Dialogue Concerning Heresies (Scepter 2006 edition) – Draft Outline, 5-7-07

Written in 1529 at Bishop of London’s request; revised in 1531 while More was Lord Chancellor

Table of Contents summarizing each chapter

Original title (p. 36)

Book 1
Preface: Why More writes out this conversation and publishes it after consulting others (39)
1  “Letter of Introduction” from Chancellor More’s friend (43-45)
   “Author’s Letter” sent to friend, accompanying this book (45-47)
   (Evening) Initial meeting of Messenger and More (47-55)
2  (Next morning) More says he will respond to four issues raised the night before by Messenger;
   begins with Thomas Bilney affair, but postpones this until 3.2; defines “heresy”
   and (in 1531 edition) discusses The Image of Love’s criticisms of images & “outward
   observances.” (55-73)
3-19  On saints, images, miracles, pilgrimages (74-139)
20-25  Place of Scripture; how to interpret Scripture (139-181)
26-31  Nature of the Church (182-217)

Book 2 (After dinner/lunch; they resume in the garden)
1-7  Status of the “Church” discussed (218-242)
8-12  Discussion on images, relics, saints, pilgrimages continued (243-283)

Book 3 (After Messenger’s two-week stay at the University)
1  Objections regarding the relationship of the Church to Scripture (284-293)
2-7  Bilney’s trial [3-Messenger questions nature & importance of law: 298-303] (293-326)
8-14, 16  Discussion of Tyndale’s translation of the New Testament (326-61; 377-392)
15  Richard Hunne’s posthumous heresy trial (361-377)

Book 4 (After dinner/lunch; they resume again in the garden)
1-9  Discussion of Luther, his teachings, their effects, & harsh treatment received
   [2b new defense of images added to 1531 edition: 404-409] (393-427)
10-12  [dialogue-within-a-dialogue] Discussion of English vs. German Lutherans as well
   as justification and predestination (427-459)
13-18  Discussion on why force is used (459-486)
   More gives Messenger books to read; supper (486)
   Next day, just before dinner/lunch: Final discussion. (486-491)
   They end with dinner/lunch. (491)