



C·S· LEWIS INSTITUTE

# Reflections

May 2016 – *Being Taken “Out of Ourselves”*

In *Surprised by Joy*, C.S. Lewis tells the story of his conversion from atheism to Christianity. Unlike some instantaneous conversions, Lewis came to faith in Christ through a journey searching for truth. He was initially converted to theism, and a little over two years later became a Christian. Looking back at this process, Lewis wrote:

The last stage in my story, the transition from mere Theism to Christianity, is the one on which I am now least informed. Since it is also the most recent, this ignorance may seem strange. I think there are two reasons. One is that as we grow older we remember the more distant past better than what is nearer. But the other is, I believe, that one of the first results of my Theistic conversion was a marked decrease (and high time, as all readers of this book will agree) in the fussy attentiveness which I had so long paid to the progress of my own opinions and the states of my own mind. For many healthy extroverts self-examination first begins with conversion. For me it was almost the other way round. Self-examination did of course continue. But it was (I suppose, for I cannot quite remember) at stated intervals, and for a practical purpose; a duty, a discipline, an uncomfortable thing, no longer a hobby or a habit. To believe and to pray were the beginning of extroversion. I had been, as they say, “taken out of myself”...<sup>1</sup>

How delightful that God “takes us out of ourselves” as He draws us to Himself, so that we can come to know Him, the Lord of all.



*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

GALATIANS 2:20 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*, Harcourt, Inc.: New York, 1955, pp. 232-233.