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TH602. Systematic Theology II
Assignment 5: Bird 5.1-5.3.1

Quiz Questions

1- What are the five acts that Bird refers to as the full story of redemptive history?

Answer: Creation and the Fall, Patriarchs and Israel, Jesus, the Church, the Consummation

2- True or False: According to NT Wright, Incarnation cancels Israel's election.

Answer: False

3- What is the sequence of salvation according to Bird?

Answer: predestination -> calling -> regeneration -> faith and repentance -> justification -> transformation -> glorification

4- True or False: Per Bird, all theologians in general agree that God *elects* people to salvation.

Answer: True

5- Who published a magazine called *The Arminian*?

Answer: John Wesley

Terms

Historia salutis - term for God's redemptive history

Ordo salutis - term for the order of salvation applied to the individual believer

Tasso - word for appointed, which means to "bring about an order of things by arranging" (567).

Summary

In 5.1, Bird presents a marvelous summary of what it means to be saved by the gospel by summarizing the broken and corrupted human condition and "God's project to unite himself to creation through the Logos and God reigning with the saints in new creation" (553). In 5.2, Bird presents the redemptive history as a five-act play: (1) Creation and the fall, (2) Patriarchs and Israel, (3) Jesus, (4) the Church, and finally (5) The Consummation (555). Lastly, in 5.3 the discussion shifts to the *ordo salutis*, God's order of salvation in the life of an individual believer. In 5.1, Bird expands on the first element in the sequence of salvation, predestination. He outlines the strong biblical support for the doctrine of predestination and how it has evolved through Church history from Pelagius (based on foreknowledge), Augustine (God's election), to the reformers, and finally John Calvin, the most prominent advocate of predestination (572). Arminius, on the other hand, doubted predestination and emphasized God's granting of sufficient grace to enable faith in believers.