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TH502 Theology in Global Context

Tennent Ch 5 Reflection

What was most exciting about Chapter 5: *Christ as Healer and Ancestor in Africa* was the fact that essentially reading about how theology in Africa may shape the history of the church for the next decades, if not centuries to come. I believe that theology in Africa has received much from its history of Western European missionaries and while the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches intentions may have been to convert Africa into conformity, what it may have done in reality, was give Africa the ingredients and building blocks to further develop humanity's understanding of Jesus Christ.

Christology as I have understood it so far, has mostly been focused on Christ and His personhood and nature. As necessary as this focus was, now Africans, having laid out the understanding of Jesus being God-man as a foundation, are now focusing on who He is for the African peoples' daily lifestyle. Tennent makes note about how Jesus is the Great Victor over Africa's multi-headed hydra: poverty, illiteracy, ethnic tensions, colonialism, dictatorship, illness, disenfranchisement, and suffering. For me personally, this is huge because it is a nationwide application of doctrines that have long been studied, developed, and meditated upon but never realized.

The second part of the chapter focuses on Christ as Ancestor. This part of the chapter is interesting because it deals with a vague sense of spiritualism that humanity possesses throughout all cultures. For Africans, Jesus Christ is the One who is the mediator between them

and the first level tier of Supreme Being. In African Christology, the “underside” of the broad understanding of the word is finally being addressed.