

The Basics of Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom
Handout for Lecture #2

Theological Terms

Theism – the belief that there is one personal, transcendent God

Omnipotence – the divine attribute that characterizes God's ability to do anything that is logically possible

Omniscience – the divine attribute that characterizes God's perfect knowledge of all truths and contains no falsehoods

Providence – the way God brings about his will in and through creation

Philosophical Terms

Libertarian Freedom – also called *indeterminism* or *libertarianism*, refers to the view that maintains that human beings can exercise free will when one makes a choice where there are no prior sufficient conditions that determine the outcome of the choice besides the decision itself

Principle of Alternate Possibilities – given the exact same prior conditions, a person could have chosen differently

Determinism – also called *strong determinism*, refers to the view that maintains that human beings cannot exercise free will because all choices have prior sufficient conditions that determine the outcome of any given choice

Compatibilism – also called *soft determinism*, refers to the view that maintains that human beings can exercise free will because moral responsibility is compatible with causal determinism

Typical Conditions for Compatibilist Freedom: (a) the action is not immediately caused by compulsion or events external to the person; (b) the immediate cause for the action is some psychological state of the person; (c) the person could have the power to act otherwise, if the person had formed the appropriate psychological state

Necessary – a truth that obtains in all possible worlds

Contingent – a truth that obtains in at least one, but not all, possible worlds