Summary

THE MANIFEST AND HIDDEN REALITY: JAN AUGUSTA’S CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The study focuses on the concept of the church in the theology of the bishop of Bohemian Brethren, Jan Augusta (1500–1572). It inquires into the continuity of his ecclesiology with the theology of his teacher, Luke of Prague, and traces the influence of other Czech and European reformatory theologians, Matěj of Janov, Martin Luther and Martin Bucer. The study consists of three parts. The first part deals with the issue of soteriological relevance of the church in Augusta’s ecclesiology. The second part pursues the primary sources for the study of Augusta’s concept of the church and the context of their origin, namely Augusta’s controversy with the Utraquist priests. It also argues for a hypothesis that the anonymous treatise Dialogue, or a Conversation between Two Carters, printed in 1543 and generally attributed to Adam Šturm, was in fact written by Jan Augusta and represents an important source for the study of his ecclesiology. The third part examines the essential features of Augusta’s ecclesiology, his special distinction between the manifest and hidden church and his stress on the concept of the church as a visible, concrete and personal community assembled in the name of Christ and filled with his Spirit.

Keywords: Jan Augusta (1500–1572); ecclesiology; church; the Unity of the Czech Brethren

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