

5 Questions

1. ***What is the Eastern Church view regarding theosis?***

According to Bird, the view of the Eastern church regarding theosis is that although we as humans don't participate in God's essence, we participate in His energy, which includes His glory, love, virtue and power.

2. ***How does Bird view the concept of theosis and deification?***

Bird is more reluctant to use the terms participation and transformation, which is possible through union with Christ, hence participating in everything pertaining to Jesus which results in transformation.

3. ***What is Bird's view on salvation at its core?***

Bird believes that the substance of salvation comes in the gospel announcement of the God Who saves, thereby prompting us to look at the economic actions of Father, Son, and Spirit in the saving event.

4. ***What are two notable pieces to keep in mind while exploring the concept of salvation?***

Bird explains that there have been persons who have conjectured that an eternal punishment for the lost is not God's final plan and the fact that we must also consider the fate of persons who never had an opportunity to respond to the gospel of grace.

5. ***What is one of the reasons why Bird finds the universalist view to be inadequate?***

Bird states one of the reasons for inadequacy of the universalist view is the biblical teaching on judgment and eternal separation.

3 Definitions

1. **Theosis**- identifies salvation as becoming like God and sharing in the divine life
2. **Universalism**- the view that, in the end, all human beings will be saved
3. **Exclusivism**- the view that there are very few that are saved

Summary

In sections 5.4.8 to 5.5.2 of *Evangelical Theology*, Bird begins by analyzing the concept of theosis (deification), primarily using Scripture and giving his intake on the matter. Bird then dives into the topic of salvation, which includes the central elements along with answering who is actually saved and if losing salvation is possible. Bird accomplishes this by diving into the concepts of universalism and exclusivism, with biblical references that illustrate his opposition of those views. Lastly, Bird dives into the concept of the security (or certainty) of salvation, which include the meaningful subtopics of falling away and persevering.