531 Paper TH602 Week 1

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Questions

1. What are the two aspects that the Gospel conveys about Jesus Christ?
2. What is the main difference between the method of “Christology from below” and the “Christology from above?”
3. Why does Bird conclude many modern Christologies are “problematic?”
4. Why does the book think “virgin conception” is important to the discussion of Christology?
5. What is the significance of the life of Jesus?

Answers

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ conveys two aspects of Jesus Christ: the person of Jesus Christ and the work of Jesus Christ.
2. The main difference between the two methods is the treatment towards the historicity of Jesus.
3. Bird believes many modern Christologies have theological gaps in bridging the Jesus’s historical narrative towards Israel with Israel’s redemptive history.
4. Because “virgin conception” is an important part of the historicity of Jesus. It is also a brilliant example of how “the Word became flesh.”
5. In conclusion, Jesus’s life should be the center of the church’s source of theology. It also provides pivotal link to the Israel’s redemptive history and the salvation of all gentiles.

Terms

1. Docetism. Docetism is a belief that Christ is not a human but an entity without human flesh.
2. Allegory. Allegory refers to a “hidden meaning” of a text and usually insists the “hidden meaning” is THE meaning of the text.
3. Christology. Christology is a branch of theology that focuses on the person and work of Christ.

Summary

Bird argues that we should sustain a balanced and focused perspective towards Christology. He emphasizes the significance of the balance between Christ of history and Christ of faith. We should also pay effective attention to correct Biblical theology that bridges the OT with Christ.