



Abstract from Article

HEINRICH BULLINGER, THE COVENANT, AND THE REFORMED TRADITION IN RETROSPECT

Baker, J W

Published: *Sixteenth Century Journal*, XXIX/2 (1998), 359 and further.

Abstract

This paper is a response to the criticism of my interpretation of Heinrich Bullinger in *Heinrich Bullinger and the Covenant: The Other Reformed Tradition* (1980) and (coauthored with Charles S. McCoy) *Fountainhead of Federalism* (1991). Criticism has focused on four aspects of my interpretation: (1) the centrality of the covenant in his thought, (2) whether his was a bilateral covenant, (3) whether he disagreed with Calvin on predestination, and (4) whether there were two Reformed traditions. After again carefully examining Bullinger's works – eight early manuscript writings; thirty published works from 1526 to 1574; and relevant correspondence – I generally reiterate my earlier position on these four issues: (1) the covenant was the leading pervasive conviction in Bullinger's theology, (2) it was a bilateral, conditional covenant, (3) he taught a moderate, single predestination in contrast to Calvin's double predestination, and (4) Bullinger's (Zurich) theology was the basis for the original Reformed tradition to which Calvin and the Calvinists presented a later alternative in the matter of the covenant and predestination.

All content copyright © 2006 De Freitas & Raath. All rights reserved. No duplication is permitted in any form without obtaining prior written consent from the authors. Please visit <http://www.christianlaw.co.za> for additional abstracts and articles related to biblical political and constitutional theory.