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TH602.NLS

5-3-1 Bird 4.4-4.4.2 Atonement

Questions

1. What did Irenaeus teach concerning the atonement?
2. What was the flaw in Origen's ransom theory?
3. Why is the moral theory unable to stand as a model for the atonement?
4. What is the Christus Victor model of atonement?
5. What does the penal substitution model of atonement present?

Answers

1. Irenaeus taught the recapitulation model of atonement. Basically implying that Adam had failed in his mission and Jesus became the God/man who redeemed humanity from Adam's fall.
2. One of the flaws in Origen's theory was to think that anything was owed to Satan by God.
3. The moral theory does not adequately deal with the separation between God and man due to sin and the seriousness of it.
4. The Christus Victor model addresses the victory over evil accomplished by Christ on the cross.
5. The penal substitution model of atonement addresses the fact that Christ died on the cross as a substitute for sinful mankind, taking on himself the fullness of sin and the wrath of God that sin warranted.

Terms

1. recapitulate – to retell or restate briefly; to give new form or expression to.
2. atone – to make amends: to provide or serve as reparation or compensation for something bad or unwelcomed.
3. doctrine – a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief.

Summary - In this section on the atonement, Bird explains many of the theories proposed throughout history to help explain what was accomplished and why by Jesus Christ on the cross. He concluded stating that he believed the Christus Victor theory was the most accurate. I disagree. I think it is a good second choice and offers much in explanation. I believe the penal substitution theory is the best model as it offers a fuller explanation for the why...Jesus came to restore relationship between the Father and his creation.