

5-3-1 Assignment 5 on Bird, Sec. 5.1-Five.Three.One

QUESTIONS

1. What are the five sections of Bird's Five Act (Shakespearean) drama of redemptive history?
2. What is the central debate centered on when discussing the *basis* for election?
3. How does Bird summarize the "lucid predestinarian portrait of salvation" of Eph. 1 and Rom. 8?
4. What are three problems with Barth's view of election?
5. What are three views of logical ordering of decrees in God's plan of creation/salvation/reprobation?

Answers

1. (1) Creation and Fall, (2) The Patriarchs and Israel, (3) Jesus, (4) The Church, (5) The Consummation.
2. God's foreknowledge of who will believe **vs.** God's free decision to save some but not others.¹
3. That "*foreknowledge is not the grounds of predestination but a confirmation of it*"²
4. (1) No difference of elect/reprobate, (2) tends to universalism, (3) no exegetical nor tradition basis.
5. Infralapsarianism, Supralapsarianism, Sublapsarianism.

TERMS

historia salutis: Doctrine of the outworking of God's saving plan in redemptive history.

ordo salutis: Doctrine of how salvation is applied to the individual believer.

supralapsarianism: The logical ordering that places election/reprobation as the first (supra) of all decrees.

SUMMARY

Bird fleshes out soteriology in this entire chapter, with 5.1 containing brief prefatory marks on "being saved". He logically uses 5.2 for the broad *Redemptive History* aspect of salvation, and then narrows in for 5.3 to detail the individual aspect of salvation, the *Order of Salvation*. As much as Bird has touched on this topic before, his clarification of foreknowledge vs. God's free decision was necessary and eye-opening (hence my belaboring this gem of knowledge above). Bird takes some time to explain Barth's Christocentric re-orientation of the debate, but concludes that Calvin's view holds the most weight.

¹ Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology, A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 565.

² Michael F. Bird, 568.