

Third paper assignment

PHIL 20810: Philosophical Theology

Due: Thursday, April 30, at 5:00.

Please submit the paper as an email attachment.

Plagiarism is a serious and growing problem at Notre Dame and other universities. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourselves with the University's honor code, as well as with the philosophy department's guidelines regarding plagiarism. Both are linked from the course web site; you should contact your TA or me if you should have any questions.

This paper has three parts, which should be clearly demarcated.

Part 1. Argue for or against any one of the following theses:

- (1) It can never be rational to believe on the basis of testimony that a miracle has occurred.
- (2) Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection were part of a plot to win back human souls from Satan.
- (3) If the crucifixion had not occurred, it would have been unjust for God to save any people from hell.
- (4) In the crucifixion, Jesus took the punishment for our sins.
- (5) Any orthodox view on which some people go to heaven and some go to hell is inconsistent with the claim that God is just.
- (6) Eternal life would be intolerable.
- (7) Newborn babies are justly punishable for Adam's sin.
- (8) Newborn babies are justly punishable for the corruption of their nature.

Part 2. Clearly state what you take to be the strongest objection to the argument given in Part 1.

Part 3. Do your best to respond to the objection given in Part 2.

The three parts, taken together, should not exceed 1500 words.

Some further information:

1. As an alternative to doing this assignment, you may come up with your own topic, though you must get the written approval of me or your TA by email first. If you do this, the question that I or your TA approves should be on the first page of your essay.
2. A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late.
3. You are welcome to get comments from your TA on a rough draft of the paper. To do this, the draft must be submitted 7 days before the paper is due. You can of course also get in touch with me or your TA with questions about your papers.