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TH602. Systematic Theology II
Assignment 4: Bird 4.6-4.7.4

Quiz Questions

1- Which Creeds affirm Jesus' ascension?

- A- Apostles'
- B- Nicene
- C- Athanasian
- D- all of the above
- E- none of the above

Answer: D

2- What is the most commonly cited Old Testament text?

Answer: Psalm 110

3- fill in the blank: "The _____ office of Christ is expressed in his mediation between God and humanity and in his intercession for humanity" (513).

Answer: Priestly

4- What do each of the letters in Bird's acronym WISDOM refer to in regards to Jesus' deity?
Worship, Identity, Seat, Deeds, Ontology, Mission

5- Which council finally affirmed Christ's human and divine nature in 680?

Answer: The Council of Constantinople.

Terms

Parrēsia - greek word meaning confidence, in particular a boldness to speak freely.

Parakletos - greek word meaning advocate; word used to describe the Holy Spirit

Docetism - the belief system that denies Jesus' humanity and claims he never had a physical body.

Summary

In section 4.6, Bird discusses one of the most neglected aspects of Jesus' post resurrection days, His ascension. Bird mentions seven important points of Jesus's ascension: (1) Jesus ascends so that He can release the Holy Spirit; (2) It marks the "beginning of a Trinitarian worship" (508); (3) it means he is exalted and with full divine authority, (4) it places a human at God's right hand to oversee the universe, (5) it empowers believers to share in His reign; (6) continues His priestly intercessory work, and (7) lastly, it highlights his return. In 4.7, Bird explores the precise nature of Jesus' divinity. 4.7.1 highlights his pre-existence as eternal son.

In 4.7.2, Bird expands on Jesus' incarnation and discusses theologians who in the third and fourth centuries considered Him a lesser Son. 4.7.3 talks about Jesus' full humanity, which culminates to the expression of His hypostatic union in 4.7.4 which fully ascribes to His divine and human nature.