Abstract

The thesis "The justification of eternity in times" addresses the relationship of the entity whose existence is modally necessary to the times of the entities of contingent existence, whose existence is defined by creation and termination, i.e., by the two poles of existence. The solution of this relationship is the answer to Panneberg's question about the relationship of eternity to the space-time structure of the universe. The approach to solving this problem is analyzed in the **introductory chapter**.

Entities of contingent existence - beings - can be considered from the point of view of existence as polar entities, while the modally necessary one, which neither comes into existence nor ceases to exist, spans in its existence the poles of existence of all beings - it is therefore supra-polar in this sense. Time is needed to express the impermanence of the existence of beings. The fact that entities of contingent existence must exist in time raises the question of the relation of the modally necessary entity to time. The formal-logical expression of the relation of modally necessary entities to the times of modally contingent entities is discussed in **second chapter**. Sufficient conditions are given here for such an existence of a modally necessary entity which can be said to be of unbounded duration in terms of modally contingent entities. A modally necessary entity that satisfies these conditions is declared to be eternal. And if the modally necessary entity exists, the union of the times of all modally contingent entities, which is the time of the modally necessary entity, is called eternity. The existence of the modally necessary entity is proved in **Chapter Four**. In order for such a derivation to be logically relevant, the system of formulas expressing the conditions for the unbounded existence of a modally necessary entity must not be burdened with contradiction. The justification of the consistency of a system expressing the conditions for unbounded duration of existence is the focus of **Chapter Three**. The argument presented here is based on current physical knowledge.

The **final chapter** presents the basic physical properties of the space-time structure that cause the relationship between eternity and finite time. On the basis of a mathematical-logical argumentation based on current physical knowledge, we answer in this chapter Panneberg's question for the relationship of eternity to the space-time structure of the universe in a theological context.