

5-3-1 Assignment 9 on Bird, Sec. 8.1-8.2.2

QUESTIONS

1. What did Martin Luther call the “true treasure of the Church” when he wrote his Ninety-Five Theses?
2. According to Bird, what are the three goals of the gospelized community?
3. What are the five images, according to Bird, for the church that span the Old and New Testaments?
4. Why does Bird claim that the “Temple of God” image is unique to the New Testament?
5. What does Charles Ryrie say is the essential element of dispensational theology?

Answers

1. “The Most Holy Gospel of the glory and the grace of God”¹
2. To be the *company*, the *public face*, and the *hermeneutic* of the gospel.
3. They are (1) The People of God, (2) the Elect, (3) the Flock, (4) the Priesthood, and (5) the Remnant.
4. Because of the Trinitarian emphasis on Holy Spirit indwelling believers individually and corporately.
5. That dispensational theology makes a distinction between the church and Israel.

TERMS

supersessionist: View that the Church is the historical successor to Israel. Held by Luther, Barth, et al.

Sonderweg: German word meaning “special way” referring to how Jews are saved via Mosaic covenant.

extra Israel nulla salus: “outside Israel no salvation” see Rom 11:12-31, Eph 2:11-22 => Church is Israel

SUMMARY

The Doctrine of the Church section commences with stock phraseology “*Evangelical ecclesiology* is ... the attempt to be the *gospel-driven church*.”² Bird endeavors to shock us with comments about “salvation from the church” from both Augustine and the Westminster Confession, in order to correct Evangelicals’ stereotypical lack of emphasis on the church. Next, Bird employs his favorite abstraction of “images”, by showing shared images of the “gathering of believers” between the Old and New Testaments. In what should have been a separate section, Bird details the contention between the Church and Israel in a box.

¹ Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology, A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 802.

² Michael F. Bird, 808. (*italics added*).