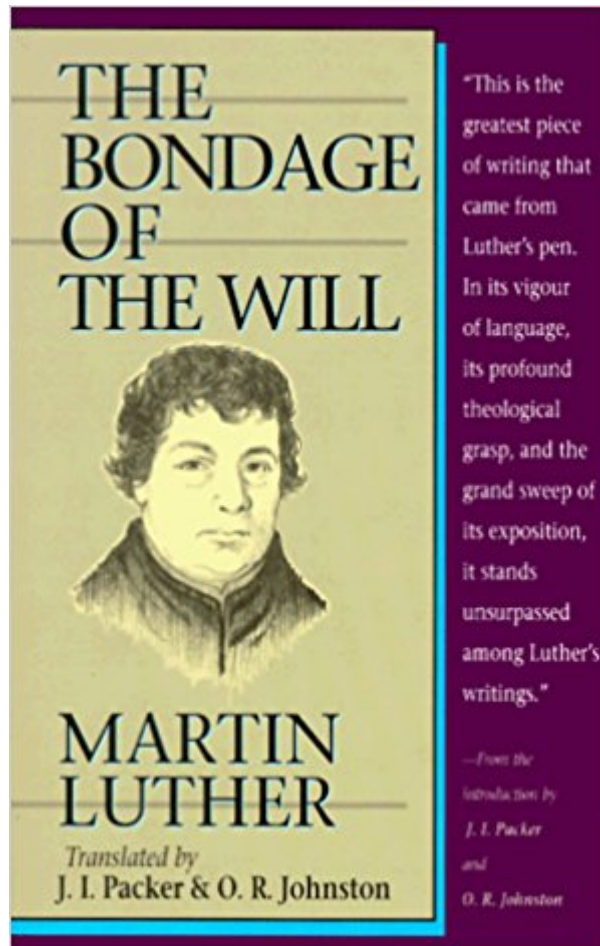




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# The Bondage Of The Will



## Synopsis

A classic reference, fundamental to an understanding of the original doctrines of the Reformation.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Fleming H. Revell; 1st edition (April 1990)

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## Customer Reviews

First published in 1525, Martin Luther's *Bondage of the Will* is acknowledged by theologians as one of the great masterpieces of the Reformation. It is Luther's response to Desiderius Erasmus' *Diatribes on Free Will*, written in his direct and unique style, combining deep spirituality with humor. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) was a German monk, priest, professor, theologian, and church reformer, whose teachings inspired the Reformation and deeply influenced the doctrines and culture of the Lutheran and Protestant traditions. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The book arrived in great condition. It is a great book and it delves into an important question. "Do we have free will?" Particularly, it addresses whether we can choose to follow God. Luther's position is that we can't and that we are in bondage to sin and to the devil, unless or until God intervenes and sets us free from that bondage to Satan. It is God's prerogative and His choice - it is not even something that we can choose. The book addresses and refutes another book written to ascribe "free will" to mankind. Luther says, "No, we, our wills, are in bondage."

The book itself is, of course, a classic, with Luther absolutely dismantling Erasmus' view of free will at every turn using Biblical refutation, logical examples, and often crude personal attacks. Luther's main argument- that human will is bound and captive to sin and that we are unable to experience salvation apart from God's grace made manifest in the death of Jesus on the cross- is dead on. Even as a Wesleyan/Arminian thinker, I found Luther's view compelling, though I believe what Luther argues here extremely compelling. More to the point, the essential debate underneath between Luther and Erasmus is still with us, albeit with some twists, today. The personal attacks on Erasmus are foreign to modern academic theological argumentation, but those who engage in blogging or Facebook groups will completely "get" the spirit behind it. In short, this is a must-read.

A must-have, classic piece of Biblical literature composed by one of the prominent founders of the Reformation that reveals truth in the word of God about man's nature and sin-bound will, hopeless without the divine intervention of God's hand to work and to will in those chosen for salvation.

I love Martin Luther. I love his sense of humor, his exhaustive, and to the point, explanations. How he untangles the verbiage of Erasmus and goes straight to the core of the issue was wonderful. My review of *The Bondage of the Will* is too inadequate. There are much better reviews. It is, just for me, that I loved his words, his explanations and his wonderful sense of humor. Along the way, I learned so much. Thank you, Martin.

I have never come across any other treaties on the subject of free-will more inspiringly informative than this one. Martin Luther had cleared away any doubt as to the fact that man has nothing to do with his salvation but to throw himself in the arms of grace. It is clear that Luther did not have all the light as to the destiny of man, however, he got it right that there is no such thing as free-will when it comes to man's salvation and final destiny. This is a book everyone who has question about freedom of the will needs to read. C. Hugh Sharpe.

Not easy to read. I got the feeling that for reading *Lutero* you must have a high IQ, not easy to follow his path while coming to a conclusion, but the effort brings you a lot of value. Good for brick lovers

I am a simple man, so I will keep this one simple. If you love Theology and are seriously interested in understanding depravity and Calvinism, get this book. If not --- Do not bother! The old English is hard to follow at times but you can still follow it fairly easily. It is quite long and harder to read

because of the old English. I would suggest this to pastors, teachers, and Theology nerds.

The best version of this timeless and true classic available. Thankful for this work, and this great translation from J.I. Packer!

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