

- a. In Chapters 4&5 Wright will sketch out how the Church must implement and anticipate God's ultimate victory which Christ set in motion.
- b. Early Christians proclaimed that Jesus' death and resurrection is the foundation, model, and guarantee of God's ultimate purpose to rid the world of evil and establish His new creation of justice, beauty, and peace.
- c. The Church's work in the wider world.
 - i. The future promises a world free from evil altogether. We are invited to live in the light of that promise. We are asked to live lives which believe that is where this is all heading.
 - ii. Can we "Imagine there's no evil"? Wright says John Lennon was wrong when he wrote "It's easy if you try"! We find it very hard to imagine such a world since we have no experience with it.
 1. We must avoid the dualistic thinking mentioned above (We are good/They are evil). (Heaven and a purely spiritual life vs what we have now). Or the form of it which states that evil must simply get worse until the Lord returns again, so don't fight it! It's like re-arranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*.
 2. The world without evil must be more than simply a world without war, violence, exploitation, or pollution.
 3. We must not think of the world simply evolving by natural processes into a perfect state. This encourages such thinking as "War is ok; it purges the world

of the weak and allows the strong to survive, which makes things better". Also this encourages a laissez-faire approach to the economy which says let the forces of supply and demand work things out.

4. An Interlude: Naming the Powers

a. Satan as a non-human force attacking humankind in general, Israel, God's instrument of salvation, and finally Jesus.

- i. The aim of Satan is to undo creation, to kill all life.
- ii. Satan uses "sin" as its weapon. Sin is principally human rebellion against our role in creation. If we do not reflect God in the world, the world dies. When we also worship a creature rather than the Creator this is all aggravated. We then "lose our image of God"
- iii. Wright thinks of the Satan as a non-human, quasi-personal force which is bent on destroying all creation, especially humankind.
- iv. C.S.Lewis' two errors about Satan
 1. Take Satan too seriously by attributing all evil and all setbacks to him.
 2. Thinking the whole idea is ridiculous.

v. Wright adds a third error:
thinking of Satan as a projection
of the unconscious.

b. Idols

- i. Creatures to which we give our
ultimate allegiance
- ii. Doing so makes a master of
something which should be a
servant.

c. Evil as the absence of good

- i. Not "nothing"
- ii. Potholes and Blackholes

d. The Cross is God's victory over this
quasi-personal force and all other
forms of evil.

5. The New Creation

- a. Not a purely spiritual heaven
- b. An actual world filled with new
possibilities, new healing, new
beauty, and new growth