

Dawn Bailey

TH602.NLS

5-3-1 Bird 5.4.8- 5.5.2

### Questions

1. What did Bird believe to be the center of salvation?
2. What was Origen's doctrine of *apokatastasis*?
3. What is exclusivism?
4. What does Bird teach concerning the ability of those with limited mental ability (ie babies or those who have mental disabilities) to be saved?
5. Is it possible to have eternal security according to Bird?

### Answers

1. Bird believed that the center of salvation was found in the Gospel message. It consists of "communion with God, union with Christ, and life in the Spirit." (635)
2. Origen's doctrine of *apokatastasis* means that everything will be restored back to its original state. It was condemned by the Synod of Constantinople AD 543.
3. Exclusivism is the understanding that "salvation is found in not other name and in no other way than Jesus Christ." (648)
4. In his final analysis, Bird "entrusts the most vulnerable of God's creatures to his mercy and justice, knowing that God will work all things for the greatest good." (651)
5. According to Bird if one is regenerate they will be saved provided they remain in the faith. (660)

### Terms

1. Universalism – a theological doctrine that all human beings will be saved in the end. (637)
2. Theosis – identifies salvation as becoming like God and sharing in the divine nature. (629)
3. immortality – state of being immortal; exempt from death, exempt from oblivion

Summary- This section of reading wrapped up Bird's discussion on the images of salvation, including eternal life, theosis, and nearness/access. The next section covered the topics of the scope and security of salvation. Under the scope portion, Universalism and Exclusivism were discussed. Universalism believes that ultimately everyone will be saved. Exclusivism believes that only those who believe in Jesus will be saved.