

### 5-3-1 Assignment 1 on Bird 4.4 to 4.4.2.

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#### QUESTIONS

1. What is the importance of the cross in Christian doctrine?
2. What opinions developed around the doctrine of the ransom?
3. What is the penal substitution view of Jesus' death?
4. What three texts in the Epistles imply that Jesus bears divine judgment?
5. According to Bird, what doctrine complements penal substitution?

#### Answers:

1. At the cross, God addresses sin, rebellion, Satan, and humanity's alienation from Him through a redemptive action that unites the offender and the offended in reconciliation.
2. According to Origen, the death of Christ was the payment to the devil for the ransom of humanity. According to Nyssa, the devil had a right over humankind, and Christ's death was a hook that finally defeated him.
3. Penal substitution holds that Jesus' death was a sacrifice for sins in our place.
4. Romans 8:3 refers to the fact that the law was powerless to save us, but justification in Christ frees us from sin. Galatians 3:13 mentions that the law causes a curse, but believers are redeemed since it was taken away in Christ. Finally, 1 Peter 2:24 points out that Jesus bore the penalty in our place.
5. The doctrines of penal substitution and Christus Victor do not compete. However, the first is the foundation of the second. What unites the new Exodus, the new creation, the ministry of Jesus, the cross, and the mission of God's people in the world is the victory of God in the substitutionary death of Jesus.

#### TERMS

*Theologia Crucis*: This doctrine of the "theology of the cross" points out that it was necessary to lay the power of sin at the foot of the cross and beg forgiveness from God rich in mercy.

*Anakephalaiosis*: This term refers to the recapitulation. It points out that when the Son of God became human and obeyed God in all things, he gathered all humankind together and ruled as their representative to deliver them from death and sin to a restored divine destiny.

*Christus Victor*: This term by Gustaf Aulén refers to the atonement idea as a conflict and a victory where Christ fights and triumphs over the evil powers of the world that enslaved humanity.

#### SUMMARY

Bird presents the theme of the cross as a symbol of God's just judgment against sin and the relevance it has within Christian theology throughout Christianity. To this end, he addresses different doctrines postulated around the cross, such as recapitulation, ransom, Christus Victor, satisfaction, and penal substitution. These doctrines lack a complete vision of the cross and have different approaches, but they can be complementary. Bird points out that evangelicals have given much importance to the doctrine of penal substitution, and he argues that this doctrine should be enriched by the Christus Victor doctrine since the mission of God obtained its victory on the cross.