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TH 602
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5-3-1 Assignment: Bird 8.1 - 8.2.2

QUESTIONS

1. According to Bird, why has Evangelical ecclesiology a bit of a conundrum?
2. What are Bird's definitions of the church?
3. What are the images of church span in the Old Testament?
4. What are the unique images of the church presented in the New Testament?
5. What are Bird's opinions on how the church relates to Israel?

Answers

1. There is no standard for its ecclesiology because it is not a denominational entity. Instead, it is a theological ethos that can accommodate any form of church order.
2. He defines the church as community of "gospelized." He argues that the church is the company of the gospel, the public face of the gospel, and the hermeneutic of the gospel.
3. It is presented as people of God, elect, flock, priesthood, and remnant chosen by grace.
4. They are church being reflected as the body of Christ, as Temple of God, as New Creation,
5. After twenty years of scholarly study, he believes that the New Testament confirms that the promises of Israel are carried forward into the church of Jesus Christ based on how the name Israel functioned, how Jesus regarded Israel, and how He embodies Israel.

TERMS

- *Ekklesia*: Greek word meaning gathering or assembly, used in the LXX to translate the Hebrew word *qahal* (assembling of Israel to hear the law, confess, renew their covenant), equivalent to what we identify as "church."
- *Dispensational Theology*: Belief that there is a distinction between the dispensation of Israel (in which divine blessings were poured on the nation while gentiles were alienated) and dispensation of church (divine blessings are given to the Jes and Gentils and national blessings are in abeyance).
- *Extra Ecclesia Nulla Salus*: Augustine's response to the Donaitst controversy which translates to "outside of the church there is no salvation." He argues that salvation is not found elsewhere but only in the physical building of the church.

In Chapters 8.1 - 8.2.2, Bird engages in ecclesiology— primarily on the evangelical church and the biblical images of the church. Bird points out that despite not having a prescriptive ecclesiology, the evangelical church is a theological ethos with the gospel at the center of its proclamation and practice. Then, he displays the various images of the church portrayed in both the OT (people of God, elect, flock) and NT (Body of Christ, Temple of God) to highlight the church being people that God calls for himself, redeems, renews and that will dwell with him for eternity. He also explores the ecclesiological contention about the Church and Israel and concludes with his belief that the NT confirms the promises of Israel being carried into the church of Jesus Christ.