

5-3-1 Assignment: Bird, 5.4.8 - 5.5.2
Due: March 1, 2023

QUESTIONS

1. According to Brenda Colijn, what is eternal life?
2. What is “theosis”?
3. According to Bird, what is the center of salvation?
4. According to Bird, how does a Universalist view the gospel?
5. What two elements are necessary to have Christian assurance?

ANSWERS

1. Brenda Colijn writes, “eternal life is the eschatological gift of God, the life of the kingdom of God in the age to come. It is everlasting life.”
2. Theosis, also known as deification, identifies salvation as becoming like God and sharing in the divine life. This doesn’t mean we become divine by nature, but rather we participate in God’s energy and by His grace are adopted as His children.
3. Bird writes that in his mind, the center and substance of salvation comes in the gospel announcement of the God who saves. The center of salvation must include the Triune God; Father, Son, and Spirit.
4. According to Bird, for the universalist, the gospel is news of salvation for all, not an invitation for the lost to be saved.
5. The two important elements in our Christian assurance are the promise of the Gospel and the person of Christ. We need new birth and faith which includes an experiential faith.

TERMS

- Universalism: the viewpoint that, in the end, all humans will be saved.
- *Propter Christum*: literally meaning "for Christ's sake." This is the concrete expression of *sola gratia*. Apart from Christ, there is no grace; there is only wrath and judgment.
- *Sola gratia*: meaning “by grace alone”, is one of the five solae and consists of the belief that salvation comes by divine grace or "unmerited favor" only, not as something earned or deserved by the sinner

SUMMARY

In the remainder of section 5.4, Bird discusses eternal life as taught in the gospels by Jesus as well other places in the New Testament. He goes on to talk about “Theosis” explaining what it means to participate in God’s energy and ends with the center of salvation resting on the triune God. In 5.5, Bird discusses the scope and security of salvation while also explaining universalism, which is a view that he would consider falling under apostasy. Bird finishes off this section by reminding the reader that Christians can have complete security and assurance that God will bring them into a new heaven and a new earth. Our salvation is secure.