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Class: TH601 NA/NOS Systematic Theology II: Christ and the Church

QUESTIONS

1. How does Bird define/describe the evangelical church?
2. How does Bird define the church triumphant and the church militant.
3. Bird believes there are some shared images for the church between the Testaments. What are they?
4. Bird states that some images for the church are unique to the New Testament. Name them.
5. Bird lists some characteristics of the church. State three.

ANSWERS

1. Bird said evangelical churches have the gospel at the center of their proclamation and practice. The evangelical church is a community created by the gospel that promotes and preaches the gospel and cultivates it in its spirituality. The church's members strive to have lives worthy of the gospel. At their center is Jesus Christ.
2. The church triumphant is the saints who have already entered heaven, while the church militant is those who will struggle on the earth.
3. Bird believes the shared images for the church between the Testaments that Bird mentions are the people of God, elect, flock, priesthood, and remnant.
4. The images for the church that Bird states are unique to the New Testament are the body of Christ, the temple of God, and the new creation.
5. Bird writes that the church is the company of the gospel, the public face of the gospel, and the hermeneutic of the gospel.

TERMS

Extra ecclesia nulla salus: There is no salvation outside the church.

Ekklēsia: a Greek word meaning "gathering" or "assembly." This word is used in the LXX to translate the Hebrew word *qahal*, which often describes the assembling of Israel to hear the law, confess their sins, or renew the covenant.

Ecclesiology: the study of the church.

SUMMARY

In this section, Bird talks about the evangelical church. He looks at biblical images of the church in both Testaments and those unique to the New Testament. Bird also discusses the church and Israel and how they relate. He believes the church does not replace Israel but is a representative of Israel in the messianic age; the church must be Israel because outside of Israel, there is no salvation; the story of the church is the continuation of Israel's story, the unity of God's people is secured by the unity of His plan, and there remains an outstanding hope for Israel to one day respond to the gospel.