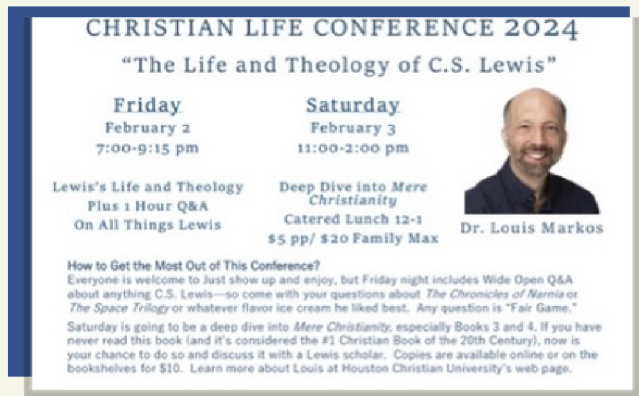



# SEQUITUR SYNOPSIS

January 2024

By Thaddeaus Swart



**CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE 2024**  
"The Life and Theology of C.S. Lewis"

<b>Friday</b> February 2 7:00-9:15 pm	<b>Saturday</b> February 3 11:00-2:00 pm	 Dr. Louis Markos
Lewis's Life and Theology Plus 1 Hour Q&A On All Things Lewis	Deep Dive into <i>Mere Christianity</i> Catered Lunch 12-1 \$5 pp/ \$20 Family Max	

**How to Get the Most Out of This Conference?**  
Everyone is welcome to just show up and enjoy, but Friday night includes Wide Open Q&A about anything C.S. Lewis—so come with your questions about *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *The Space Trilogy* or whatever flavor ice cream he liked best. Any question is "Fair Game."  
Saturday is going to be a deep dive into *Mere Christianity*, especially Books 3 and 4. If you have never read this book (and it's considered the #1 Christian Book of the 20th Century), now is your chance to do so and discuss it with a Lewis scholar. Copies are available online or on the bookshelves for \$10. Learn more about Louis at Houston Christian University's web page.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

- **FEBRUARY 2-3, 2024—CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE 2024** CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH IS HOSTING DR. LOUIS MARKOS FOR A WEEKEND OF DISCUSSION ON THE LIFE AND THEOLOGY OF C.S. LEWIS. CHECK EMAIL FOR DETAILS!
- **FEBRUARY 6, 2024—PROSPECTIVE PARENT MEETING** WE ARE CONTINUING TO HOST PROSPECTIVE PARENT MEETINGS THROUGH THE SPRING. THESE ARE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED PARENTS TO LEARN ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO. IF YOU KNOW OF INTERESTED FAMILIES, POINT THEM TO OUR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP FOR THESE EVENTS.
- **FEBRUARY 12-15, 2024 MARDI GRAS BREAK**
- **FEBRUARY 28, 2024 LOGIC AND RHETORIC HOUSE EVENT**
- **MAY 6-7, 2024—SENIOR THESIS NIGHTS** SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE NIGHTS OF SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS. MORE DETAILS TO COME.

## WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO

This month I have two very different suggestions of media to which listening is worthwhile. Both of these are good for developing a love of story, which is something we should seek to do.



### Haunted Cosmos Podcast

This podcast explores the strange and unexplainable from a Christian perspective.

The hosts are associated with St. Brendan's Classical Academy in Ogden, UT.

The episode on giants in the Bible is essential listening.

**DISCLAIMER:** May be frightening for young children.

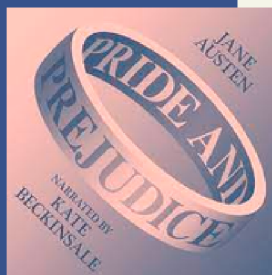
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/giants-part-i-giants-in-the-bible/id1676489540?i=1000634874276>

### Pride and Prejudice audiobook

Narrated by Kate Beckinsale  
I listened to this while doing automotive repair on my Jeep because:

1. Real Men Read Austen, and
2. I appreciate juxtaposition

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/pride-and-prejudice/1505003787>



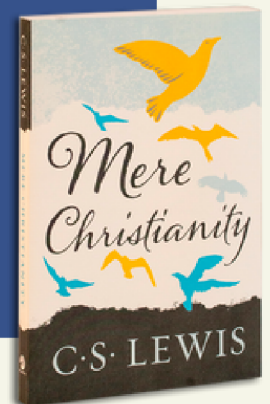
## WHAT WE'RE READING

Many in the community are currently reading through *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

Our eleventh grade students have just started reading this work for their Apologetics course with Mr. Brewer.

Others are reading in preparation for the talks this weekend being offered at Christ Covenant Church, which we highly encourage you to attend.

This is always a great book to return to and read again.



## Conferences:

### ACCS REPAIRING THE RUINS

June 19-22, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

[repairingtheruins.org](http://repairingtheruins.org)

### CIRCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 17-20, 2024 | Charleston, SC

[circeinstitute.org/events/a-contemplation-of-prudence/](http://circeinstitute.org/events/a-contemplation-of-prudence/)

We are looking into hosting a remote viewing of this conference

IN OUR NINTH-GRADE CLASS, WE ARE CURRENTLY IMMERSSED IN THE WORLD OF JANE AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE. AS I'VE DELVED INTO THE PREPARATION FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS, THE THEMES AND INTRICACIES OF THE NOVEL HAVE SPARKED MY IMAGINATION, REVEALING THEIR RELEVANCE IN VARIOUS REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS.

ONE PROMINENT THEME REVOLVES AROUND CONDUCT AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS, MIRRORING OUR OWN CODE OF CONDUCT. IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO DISCOVER EXAMPLES IN THE TEXT THAT ALIGN WITH OUR GUIDELINES. IT RECENTLY DAWNED ON ME THAT THIS WOULD BE A GREAT FUTURE ASSIGNMENT FOR STUDENTS. BUT, WHILE I DEVELOP THAT IDEA FURTHER, I'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW INSTANCES:

#### **WE LOOK FOR GOOD QUALITIES IN ONE ANOTHER.**

JANE BENNET STANDS OUT AS AN EXEMPLARY CHARACTER EMBODYING THIS PRINCIPLE. HER SISTER SAYS OF HER, "WITH YOUR GOOD SENSE, TO BE SO HONESTLY BLIND TO THE FOLLIES AND NONSENSE OF OTHERS! AFFECTATION OF CANDOUR IS COMMON ENOUGH;—ONE MEETS IT EVERYWHERE. BUT TO BE CANDID WITHOUT OSTENTATION OR DESIGN—TO TAKE THE GOOD OF EVERY BODY'S CHARACTER AND MAKE IT STILL BETTER, AND SAY NOTHING OF THE BAD—BELONGS TO YOU ALONE." HER ABILITY TO SEE THE BEST IN OTHERS, EVEN THOSE LIKE MR. WICKHAM WHO MAY NOT DESERVE IT, IS TRULY ADMIRABLE. JANE'S GENUINE DESIRE TO REFRAIN FROM HASTY JUDGMENTS IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL ASPIRE TO EMULATE.

#### **WE DO NOT TRY TO BUILD OURSELVES UP BY POINTING OUT SHORTCOMINGS IN OTHERS.**

MR. DARCY, DESPITE HAVING VALID CONCERNS ABOUT MR. WICKHAM, CHOOSES NOT TO PUBLICLY EXPOSE HIS SHORTCOMINGS. INSTEAD, HE TAKES SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, DEMONSTRATING A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE DIGNITY OF OTHERS EVEN WHEN FACING PERSONAL CRITICISM. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO NOTE HE DOES THIS, EVEN THOUGH MR. WICKHAM WOULD NOT DO THE SAME FOR HIM.

#### **WE WILL NOT MAKE EXCUSES FOR OUR WRONG ACTIONS, BUT WILL ADMIT THEM.**

MR. DARCY'S RESPONSE TO ELIZABETH'S APOLOGY PROVIDES A COMMENDABLE EXAMPLE OF RECEIVING CORRECTION. HIS RESPONSE IS SOUND. HE ASKS, "WHAT DID YOU SAY OF ME THAT I DID NOT DESERVE? ... MY BEHAVIOR TO YOU AT THE TIME HAD MERITED THE SEVEREST REPROOF. IT WAS UNPARDONABLE." HE ACKNOWLEDGES HIS WRONGDOING, ACCEPTS THE REPROOF, AND RESOLVES TO CHANGE HIS BEHAVIOR—A MODEL OF HUMILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

#### **WE DO NOT SPREAD RUMORS, GOSSIP, OR BRAG ABOUT OURSELVES.**

UNFORTUNATELY, NUMEROUS CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL DEVIATE FROM THIS PRINCIPLE. ELIZABETH'S EXPERIENCE WITH RUMORS NEARLY JEOPARDIZES HER OWN HAPPINESS AND THAT OF HER SISTER, JANE. AUSTEN SKILLFULLY EMPLOYS THE CHARACTERS OF LONGBOURN AND ROSINGS TO ILLUSTRATE THE FOLLY OF GOSSIP. CHARACTERS LIKE MRS. BENNETT AND MR. COLLINS, WHO INDULGE IN BRAGGING, SERVE AS NEGATIVE EXAMPLES, EMPHASIZING THE TIRESOME NATURE OF SUCH BEHAVIOR IN BOTH LITERATURE AND REALITY.

IN REVISITING THIS CLASSIC LITERATURE, I AM REMINDED OF THE TIMELESS LESSONS IT IMPARTS. WHILE WE APPRECIATE ADHERING TO SOCIETAL NORMS, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS NOT MERE EXTERNAL CONFORMITY. WE AIM FOR THESE PRINCIPLES TO TAKE ROOT, EMANATING FROM TRANSFORMED HEARTS SHAPED BY CHRIST. WE DO NOT WANT OUR STUDENTS TO SAY THAT THEY WERE "GIVEN GOOD PRINCIPLES, BUT LEFT TO FOLLOW THEM IN PRIDE AND CONCEIT," AS MR. DARCY DOES. INSTEAD, OUR DESIRE IS FOR OUR STUDENTS TO BE THOSE THAT GOD GATHERS AND BRINGS TO HIM, OUT OF THE IDOLATRIES OF THE CULTURE—OF WHICH THE APPEARANCE OF ADHERING TO SOCIETAL NORMS CAN CERTAINLY BE ONE—SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE HEART OF STONE (LIKE THE CARVED IDOLS POSSESS) REMOVED FROM THEM AND HAVE IT REPLACED BY A HEART OF FLESH AND A NEW SPIRIT. (EZEKIEL 36:25-27)