

5-3-1 Assignment on Bird 5.4.8 to 5.5.2

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QUESTIONS

1. In what way is eternal life different from mortal life?
2. What idea best explains theosis?
3. What are the reasons for not accepting the universalist option?
4. What does exclusivism consider concerning children and people with disabilities?
5. What does Bird postulate about the assurance of salvation?

Answers:

1. Eternal life is unlike mortal life because it participates in a life that is not of this world. Communion with God means sharing in the immortal and imperishable life that is part of His essence. The Gospel is the good news that the God's life is available through faith in Jesus.
2. Our participation in the Son and transformation into His image best explains theosis. Deification is our participation in the incarnate humanity of Christ, His redemptive benefits such as adoption, restoration of the Adamic stewardship of creation, and imitation of the communicable divine attributes. All this is via the Holy Spirit through our union with Christ.
3. First, the biblical teaching on judgment and eternal separation is clear: There will be a final judgment. Some will be justified, and others condemned. Secondly, the universalism justification rests on misinterpreted biblical texts and unconvincing explanations. The universalist can point to texts that refer to God's desire for the salvation of all people, but these are out of context. Third, universalists emphasize the objective dimension of salvation and neglect the importance of the subjective appropriation necessary to acquire it.
4. According to the exclusivist view, children and people with disabilities are on their way to eternal destruction due to the absence of faith. However, Bird suggests that they are conditionally elected and not imputed with Adam's sin until the moment of accountability. The only biblical argument supporting this claim is Jesus' special affection for children.
5. Bird points out that perseverance and the Calvinist scheme (assured salvation) are the most compatible with the Bible. However, he asserts that God ensures that the believer, who in this life is simultaneously justified and sinful, perseveres, enduring the struggle of sin. Those who do not persevere have superficial faith. Therefore, full-fledged Christians can be sure that God will save them as long as they remain in faith.

TERMS

Theosis: This term is also known as "deification." It identifies salvation as becoming like God and participating in the divine nature.

Recapitulation: This Irenaeus's doctrine points out that the human condition is rehearsed and redeemed in the incarnation.

Inclusivism: This point of view postulates that the Father reaches the unevangelized people through the Son and the Spirit through general revelation, conscience, and human culture.

SUMMARY

Bird initially addresses eternal life, affirming that it is a life different from the mortal, where we share the imperishable life by having communion with God. Regarding theosis, he reflects on human participation in divine themes, not being gods, but through the Spirit participating in the humanity of Christ, the redemptive benefits, and the re-establishment of humankind. Finally, Bird talks about universalism and exclusivism to answer the question: Can salvation be

lost? He says that believers can have the assurance of salvation since God takes care of our perseverance and our abiding in the faith.