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0521850932 - God and the Ethics of Belief: New Essays in Philosophy of Religion

Edited by Andrew Dole and Andrew Chignell

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GOD AND THE ETHICS OF BELIEF

Philosophy of religion in the Anglo-American tradition experienced a “rebirth” following the 1955 publication of *New Essays in Philosophical Theology* (eds. Antony Flew and Alisdair MacIntyre). Fifty years later, this volume of new essays offers a sampling of the best work in what is now a very active field, written by some of its most prominent members. A substantial introduction sketches the developments of the past half-century, while also describing the “ethics of belief” debate in epistemology and showing how it connects to explicitly religious concerns and to the topics of the individual contributions. These topics include the relationship between God and the natural laws; the metaphysics of bodily resurrection; the role of appeal to “mystery” in the religious life; the justification of both theistic belief generally and more specific doctrinal beliefs; and the social-political aspects of religious faith and practice.

Andrew Dole is Assistant Professor of Religion at Amherst College.

Andrew Chignell is Assistant Professor in the Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University.

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New Essays in Philosophy of Religion

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To Nicholas Wolterstorff



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Finally, we are extremely pleased to dedicate this volume to Nicholas Wolterstorff on the occasion of his stepping down from full-time teaching at Yale. Nick has been a colleague or teacher of many of the contributors, a mentor to the editors, and a friend to all. He has exemplified a level of devotion to his community, to his students, and to the life of the mind that is almost

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impossible to match. We have little doubt that he will continue to do so, even in “retirement.”

In *Reason within the Bounds of Religion*, Nick wrote that “if the activities of the scholar are to be justified, that justification must be found ultimately in the contribution of scholarship to the cause of justice-in-shalom. The vocation of the scholar, like the vocation of everyone else, is to serve that end.” We present this volume to him with great affection and in the firm belief that his own career as a writer and teacher has indeed served that end.