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THEOLOGICAL AUDACITIES

Selected Essays

FRIEDRICH-WILHELM MARQUARDT

EDITED BY Andreas Pangritz and Paul S. Chung

FOREWORD BY H. Martin Rumscheidt

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“That the God of Israel makes doers of us through the Torah is, in my view, the most beautiful thing we can thank him for: Every lethargy, every melancholy, indifference and moroseness is ended. . . . Wherever the Torah claims us as doers, it confronts the nihilism that exclaims: There’s nothing I can do. The Torah opposes anti-revolutionary laziness” (F.-W. Marquardt).

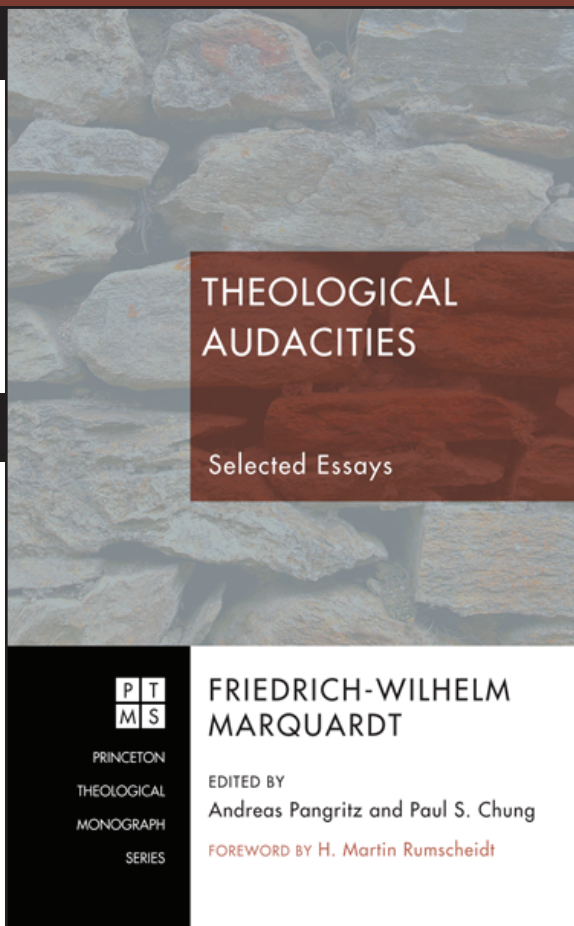
This anthology contains a selection of essays by Friedrich-Wilhelm Marquardt (1928–2002), former professor of systematic theology at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. As a student of Karl Barth in the fifties, Marquardt became one of the most influential pioneers in renewing the relationship between Christians and Jews in Germany after the Shoah, as well as a Barth scholar proposing a new perspective on Barth’s theology and political radicalism.

Accordingly the essays contained in this volume deal with the two main areas of interest in Marquardt’s theological journey: Part 1 presents essays dealing with new perspectives in the relationship between Christians and Jews after the Shoah, promoting for example the significance of “the Jewish No” to the Messiahship of Jesus for Christian theology, and the relevance of Talmudic studies for Christians.

Part 2 presents examples of Marquardt’s approach to Barth’s theology, emphasizing the relevance of connecting the theological and the political spheres in general, and the socialist horizon in particular in Barth’s theological framework. This perspective is supported by an abundance of historical evidence and by deciphering Barth’s unpublished “Socialist Speeches” from the Safenwil period.

“Why is the work of Friedrich-Wilhelm Marquardt so little translated and little known in the English-speaking world? Is this lack due to his radical re-thinking of the Jewish foundations of Christianity after the Shoah? Is it a result of his iconoclastic interpretation of Karl Barth as a political theologian who shatters the constraints of neo-orthodox categories? Or, is it due to his following consequentially the implications of what it means to be a Confessing Church in the political and economic events of our times? This book begins to correct a theological slight. *Theological Audacities* indeed!”

—CRAIG L. NESSAN, Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary



Friedrich-Wilhelm Marquardt (1928–2002) was Professor of Systematic Theology at the Free University of Berlin.

Andreas Pangritz, editor, is Professor of Systematic (Protestant) Theology and Director of the Ecumenical Institute at the University of Bonn. He is author of *Karl Barth in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (2000).

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