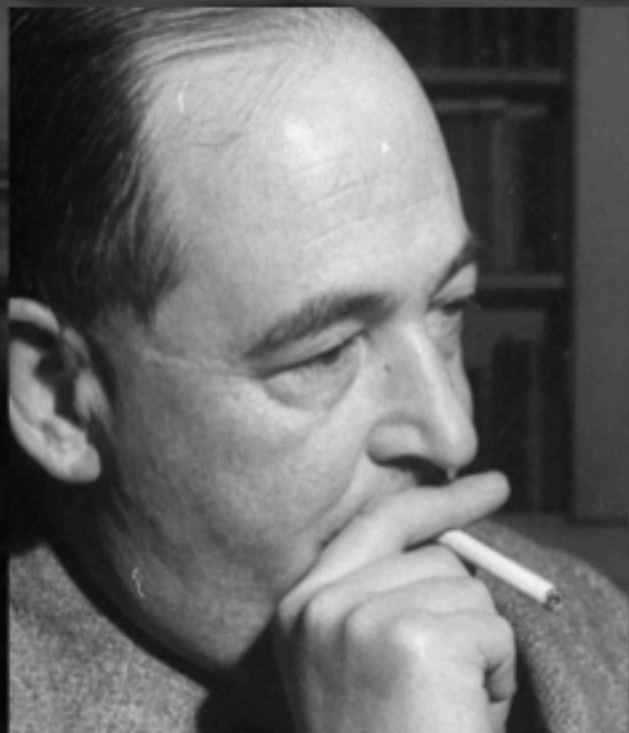
*The blade chops the earth new.
Ignorant the wise boy who
has never performed this simple,
stupid, and useful wonder.*

John Updike, "Hoeing"



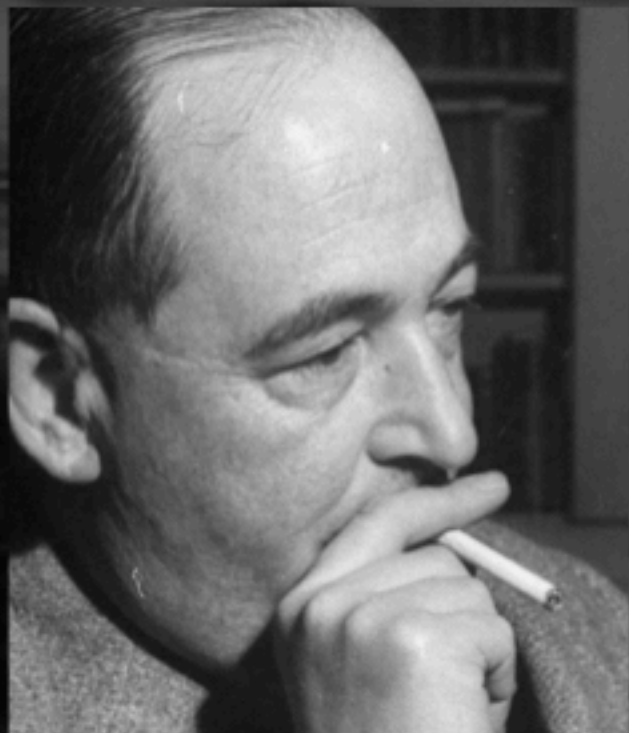
*Do not grumble against one
another, brothers, so that you may
not be judged;*

v. 9



Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others... but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it.

C.S. Lewis



C.S. Lewis

But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or even to enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God "sending us" to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE hell unless it is nipped in the bud.



But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

v. 12



*As an example of suffering and
patience, brothers, take the prophets
who spoke in the name of the Lord.
Behold, we consider those blessed who
remained steadfast. You have heard of
the steadfastness of Job, and you have
seen the purpose of the Lord, how the
Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

vv. 10-11



*Be patient, therefore, brothers,
until the coming of the
Lord. . . .behold, the Judge is
standing at the door.*

vv. 7, 9

What we really need is not some intellectually acceptable answer to life's most mysterious conundrum about God's action or inaction. The need is for God and the nurture of the expectation of his coming to be coupled with the patience to wait for him to come in his own time. The waiting is not easy.

John Bald

They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:4



*Or do you presume on the riches
of his kindness and forbearance
and patience, not knowing that
God's kindness is meant to lead
you to repentance?*

Romans 2:4



But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9

Livestream Q&A

Wednesdays—12-12:30p

Email your questions to:

followupgrace@gmail.com

You  Channel:



Grace Mills River