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TH601.NA: Systematic Theology 1

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### **Questions**

1. What is the difference between pantheism and biblical theology?
2. When discussing the divine immutability of God, what is a key consideration?
3. If God has no duplicity or fickleness, why does scripture say that He changed His mind?
4. In the reformed tradition, how are God's attributes divided?
5. What is the connection between God's omnipotence and the gospel?

### **Answers**

1. *Pantheism states that God lives in everything whereas biblical theology states that God exists everywhere in creation (omnipresent) while remaining distinct from creation.*
2. *Immutability does not insist that God does not interact with the world, but only that his interactions remain consistent with His purpose and person.*
3. *According to Bird, depictions in Scripture of God changing his mind, repenting or relenting are anthropomorphic depictions, whereby God's actions are described in a humanlike way.*
4. *God's attributes are divided into two categories: incommunicable and communicable*
5. *The victory of the gospel is contingent on the fact that God cannot be thwarted in what He intends to do. Therefore, since the power of God knows no limit, condition or contingency and He can surely achieve His all of will.*

### **Terms**

1. **Omnibenevolence**: This means the goodness of God. It supposes that God lacks any kind of malice and promotes the well-being those He enters into a covenant relationship with.
2. **Self-sufficiency**: This means that God's being and existence are not contingent on anything else in the universe.
3. **Impassible**: Divine impassibility means that God cannot be affected by anything such as emotions or events that are external to himself.

### **Summary**

Section 2.3 of *Evangelical Theology* by Michael Bird presents an explanation of what the God of the Bible is like. Bird makes clear that this explanation is necessary to distinguish the God of the Bible from other the generic "god" that is often at the fore of conversations with the masses. In the chapter, Bird details and explains the various attributes of God and their impact on His interaction with people. This section also examines other important topics such as God's character and tackles prominent theological questions (such as questions related to God's gender and God's emotions) in order to help readers get a better understanding of God's nature and character and how that informs His actions on the earth.