

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Abstract Objects
- Eternity

GOD'S ETERNITY & HIS RELATIONSHIP TO TIME

- Scripture clearly teaches God:
 - Is without beginning or end
 - Exists permanently
 - Never came into being and will not cease
- Therefore is God timeless or everlasting?

TIMELESS OR EVERLASTING?

- Timeless
 - God exists outside of time
- Everlasting
 - God exists everlastingly in time

ARGUMENTS FOR TIMELESSNESS

- Argument that God exists outside of time
 - The incompleteness of temporal life
 - Ever changing
 - Ever passing
 - No permanence
 - God could not exist in such a defective mode of temporality

ARGUMENT FOR EVERLASTING

- God's ever-changing relationship with the world.
- God acts in history
- Causal relationship to events
- Anything that changes has a before and after
- God would have to work in time

EVERLASTING CONT.

- Tensed truths
 - Future
 - Past
 - Present
 - God must know all truths
 - God know what will, what is, what was

EVALUATION OF THE ARGUMENTS

- Depends on your view of time.
 - A-Theory
 - B-Theory

A-THEORY OF TIME

- Tensed theory or dynamic theory
- Events are ordered
- The only thing that exists is the present
- Future is potential, Past no longer exists

B-THEORY OF TIME

- Tenseless theory or static theory
- Differences in time are subjective illusions of human consciousness
- Equally real- just depends on your perspective
- All things exist in there time, nothing begins or ceases

A OR B - GOD TIMELESS OR TEMPORAL

- God on A-Theory:
 - God cannot be equally present to the past and future because those don't exist
 - God exists in time because of his changing relation with the world and his knowledge of tense facts.

A OR B - GOD TIMELESS OR TEMPORAL

- God on B-Theory
 - God interacts with time because all are equally real
 - No tensed truths
 - No objective place “here” or “there”, same for “now” and “then”

WHICH IS RIGHT?

- Probably A-Theory
 - We experience beginnings and change
 - No reason to assume this is an illusion
 - B-Theory fails - creation, if temporal beginning are illusory then God did not exist prior to everything else
 - B-Theory required the universe to be timeless as well

A PROPOSAL

- God's eternity
- God is timeless without creation
- God is temporal subsequent to the moment of creation
- Jude 25:32
 - to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

APPLICATION OF GOD'S ETERNITY

- Paradox of Time
- Need to live in light of eternity

PARADOX OF TIME

- God has all the time in the world
- God is never forced to hurry
 - 2 Peter 3:8 "...a day is like a thousand years...."
- Time is short for us
- Comfort for those who are exhausted, incentive for those that are lazy.

LIVE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

- We are not simply temporal beings, but born-again, immortal creatures
- Encourages us to right living

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

JAMES 4:13-17

ESV

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ROMANS 13:12B-14

ESV

LIVE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

- Involves comfort in suffering
 - Trials are short
 - Something greater coming

And after you have suffered a little while, the
God of all grace, who has called you to his
eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore,
confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 PETER 5:10

ESV

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

ESV

LIVE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

- Holds for us the prospect of eternal life
 - The gift of salvation- fulfilled!
 - John 3:16

so that in the coming ages he might show the
immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:7

ESV

APPLICATION FOR NON-BELIEVERS

- Time is a devouring beast
- Life is meaningless
- No hope

DECEMBER 9TH

➤ Read:

➤ Defenders 2-3- 8 & 9: Doctrine of God, pg. 56-69
(Infinite: Omnipresence, Application of
Omnipresence)

QUESTIONS?

