

Exam 2

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God is good. This term is frequently used in christianity, but what does this mean? In Genesis 1, God makes something on the first 6 days. In each of these days, God says that what he made was good. Through this we can see that God's creation was good, but did God choose to create us or was it physically necessary to create us? Thomas Aquinas in his book "Of God and His creatures" explains that God's action of creation is not of physical necessity. To summarize, "will-action is and physical action go together, will-action represents the high power and uses the other as an instrument. But the divine power is supreme, and therefore must act by will-action, not under physical necessity" (Aquinas Of God and his Creatures). The reason that this is important is because God chose us out of his own will. God thought that what he made was good. This information gives us valuable insight into what God's character is like. God does not hate us, but rather thinks we are GOOD. In Genesis 3, the reader can see an example of this character. Adam and Eve directly go against God's command, but instead of having feelings of hatred towards them, he sets up a plan (foreshadows Jesus) to redeem them (Genesis 3:15). Since we now understand the good of Genesis 3, we need to understand the evil of Genesis 3. Book 3 of "Of God and His Creatures" by Thomas Quinas shed some light on this. He explains that Evil in this is beside the intention of the Agent. If God intends for something to be good, but it turns out to be evil, it will be beside the intention (Chapter 4). In the same way, God intended free will to be good, but evil arose as a result as Adam and Eve ate off of the forbidden tree. It was not God's intent to inflict suffering and sin, but rather God uses suffering and sin as another opportunity for good. In the case of Genesis 3, Adam and Eve brought sin into the world and God immediately prophesied Jesus. It is a common misconception in Christianity that God intends evil.

Through Adam we are all originally depraved. This is one of many point in Calvin's "Institutes of the Christian Religion" (Book 2). Through Adam and Eve, all humans are stained with original sin. Although we are dissatisfied with ourselves and humbled by God, we are inflamed with a desire to seek after God (Chapter 1). Through our rebellion of God and our disobediences, God still has this unconditional love for us. All in all, through Adam and Eve, we are able to gain important knowledge of who we are and who God is. God is caring and loving while we are sinful by nature.

Work Cited

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