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TH602. Systematic Theology II  
Assignment 2: Bird 4.4-4.4.2

### Quiz Questions

1. In Irenaeus' recapitulation analogy, the two trees signify:
  - A. The tree of life and the tree of knowing good and evil
  - B. The tree in the garden and the cross Jesus was hanged on
  - C. The burning bush and the tree in the garden
  - D. The family tree of Adam and the family tree of God

Answer: B

2. Which mode of atonement views Jesus' death as a cosmic victory of the powers of darkness?

Answer: Christus Victor

3. Who was behind the Satisfaction mode of atonement?

Answer: St. Anselm of Canterbury

4. How does the NIV translate *hilastērion*?

Answer: sacrifice of atonement

5. What is the main argument against the "divine child abuse" idea of the cross?

Answer: The Trinity

### Terms

*Atonement* - the reparation or expiation for sin or wrongdoing.

*Expiation* - the complete removal of sin

*Propitiation* - *appeasing God and his wrath*

### Summary

In section 4.4, Bird emphasizes the centrality of the cross as the central message of Christ and Christianity. In 4.1, he discusses the various modes of atonement which seek to precisely define what Christ died *for*. Irenaeus' recapitulation mode portrays Jesus as the new Adam who faithfully replaces Adam's wrongdoing with obedience, but fails to account for why the cross is necessary (442). The ransom mode of atonement views Jesus' death as a ransom from the devil. This is clearly problematic as it grants the devil power and authority he does not have. The Christus Victor mode views Christ's death as a divine cosmic victory over the powers of darkness, but fails to fully account for atonement. Anselm's satisfaction mode of atonement saw Jesus' death as a restitution to the Father instead of punishment. The moral influence view focuses superficially on the effect of transforming the sinner as he/she beholds Christ's death, but denies essential tenets of the faiths. The governmental theory presents Christ's death as a public demonstration of God's disapproval of sin, but fails to provide atonement for humanity's

sins. The penal substitution model most accurately encapsulates the full extent of Jesus' atoning sacrifice for sins in our place.