



CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

VOLUME I: The Grace of Our
Lord Jesus Christ

PART 3

Soteriology: The Doctrine of
the Work of Christ

T. A. Noble



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■ Preface

From one point of view, Christian Theology is the belief system of one particular faith community within human society. As citizens, Christians may legitimately respect that perspective, particularly in democratic societies, and may live as far as they can within the limits which society sets down. But that is not the Christian view. For Christians, Christian Theology is not merely an abstract or theoretical belief system of one religious group but is the articulation of our personal, interactive knowledge of the Triune God, the Creator of the ends of the earth and the universal Lord of all, within the fellowship of the Church which God has called into being. For us, therefore, it is not 'the world' of human society which sets the ultimate horizon within which Christian faith must be understood and regulated. Rather, it is the revelation of the Triune God in Jesus Christ, known only through the work of the Holy Spirit, which determines the final horizon within which we view 'the world'. Christian Theology is the Church's fallible attempt to articulate that knowledge given in the revelation of God, including the understanding of ourselves and of human society which arises within that perspective. For Christians, Christ, not Caesar, is Lord.

This particular work, entitled *Christian Theology*, is the attempt of one Christian theologian to articulate that knowledge. If it were merely a personal view, it could be regarded as idiosyncratic. Therefore it is an attempt to articulate Christian Theology within a specific Christian tradition, one of many within the 'one holy, catholic and apostolic Church'. As such, it shares the same commitment to Holy Scripture interpreted through the Nicene Creed which has characterized the historic mainstream of the Church of Christ. Within that, it shares the commitment