Reflection Prompts for Week 5

Wednesday’s Reading

Read F. Dostoevski “Why is There Evil?’ and reflect on the following:

- What theological implications do you think Dostoevski’s character Ivan would draw after seeing the film *Hotel Rwanda*? Do you think that the main character in the film, Paul, would agree with him?
- What possible responses to the problem of evil does Ivan consider and reject?
- How might you go about trying to justify God’s ways to Ivan? Or would you? Defend your answer

Friday’s Reading

Read J. Hicks “There is a Reason…” pp. 81-86 and choose one of the following:

1. Try to explain Hick’s argument for the thesis that “The idea of person who can be infallibly guaranteed to act rightly is self-contradictory” (p. 83)
   - What does he mean by ‘person’?
   - What two objections does he introduce against the thesis?
   - How does he respond to these objections?

2. According to Hick’s understanding of Christianity, what is and is not “God’s purpose in creation of the world”? (pp. 84-5) Should Ivan be satisfied with this answer? Why or why not?