

Cong Zhou

Questions

1. What is a practical application of having eternal life, according to the author?
2. What rationales does the author offer to theosis?
3. According to the author, why does Christianity is innately exclusive?
4. What are the core argument of Reformed theology and Arminian theology about the topic of security of salvation?
5. What is the author's conclusion in his stand on the security of Salvation?

Answers

1. God is the life-giving God. When God calls us into the kingdom, he gives us eternal life. We should be reminded that God's life always wins over the power of death.
2. The author argues that theosis has a long-standing position in the Eastern Orthodox theology. He also lists some bible verses and church fathers that support the idea of theosis.
3. Christian salvation is only through Jesus Christ. Orthodox theology allows possibility of people never heard of the gospel being saved when they truly respond to God's natural revelation and lives a righteous life that aligns to God. But the Bible also acknowledges it is a very small possibility.
4. Reformed theology focuses on the infallibility of God's power of salvation. Arminian theology focuses on the conditional nature of salvation contingent upon perseverance.
5. The author argues that Reformed theology is more "complete" in explaining the security of salvation.

Terms

Theosis. Theosis, also called deification, is a theological term that means to take part of God's divine nature, to become like God.

Universalism. Universalism means that God is going to save every person ever created.

Exclusivism. Exclusivism refers to Christianity's idea of salvation only being effective towards those who have heard the gospel and responded in faith.

Summary

The center of salvation is communion with God, union with Christ, and life in the Spirit. The scope of salvation covers those who hear and respond Gospel in genuine faith. God will complete his saving work and help those who truly believe to preserve their faith into eternity.