

### 5-3-1 Assignment on Bird 5.3.2 to 5.4.7

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#### QUESTIONS

1. According to the author, what characterizes the "call"?
2. What does Christian sanctification mean?
3. What does glorification imply?
4. What are the images of salvation that appear in the Bible?
5. What are the characteristics of justification?

#### Answers:

1. The call is not a general invitation to all humankind to believe in Jesus Christ. Instead, it is a specific call. It occurs when the Holy Spirit moves in people's hearts as they hear the gospel, and they are led toward conversion.
2. Christian sanctification means to be transformed into God's image and His son. The believer becomes, at least in behavior, like God and Christ. Transformation occurs progressively in sanctification and culminates in our glorification in the image of Jesus Christ.
3. Glorification involves being freed from the presence of sin to enter into the new creation, dwell in God's new world, and participate in God's eschatological kingdom; together with those who glorify him. This glorification will end in the cosmic renewal of creation, but it has begun in every believer by the Spirit.
4. Scripture uses images to designate what God has done for the people, how their relationship with God has changed, and how people have changed. These images are forgiveness, redemption, ransom, reconciliation, justification, peace, and adoption.
5. First, justification is forensic because it denotes a person's condition, not a moral state. Furthermore, it is eschatological since the final verdict has been declared in the present. Also, justification is covenantal in that it confirms the Abrahamic covenant promises and legitimizes the believer's identity as an equal member of God's people. Finally, it is efficacious and trinitarian because God is who does the justifying.

#### TERMS

*Regeneration*: This term refers to the new birth worked by the Holy Spirit in a person. It involves restoring and recreating a person from spiritual death to spiritual life.

*Via Salutis*: This term refers to the way of salvation toward Christ. It is a term that some scholars have preferred to *ordo salutis* on the premise that the process of salvation extends throughout the spiritual life of a believer.

*Simil iustus et peccator*: This Latin term refers to the condition of man: "at the same time justified and sinful."

#### SUMMARY

Bird goes on to explain "the sequence of salvation" (predestination -> calling -> regeneration -> faith and repentance -> justification -> transformation -> glorification). He argues that the calling is specific, regeneration is the new birth, and faith and repentance are instruments of salvation. Transformation and Glorification highlight the process of becoming in the image of God and co-heirs with Christ (present and future implications). Subsequently, the author analyzes the biblical images (forgiveness, redemption, ransom, reconciliation, justification, peace, and adoption) to show the doctrines associated with salvation and their effects on the believer.