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Assignment 1: Bird 4.1-4.3.4

### Quiz Questions

1- John Webster said, "No element in a system of theology is unrelated to \_\_\_\_\_." (Bird, p. 397)

Answer: Christology

2. Name one of the theologians who took the Christology from above approach: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: Karl Barth / Paul Tillich / Rudolf Bultmann

3. Instead of a top down or bottom up Christology, Bird suggested we do Christology from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Behind, Below, Above, and Before.

4. Luke celebrates Jesus's significant birth through three songs titles: *Magnificat*, \_\_\_\_\_, *Nunc dimittis*.

Answer: *Benedictus*

5. What is the sequel to the ministry of Jesus?

Answer: the mission of the church

### Terms

*Festschrift*: a collection of works that are written in honor of a notable person, most often a scholar.

*Docetism*: a heretical doctrine that believed that Christ did not have a human fleshly body.

*Mamzer*: illegitimate child, a term used to refer to Jesus by a Jewish polemic (p. 416).

### Summary

In section 4.1, Bird highlights the centrality of the person of Jesus to not only the gospel but also to theology. In 4.2, a Christological method is presented through two approaches - a "Christology from below" which focuses on the Historical Jesus, and a "Christology from above" which begins with the church's belief of his divine nature. The former often leads to a "scholarly construct" of Jesus which falls short of his truth (p.403). The latter approach was the one adopted by Bultmann, Tillich, and Barth. Bird prefers the behind, below, above, and before approach. In 4.3-4.3.4, he looks at the life of Jesus from the standpoint of the Old Testament, His birth, and His ministry.