§ IV. DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Outline

A. Introduction

B. The Person of Christ
   1. Deity of Jesus
   2. Humanity of Jesus
   3. Historical Survey
      (a) Monophysite vs. Dyophysite Christology
      (b) Alexandrian Christology (Monophysitism)
      (c) Antiochean Christology (Dyophysitism)
      (d) Council of Chalcedon
      (e) Kenotic Christology
   4. Apologetic Significance of the Incarnation
   5. A Possible Model of the Incarnation
      (a) Plank One – Affirm Two Natures and One Person
      (b) Plank Two – The Logos was the Rational Soul of Jesus
      (c) Plank Three – The Divine Aspects of Jesus Were Subconscious

C. The Work of Christ – His Death and Atonement
   1. Scriptural Data
      (a) Jesus’ Own Teachings
      (b) Paul’s Teachings
      (c) Jesus’ Death as a Sacrifice
   2. Propitiation and Expiation
   3. Theories of Atonement
      (a) Christus Victor / Ransom Theory
      (b) Satisfaction Theory
      (c) Moral Influence Theory
      (d) Penal Theory
      (e) Existential Theory
   4. Assessment of the Theories of Atonement

D. The Work of Christ – His Resurrection
1. Scriptural Data

2. Historical Survey of Various Theories
   (a) Literal Interpretation
   (b) Conspiracy Theory
   (c) Apparent Death Theory
   (d) Mythology Theory
   (e) Subjective Vision Theory
   (f) Objective Vision Theory
   (g) Interpretation Theory

3. Assessing the Different Theories
   (a) Conspiracy Theory
   (b) Apparent Death Theory
   (c) Mythology Theory
   (d) Subjective Vision Theory
   (e) Objective Vision Theory
   (f) Interpretation Theory

4. Historicity of the Resurrection
   (a) Fact #1: The Burial of Jesus
   (b) Fact #2: The Empty Tomb
   (c) Fact #3: The Postmortem Appearances of Jesus
   (d) Fact #4: The Disciples’ Belief in the Resurrection

5. Best Explanation of the Facts
   (a) Hume’s Objection Against Identification of a Miracle
      (1) Probability Calculus
   (b) Plantinga’s Problem of Diminishing Probabilities
   (c) Criteria for Determining the Best Explanation
      (1) Explanatory Scope
      (2) Explanatory Power
      (3) Plausibility
      (4) Ad-hocness
      (5) In Accord With Accepted Beliefs
(6) Outstrips Rival Hypotheses

E. Is Christ the Only Way of Salvation?
   1. Scriptural Data
   2. The Demise of this Doctrine
   3. Religious Pluralism
      (a) Bad Arguments for Religious Pluralism
      (b) The Fate of Unbelievers
      (c) The Fate of Those That Never Hear the Gospel
      (d) Why Didn’t God Create a Different World?