

## The Captivation of the Will: Luther Vs. Erasmus on Freedom and Bondage (Lutheran Quarterly Books)

*By Gerhard O. Forde*

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### **The Captivation of the Will: Luther Vs. Erasmus on Freedom and Bondage (Lutheran Quarterly Books)** By Gerhard O. Forde

The Captivation of the Will" provocatively revisits a perennial topic of controversy? human free will. Highly esteemed Lutheran thinker Gerhard O. Forde cuts to the heart of the subject by reexamining the famous debate on the will between Luther and Erasmus. Following a substantial introduction by James A. Nestingen that brings to life the historical background of the debate, Forde thoroughly explores Luther's "Bondage of the Will" and the dispute between Erasmus and Luther that it reflects. In the process of exposing this debate's enduring significance for Christians, Forde highlights its central arguments about Scripture, God, the will, and salvation in Christ. Luther recognized that the only solution for humans bound by sin is the forgiveness that comes from Christ alone. Convinced that this insight represents the heart of the Christian gospel, Forde concludes with ten sermons that proclaim the message of salvation through Christ alone while elegantly relating theological inquiry to everyday life.

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#### **About the Author**

Gerhard O. Forde is professor emeritus of systematic theology at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. His other books include "On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518" and "A More Radical Gospel: Essays on Eschatology, Authority, Atonement, and Ecumenism" (both Eerdmans). Steven Paulson is associate professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary.

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