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TH 602
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5-3-1 Assignment: Bird 5.1- 5.3.1

QUESTIONS

1. According to Bird, what is redemptive history?
2. What are the five acts of redemptive history that Bird offers?
3. What is the order of salvation?
4. What is one of the most controversial area of theological debate in the order of salvation?
5. What are the characteristics of the Calvinist view of divine predestination?

Answers

1. Redemptive history is the outworking on God's covenantal plan to bring his people from being in Adam to being in the Messiah through the incarnate Logos.
2. They are creation & fall, the patriarchs & Israel, Jesus, the Church and Consummation.
3. It refers to sequence of events in salvation— how from God's eternal decision to save people, individuals are able to eventually be part of God's new creation. Its basic outline is mapped in Romans 8:29-30 by Paul— predestination, calling, regeneration, faith and repentance, justification, transformation, and glorification.
4. It is about the doctrine of predestination where many debate on the basis for the election— whether it pertains to God's free and inscrutable decision to save some but not others, or if God has a foreknowledge of persons who would freely choose for themselves to believe in him.
5. They argue that election is an expression of God's sovereign purpose, it is efficacious, it is from all eternity and was not made at some later point in time, it is unconditional and immutable for God does not unelect anyone or elect others thereafter.

TERMS

- Soteriology: Study of Salvation
- Consummation: Refers to the moment of Jesus' return to earth, or the beginning of God's Kingdom on earth, resulting in a new heaven and earth that display God's glory.
- Karl Barth: Swiss Theologian who connected election and revelation and argued that Jesus Christ is the electing God, elected Savior and that all people are elect in Him.

In Chapters 5.1 - 5.3.1, Bird expounds his soteriology. He first explores redemptive history, and demonstrate how the salvation story takes place through five acts— Creation & Fall, Patriarchs & Israel, Jesus, the Church and Consumation. He also surveys the order of salvation, specifically predestination in this chapter to explore its meaning and purpose in the economy of divine grace. Amid all various arguments about predestination, he concludes that predetermination is a radical way of communication that one cannot be saved through one's work— it is only by God's grace that we can receive salvation.