

In his senior research project, *The Infinite and the Finite*, Michael Jon discusses the philosophical investigation of the existence of God. In his first paragraph he clearly states that in order for God to infinitely exist, he must in fact reside outside the realms of time and space in which all other life forms are subjected to. Thus he concludes that time has no bearing on the infinite, but the infinite has a hand in shaping time and other aspects of the finite. This consequently means that we must of course have knowledge of the infinite to truly understand the finite.

To better explain this concept Michael refers to the works of Saint Augustine and Rene Descartes. For most of his paper he spends time comparing and contrasting the two authors and their ideas. He explains that the two philosophers both seek a better understanding of the finite through the gaining knowledge of the infinite.

Michael presents that both Descartes and Augustine would therefore agree that the finite is a result of a creation by the infinite. Through the reading I found two huge points of interest to be made, the first being the idea of how both authors explain how they reached their conclusion of God and time being the source outside of the finite, and the also how the present can only exist within the finite.

He first explains Descartes's rational behind the existence of the infinite; due to the fact that we can think about it without actually having proof that it exist. The philosopher pushes this idea to explain that God must be the perfect infinite being, since we have a concept of who

is he, without possessing full knowledge of his existence. This leads to him to conclude that God is the creator of time and things that are both infinite and finite.

For Augustine, Michael explains that God is outside of time and for that reason the act of creation must result in the establishment of the finite. Thus time is an extension to creation, meaning the two are bound to one another.

This leads Mike to relay, in my opinion, the most interesting point of the infinite. This is that the past and future are the idea of infinite while the present resides in the finite. Established by Augustine, the past and future are concepts that we never actually experience, but like god, we have some form of knowledge of and can make inference to.

My only real issue for Michael is that I had no true idea what his argument was for this paper or where he stood. While I am assuming that it was to prove that the infinite is the basis of understanding anything that is finite, I felt that it was not strongly stated.

I also believe that even though there are excellent references and citations made of both Augustine and Descartes, Michael does not establish his own opinion or stance very well. I would have liked to see what ideas he presented he did or did not agree with or what he thought to be key to understanding how infinite and finite are both connected.