11/08/21

AMCL Wednesday lecture 3

# god’s choice and the choosing self

‘What happens when God’s choice of Jesus meets the Choosing Self?

## The Father’s pleasure in exalting His Son, the Son’s pleasure in glorifying the Father.

## The Story of Envy

### Rival claims about God’s choice

### Envying the Beloved Son

### Idolatry and the heart turned in on itself.

# The Activity of God at the cross

All the fullness of God will be revealed in bodily form when Jesus the Christ offers himself in the Spirit as a peace offering for the envy of the world. God’s presence and action will come together at the cross and reconcile the world to the Father.

## The Theological Question

### How can the cross be God’s choice for himself in the face of human envy?

### How does reconciliation come between God and the world through the cross?

### Athanasius, Arius and Hegel.

# God’s Fullness, Reconciling through his cross

## Colossians 1

### Col.1:19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross…22 …he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him…

### The Wicked Tenants

#### The sons of Satan

#### ‘We heard him say, “I will destroy this temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands [Mk.14:58 cf. Mat.26:57].”

#### The clash of wills

## The Temple, The Messiah, and the Fullness of God

### The Tabernacle/Temple presence in Jesus the Immanuel.

### The custodial role of the son of David for worship

## Messiah and the Salvation of God

### Jesus as the son of David

### The Messiah as the kinsman redeemer.

### The Good Shepherd vs the bad shepherds

#### The renewal of the Temple made with hands is the occasion to announce the acts of the son of David as the acts of YHWH

## The Fullness of God in Bodily Form at the Cross

### Desecrated

#### Molested, Scourged

### Decommissioned

#### The Torn Curtain

### Abandoned?

#### The cry of dereliction

#### ’In the total, inextricable abandonment of Jesus by his God and Father, … is the delivering up of the Son by the Father for godless and godforsaken man.’[[1]](#footnote-1)

### Cursed?

#### The wrath of God

### Deposed

#### We have no king but Caesar!

### Envy Spent…

#### ‘God wiped out the certificate of indebtedness with the requirements which opposed us and took it away from us and nailed it to the cross.’ (Col.2:!4)

## The Glory of the Only-Begotten Revealed

### The Passover

### The Prayer

#### On the contrary, I am going away so that the world may know that I love the Father. Just as the Father commanded Me, so I do. (Jn.14:31)

## Reconciliation According to Arius

### Arius proposed ‘a view of salvation in which Christ is conceived as an exemplar showing how a creature may attain salvation through the exercise of free will.’[[2]](#footnote-2)

### ‘God is inexpressible to the Son, For [God] is what he is for himself and that is unutterable, So that the Son does not have the understanding that would enable him to give voice to any words expressing comprehension. For [the Son] it is impossible to search out the mysteries of the Father, who exists in himself; For the Son does not know his own substance, Since, being a son, he came into actual subsistence by a father’s will. What scheme of thought, then, could admit the idea that he who has his being from the Father, should know by comprehension the one who begot him.’[[3]](#footnote-3) [Arius, Thalia, [ET Williams, Arius, 103]]?’

## Reconciliation According to Hegel

### The pinnacle of finitude is not actual life in its temporal course, but rather death, the anguish of death…the pinnacle of negation…finitude in its highest extreme. The temporal and complete existence of the divine Idea in the present is perceived only in Christ’s death. The highest divestment of the divine Idea- “God has died, God himself is dead” - is a monstrous, frightening image, which brings before the imagination the deepest abyss of estrangement.[[4]](#footnote-4)

## Reconciliation According Athanasius

### ‘So the Word of God … came in order that he who is the image…might be able to renew … humanity which is in the image.’ (*De Inc*. §13)

### ‘for by the sacrifice of his own body, he both put an end to the law lying against us and renewed for us the source of life, given hope of the resurrection.’[[5]](#footnote-5)

# Jesus the Image & Firstborn and the end of Envy

## All The Fullness in Bodily Form

## Making Peace Through Blood

## Reconciling Everything to the Father

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Anatolios, Khaled. *Retrieving Nicaea*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

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1. Jürgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God : The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology* (London: SCM Press, 1974), 243. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Khaled Anatolios, *Retrieving Nicaea* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Arius, Thalia in Rowan Williams, *Arius*, 2nd ed. (London: SCM Press, 2001), 103. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hegel. G.W.F, *The Christian Religion: Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion Pt.Iii*, trans. Peter C. Hodgson, *Aar Text & Translators* (Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1979)., 202 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*, trans. John Behr, vol. 44b, *Popular Patristics* (Yonkers, NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2011), §10. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)