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**Assignment— Chapter 5 Reflection**

### **Summary**

In chapter 5, Tennent explores African concept of Christ as healer and ancestor. African religion often emphasized on the role of evil spirit and ancestors in relation to human disease.

Tennent writes, “they do not maintain a sharp demarcation between physical healing and spiritual healing” (118). He writes about their focus and concern with the work of Christ than his nature.

African Christology is closely connect with soteriology— Christ saves his people, ecclesiology — Christ is bringing restoration to the community by building church, and eschatology—cosmic healing over satan and principalities. It also reveals “six major images that have been proposed: Christ as Healer and Life-Giver, Christ as Liberator, Christ as Chief, Christ as Mediator, Christ as Master of Initiation, and Christ as Ancestor/Elder Brother” (117).

Tennent concludes that African Christology is no serious objection on recognition that Christ as healer. However, there is one major issue that is too much emphasis on physical healing will serve to diminish the deeper, spiritual significance of Christ’s ministry and possibly create a movement to christ for the wrong motives (112). He encourages for balanced approach in deity and nature of Christ.

### **Key Learning**

It was interesting to read about the role of Christ as mediator between the ancestors and God. Tennent writes, “The reason Christ as Ancestor is clearly an example of an inculturation Christology is that its very emergence among so many different African thinkers, independent of one another, testifies to how central the theme is in the traditional African worldview” (128).

This connection came from 1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”. I can see why Africans took that way because the controlling idea of all ancestor veneration in Africa is that exalted mediator between heaven and earth (126).

### **Implication**

I grew up in a place where the healthcare system was not good. For us, the first response when someone got sick was a prayer for healing. I’ve witnessed many miracles from God. He has used many healing testimonies for evangelism. I believe our God can forgive our sins and the effects of sin. In other words, Christ can heal us. He is our savior, sanctifier, healer and coming. I would be worried if someone did not believe in Christ's healing power. With that being said, I understand someone wanting to follow Christ just to receive something from him instead of truly following him. It reminds me the prosperity gospel in West. Thus, one thing we can do is avoid compartmentalizing. We need to learn not to seek prosperity, healing, or blessings from Christ. We shouldn't emphasize his one nature but seek to balance. He is Lord and Savior. We must seek and trust him in our suffering, sickness, and pain.