Systematic Theology

Last Time

- Omniscience
  - God knows and believes all true things.

Background

- Necessary vs Contingent
- A necessary truth must be true on its own merits, it is not possible to be false.
- A contingent statement is only true is another statement is true.

Which is which?

- Cats are mammals.
- Cats are amphibians.
- Cats have claws.

Which is which?

- Cats are mammals.- Necessary Truth
- Cats are amphibians.- Falsehood
- Cats have claws.- Contingent Truth

Necessarily true

- 2+2=4
- Wrong to torture children for fun.
- If it is raining, it is raining.
- If something has shape, it has size.

From an Omnipresence POV…

- Two problems arise…
  - Compatibility of divine foreknowledge and human freedom.
  - Hypothetical knowledge

Foreknowledge vs Free Will

- If God knows everything that is going to happen before it happens, and every “free will” choice you are going to make, does that not mean that everything is pretty much fated to happen a particular way?
- If that is true, is then everything happens necessarily.

Foreknowledge vs Free Will

- There is a difference between foreknowledge and foreordination.

Theological Fatalism

1. Necessarily, if God foreknows X, then X will happen.
2. God foreknows X.
3. Therefore, necessarily, X will happen.

False! 3. Cannot happen necessarily.

Illustration

- Infallible Barometer
  - It will tell us when the weather is going to change.
  - The barometer does not have any influence on the weather.
  - It will infallibly tell us what is going to happen.

Foreknowledge & Time Travel

- *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*

The point

"We have the power to do X or not-X, and whichever one we do, God will foreknow. But his foreknowing it doesn't determine it or render it necessary."

Open theism

- Deny God's foreknowledge.
- They believe if God foreknows things, then all things happen necessarily.
  - Since we have freedom…
    - God has no foreknowledge
    - Therefore, God's omniscience,
    - Therefore God's perfection.

What is a proposition?

“: an expression in language or signs of something that can be believed, doubted, or denied or is either true or false”

Merriam-Webster

Systematic Summary

- God knows only and all true propositions.
  - Past
  - Present
  - Future
- Because there are true propositions in each.
- He knows our free choices before we make them.

Not just omniscient

- God's knowledge goes beyond omniscience.
- Non-propositional knowledge
- "I have been treed by a moose."
- "Bill has been treed by a moose."
  - Reaction to the knowledge is different.

Non-propositional, self-knowledge

- Essential to action
- If some one says “Bill is hungry,” if i do not know that I am Bill, it won’t move me to action to eat.
- God knows “God is omnipotent.” (Prop)
  - Also knows “I am God” (NP, SK)
  - Also knows “I am omnipotent”

God did not learn

- God knows all knowledge innately.
- Knows all truths innately.
- God has all propositional knowledge, holds no false beliefs, has appropriate self-knowledge, and his does so innately without learning it or acquiring it from anyone.

Wow!

- God's knowledge is even greater than "all-knowing!"

Next time

- Read:
  - Defenders 2-3- 14&15: Doctrine of God, pg. 97-112 (Compatibility of Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom & Middle Knowledge)

Questions?