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978-0-521-51465-1 - Inquiring about God: Selected Essays, Volume 1

Nicholas Wolterstorff

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INQUIRING ABOUT GOD

Inquiring about God is the first of two volumes of Nicholas Wolterstorff's collected papers. This volume collects Wolterstorff's essays in the philosophy of religion written over the last thirty-five years. The essays, which span a range of topics including Kant's philosophy of religion, the medieval (or classical) conception of God, and the problem of evil, are unified by the conviction that some of the central claims made by the classical theistic tradition, such as the claims that God is timeless, simple, and impassible, should be rejected. Still, Wolterstorff contends, rejecting the classical conception of God does not imply that theists should accept the Kantian view, according to which God cannot be known. Of interest to both philosophers and theologians, *Inquiring about God* should give the reader a lively sense of the creative and powerful work done in contemporary philosophical theology by one of its foremost practitioners.

NICHOLAS WOLTERSTORFF is Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology, Yale University, and Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia. His many publications include *Divine Discourse: Philosophical Reflections on the Claim that God Speaks* (1995), *John Locke and the Ethics of Belief* (1996), and *Thomas Reid and the Story of Epistemology* (2001, 2004).

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EDITED BY

TERENCE CUNEO



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Editor's introduction

Several years ago, I approached Nick Wolterstorff with the idea of publishing his papers in the philosophy of religion and epistemology. Lying behind the suggestion was the thought that it would be good for the philosophical community to have these essays, which lay scattered in various essay collections and journals, collected together. Nick liked the idea and, fortunately, so did Cambridge University Press. The result is two volumes of Nick's collected papers: *Inquiring about God* and *Practices of Belief*.

Nick and I chose to include the thirteen chapters that comprise this volume. Our primary principle of selection was to include self-standing essays that have minimal overlap with each other and the various books that Nick has published. With the exception of the Introduction and chapter 10, "Is God disturbed by what transpires in human affairs?", the essays that appear in this volume have all been previously published and are in more or less their original form. Editing has been done here and there to increase clarity, minimize overlap, and bring some language up to date.

For their help in seeing this project through, I would like to thank Sean Christy, Joyce Dunlap, and Donna Kruithof; they have provided much-appreciated assistance in preparing the book. I would also like to thank Jim Bratt at the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship for providing a summer stipend, which helped underwrite copyediting assistance. Finally, I'd like to express a note of special thanks to Nick himself. Our mutual bafflement concerning the latest computer technologies notwithstanding, it has been a great pleasure to work on this project together.

TDC

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