**Midterm Essay**

**Due November 1, 2019**

**Preliminary Notes:**

* This is a progressive essay; that is, for your Final Essay, you will add to this paper after you receive feedback from me. What is more, you have already substantially written this paper. Each writing assignment at the end of each week has built up to this point.
* Warning: this is not a rough draft! You receive a substantial grade for this paper, based on the essay rubric (see rubric in Canvas page). I went over this rubric last week.

**Prompt:**

* After learning about Paul’s own spiritual journey—and how he developed his own world view (theology/philosophy)—reflect on your own journey. In this essay, you will be demonstrating your own understanding of the material in class (Paul’s journey) and your own journey.
  + Recall philosopher Alain Badiou’s words, which apply to both Paul and you:

“Nietzsche wrote that a philosophy [theology] is always the biography of the philosopher. Maybe a biography of the philosopher by the philosopher himself [herself] is a piece of philosophy.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Structure:**

* For this paper, you will have an introduction and four parts. No conclusion is needed at this point. Count on *at least* nine full paragraphs.
  + **Introduction** (one paragraph): Here you will write an overall summation of your journey in light of Paul’s. Here you will also preview each part of your paper, and what you conclude from each part. Give the readers a roadmap of the journey you will be taking them on in the essay.
  + **Part I** (*at least* two paragraphs): Here you will write about the influences on Paul’s own thinking (see Powell and Fitzmyer [five influences]), arguing what you think had the most influence on Paul’s thought. In light of this, you will write about what has had the most impact on the way you view the world (compare/contrast with Paul). You have already created a draft of this at the end of Module One. Refine this and weave it into your paper.
  + **Part II** (*at least* two paragraphs): Here you will write about Paul’s ideas about evil in the world (see Gaventa reading). In light of this, you will discuss your own view (compare/contrast). You have already created a draft of this at the end of Module One. Refine this and weave it into your paper. In fact, you have already practiced in combining this with the prior section on background.
  + **Part III** (two paragraphs): Here you will write about Paul’s idea of the hero, Jesus. How does Paul name and describe the hero? How doe you name and describe yours. Compare and contrast. Perhaps use ideas from our class brainstorm about heroes/heroines. Even though we have not yet discussed how Paul’s hero brings evil to an end, you can discuss how Paul’s hero and your hero are the opposite of the evil you discuss in Part II. This will help you link this section to the prior ones.
  + **Part IV** (two paragraphs): Here you will write about Paul’s ideas about how evil is ended (realized and future eschatology). In light of this, you will discuss your own view (compare/contrast) of how evil (as you have defined it) is ended (or not).
* Be sure to transition between each part: “In Part I, I discussed . . . , here I . . .”

**Format**

* No title page is required. But your title should be centered in bold at the top of page one. A title should sum up your reflection. Be creative.
* 12 pt. font. Times Roman preferred.
* Page numbers at bottom, centered.
* Double spaced.
* I prefer paragraph minimum instead of page minimum. See above.
* The style guide for biblical studies is “SBL.” It is summarized well in the following link. You should footnote any references to texts in class (Fitzmyer, Gaventa, Powell). The link below explains how to cite bible passages. Click on “Bible” link/bullet.
  + [**http://spu.libguides.com/citations/cite\_sbl**](http://spu.libguides.com/citations/cite_sbl)

**Originality**

* Your paper will be submitted online, on Canvas. The website checks for plagiarism (including prior papers submitted). This paper is fairly original, but the site will check your Pauline paragraphs for plagiarism.

1. Alain Badiou, “Philosophy as Biography,” *The Symptom* 9 (2007): http://www.lacan.com/symptom9\_articles/badiou19.html. Badiou begins his lecture with this Nietzsche quote. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)