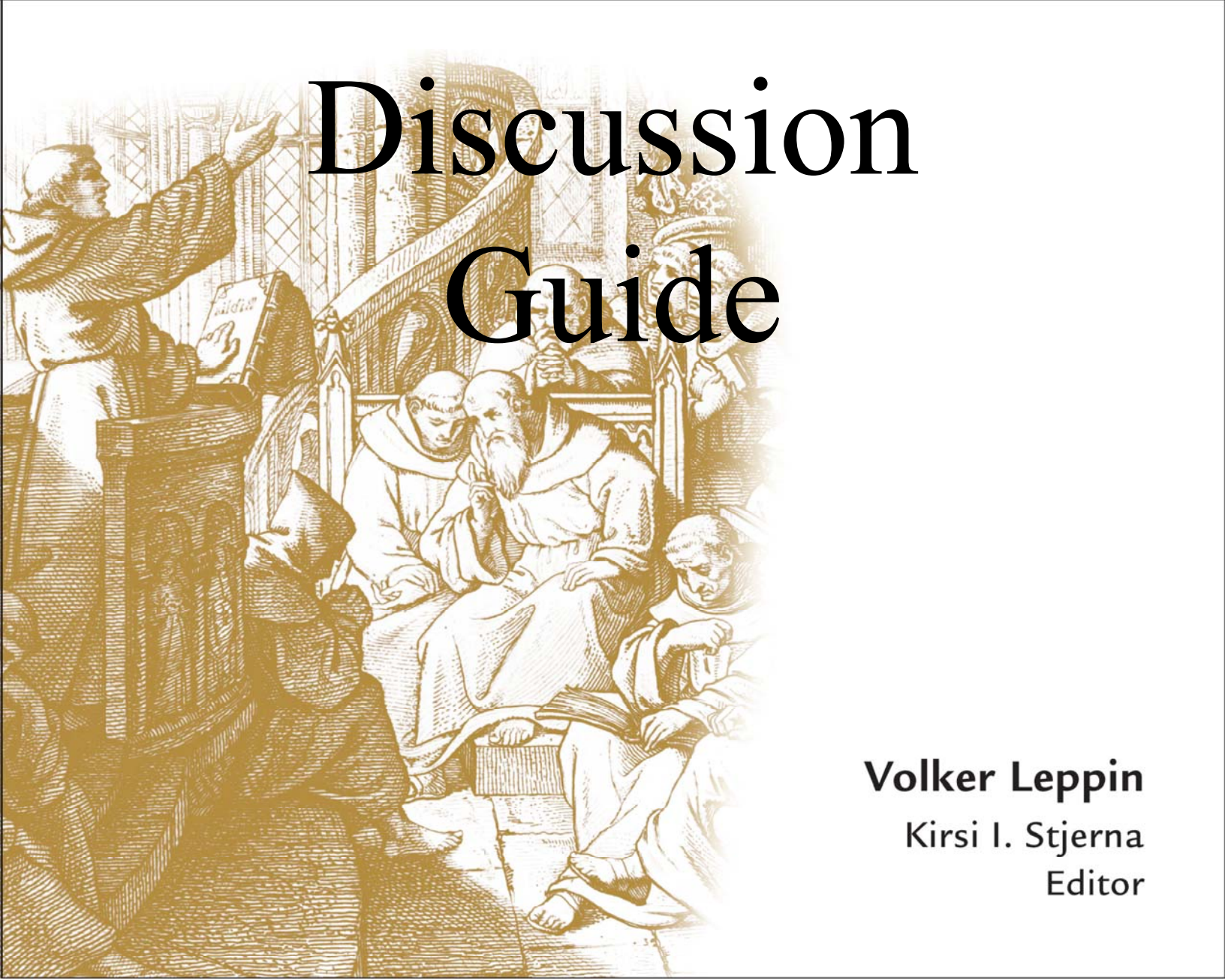


THE BONDAGE OF THE WILL

1525

THE ANNOTATED LUTHER STUDY EDITION



# Discussion Guide

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## THE BONDAGE OF THE WILL, 1525

### Overview

After the great humanist scholar Erasmus of Rotterdam asserted the freedom of the will in a tract addressed to him, Luther argued the contrary view that human wills cannot know God or be godly on their own. Luther long considered this work to be one of his most important statements about the human condition and God's salvation of sinners.

### Discussion Questions

1. What Bible verses appear to support either the freedom or the bondage of the will?
2. Why did Erasmus want to defend the freedom of the will?
3. Why did Luther so strongly deny the freedom of the will?
4. How could Erasmus interpret an expression like "Love God!" one way, while Luther interpreted it to come to the opposite conclusion (p. 206)?
5. What lessons about how Luther interpreted the Bible do you find in these pages?
6. If the will is bound and not free, then how are people responsible for their actions?
7. Why did Luther teach that God's foreknowledge (predestination) of who will be saved is a comforting doctrine?
8. According to Luther, how can free choice fulfill the law outwardly without fulfilling it inwardly?
9. For Luther, what is the relationship between freedom of the will and the two kingdoms? (p. 250f).