



Chapter One Review

John Stott's first reason: Why I am a Christian is due to the fact that Jesus Christ pursued me relentlessly even when I was running away. (p. 14)

Illustrations:

1. Francis Thompson, p.15, poet who composed "*The Hound of Heaven*"
Psalm 23 - "*surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life*" - pursuit, patient but purposeful affectionate but relentless; shepherd (Luke 15:3-7); we love Christ because he first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)
2. Saul of Tarsus, p.18, apostle of Christ (Acts 26:14)
 - a. Goaded in his mind
 - b. Goaded in his memory (Stephen, Acts 7)
 - c. Goaded in his conscience (covetousness, Rm. 7:7-9)
 - d. Goaded in his spirit (dead in transgression and sin, Ephesians 2: 1)
3. Augustine of Hippo, p.23, early church father
Enslaved in passions and struck by Romans 13:13-14
All five of his spiritual senses were quickened.
4. Malcolm Muggeridge, p.26, litterateur, TV personality, Christian spokesman
Writes about being pursued.
5. C. S. Lewis, p.27, Oxford and Cambridge scholar, literary critic, children's fiction writer, and Christian apologist
His is the "most eloquent" expression of the sense of being pursued.
In Surprised by Joy, an autobiographical sketch, he uses metaphors for the Pursuer: angler, cat and chasing a mouse, pack of hounds, Divine Chessplayer
6. John Stott, p. 29, preacher, evangelist, communicator of Scripture
 - a. Sense of estrangement from God (God was "remote" and "aloof".)
 - b. Sense of defeat (high-idealed but weak-willed)Christ's knocking at his door became louder and more insistent. Stott opened the door because "by his persistent knocking he had made it impossible, even inevitable." (p.30)

Quotable:

C. S. Lewis - "The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation." (p.28)

John Stott - "If we become aware of the relentless pursuit of Christ, and give up trying to escape from him, and surrender to the embrace of 'this tremendous lover,' there will be no room for boasting in what we have done. There will only be room for profound thanksgiving for his grace and mercy, and for the firm resolve to spend time and eternity in his loving service."