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Teleological Argument - Study Guide

- 1. *Teleological* is built from two Greek words, *telos* and *logos*. *Telos* means __end/purpose_, while *logos* means __logic/rationality_. Therefore, the teleological arguments aims to explain a thing's __purpose_ or __design_.
- 2. Three verses that speak of God's creative power are
 - a. Psalm 19:1
 - b. Genesis 1:1
 - c. Romans 1:18-20
- 3. The *Teleological Argument* does not focus on <u>evolution</u> or <u>Darwin</u>. Rather, it concentrates on the <u>fine-tuning</u> of the universe. By changing the focus, the Christian avoids the <u>emotions</u> that usually accompany a discussion about evolution. Another benefit is that the skeptic has the <u>burden of proof</u> to explain why the universe is able to <u>support life</u> in the first place.
- 4. Write out the teleological argument.
 - a. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
 - b. It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
 - c. Therefore, it is due to design.
- 5. Define *fine-tuning*.
 - a. Certain constants and quantities in the universe fall into an extraordinarily narrow range of values for the universe to be life-permitting.
- 6. What are the *two kinds* of fine-tuning? Briefly describe each one.
 - a. Constants
 - i. When certain laws of nature are expressed as mathematical equations, we see certain constants, or unchanging quantities, featured.
 - b. Arbitrary Quantities
 - i. When we look at the origin of the universe, we notice certain quantities that are initial conditions, which the laws of nature then operate on. The quantities are not determined by the laws of nature, and could have had different values.

- 7. Examples of fine-tuning
 - a. Weak force
 - i. Changing this value on the order of one part in 10^{100} would prevent a life-permitting universe from forming.
 - ii. Divide 1 by 10^{100} to obtain this value.
 - b. Cosmological Constant
 - i. Changing this value on the order of one part in 10^{120} would prevent a life-permitting universe from forming.
 - c. Low Entropy Initial Condition
 - i. Arbitrary Quantity
 - ii. The odds of this low-entropy state existing by chance along is on the order of one chance out of $10^{10(123)}$
- 8. Physical necessity means the quantities and constants <u>must</u> have the values they do. <u>Chance</u> means the values are there by accident.
- 9. Premise 1 is <u>unobjectionable</u>, since it contains all <u>alternatives</u>.
- 10. Physical necessity as an alternative seems to be <u>implausible</u>, because the physical constants and arbitrary quantities are not <u>dependent</u> on the laws of nature. They could have been different. It is only put forward as a mere <u>possibility</u>.
- 11. Chance as an alternative is implausible, because the <u>chances</u> that a life-permitting universe existing are so <u>astronomically low</u> it becomes unreasonable to hold this view.
- 12. The <u>Many worlds</u>, or <u>multiverse</u>, hypothesis states that our universe is but one member of a multitude of other universes.
- 13. What are some responses to the multiverse hypothesis?
 - a. The mechanism generating the multiverse would need to be fine-tuned itself
 - b. There is not a shred of evidence