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**Doctrines of Hell**

-How bad is it (to be in hell)?

-associated issue: is (continued) existence a great good itself (for the person continuing to exist). Connection to the thought that evil is privation

-“internal” vs. “external” punishments [Stump]

-What determines who goes to hell?

-associated issue: problem of vagueness [T. Sider]

-Free Will and Hell

-great divide: God as wanting some to be damned vs. God trying to save everybody, but being resisted by some

-C.S. Lewis: “The doors of hell are locked from the inside”

-Question to FWDers: Are we talking about people explicitly choosing their awful fate, while being fully informed of the nature of what they’re choosing? If yes, it becomes difficult to believe that many would make such a choice – esp. if we’re supposing they continue to make that choice after getting a taste of unspeakable torment. If no, the fact that they made the choice doesn’t help make sense of their treatment. Or at least, it doesn’t help as much as it seemed your claim would when I was hearing it as positing an explicit, informed choice.

-A line of defense for “binary” hell (considered by Sider at pp. 65-66): Those who get the bad fate deserve it, and there’s no injustice or other problem with God’s perfect goodness if God treats others much better than they deserve.

-for some, this line will be more successful if the bad fate involved isn’t so bad (perhaps annihilation?)

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-Picture of the natural way to take the “purgatory solution” to the vagueness problem.

-still get some potential arbitrariness in which lines get cut off, and which are allowed to continue. But at the point of reward/punishment, you get a good gap between the sheep and the goats.

-Different idea: God only cuts people off after they’ve made a clear, informed, responsible, and final decision for their bad fate.

-CSL may be getting at something like this idea at p. 624.6-.7 of our reading. But he seems (at least to me) suggesting that death is the end of one’s chances, and perhaps suggesting that by that time God knows it’s hopeless in the bad cases?

-Jon Kvanvig, *The Problem of Hell*, takes up this “different idea” (he’s where I get it from), with hell being the “purgatory” in question, and annihilation being the bad fate chosen (over union with God) in the bad case.

-Free Will Pessimism (CSL being a prime case): Given how people are, it’s entirely believable that many of us will get ourselves into horrible states.

-(relevant: the “Free Will” Appendix (Appendix B) of my web page at <http://campuspress.yale.edu/keithderose/1129-2/#b> )

-Underlying idea (for many, it seems, to varying degrees): This life as a test: The (or at least: a main) purpose of our earthly lives is to determine who gets what eternal fate. (relevant here is the Talbott/Murray dust-up here: <http://willamette.edu/~ttalbott/murray4.pdf> )

-Question: How good a test is this?

-Well, which gets to the perhaps the key issue of FWDers of hell: Is God really trying God’s best here?

-Why it seems (at least to me) there must be others values (beyond God’s being freely chosen) involved