

### **5-3-1 Assignment 2 on Bird, Sec. 4.4-4.4.2**

#### *QUESTIONS*

1. What is a critical problem with the “Moral Influence” mode of atonement?
2. Other than “Christus Victor”, what are the other seven modes of the atonement outlined by Bird?
3. What is the difference between expiation and propitiation?<sup>1</sup>
4. What is one reason Bird downplays “Penal Substitution” as the most central theory of atonement?
5. Which medieval theologian was a strong proponent of the Satisfaction mode of atonement?

#### *Answers*

1. That it denies Christ’s death *objectively* changes our standing before God.
2. Recapitulation, Ransom, Satisfaction, Moral Influence, Exemplary, Government, Penal Substitution
3. Removal of sin is what is meant by expiation, whereas appeasement of wrath is propitiation.
4. The fact that Luke, in the Gospel and in Acts makes does not emphasize it.
5. St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109), particularly in his *Cur Deus Homo*.

#### *TERMS*

*hilasterion*: Debated word of Rom. 3:25, reference to “mercy seat” in LXX, or “sacrifice of atonement”.

*Stellvertretung*: German word meaning “place-taking”, the substitution that occurs by the death of Jesus.

*per hamartias*: Literally “concerning sin” though idiomatic for “sin offering” as used in the LXX.

#### *SUMMARY*

Bird introduces his treatment of the atonement with remarks about the centrality of the cross, and then spends the majority of this section detailing eight different “modes” or theories or models of the atonement. Each has its own strengths and weaknesses, and he concludes the list with what appears to be one of the strongest and most elaborate of modes, Penal Substitution, with a particularly post-modern criticism in a side-bar. To end the section, Bird shockingly proposes, and supports, for his “crucial integrative hub” what others have claimed is not even a proper atonement theology<sup>2</sup>: Christus Victor.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology, A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 460.

<sup>2</sup> Michael F. Bird, 451.