



# Calvinism

A focus On the  
Heritage and  
Beliefs...

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# Our Agenda (21 July 2024)

Calvinism as a Heritage,

John Calvin - His Life and Struggles, what he brings to us

From the Anabaptist movement in continental Europe, to

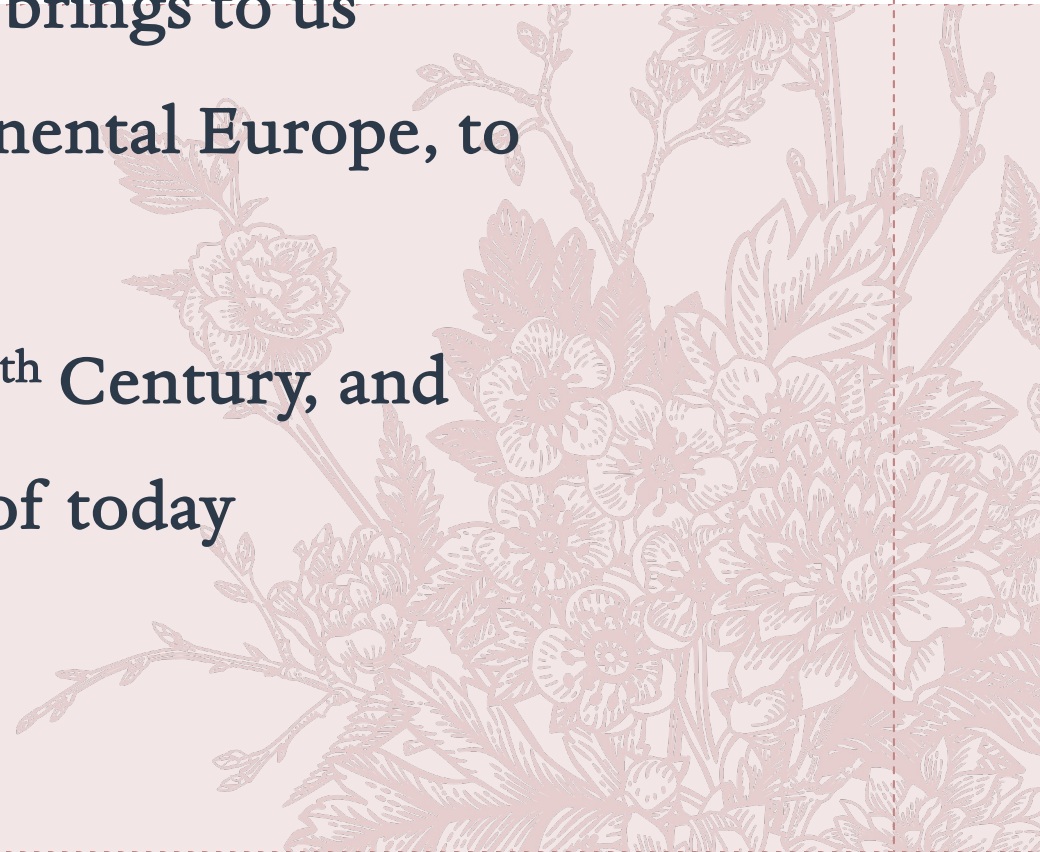
Scottish and English Reformations, to

the American Revivals of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and

to the “Doctrines of Grace” movement of today

The Core Beliefs of Orthodox Calvinism

Team Work





# Calvin's Life and Struggles

1523



To Paris to Study  
Theology, in 1528 after  
His father had a  
Falling out with the Church  
He studies law until his  
Father dies

Escapes FR, with  
purge of Lutherans

Struggle with the Libertines

Exiled and hidden in Basel, SW  
1534-6

Exiled from Geneva 1538  
brought back in 1541  
pastored there until death

Pastor at St.  
Peter's church  
Geneva 25 yrs.

1564

Born in Nojon, FR



1531-33

Worked on Hebrew 1540-----1549

Dies

Father Dies

1531

Back to Theology  
Became a believer  
Around 1533

Marriage to an Anabaptist widow  
Lost three children in birth and infancy

1509 – Luther  
Was 25 had just  
Begun preaching  
In Wittenburg, GE

# The Heritage of Personal Holy Spirit Inspired Biblical Interpretation and the Heritage of a Common Language of the People Bible, grew out of Calvinism and the Anabaptist Movement separately...

The period from 1520 - 1560 saw both Anabaptists and Calvinism come out of the Swiss Reformation

The Scottish Reformed Polity (1561) Attempted to Change the "Kirk" of Scotland to strict Calvinism

Calvinism and The Anabaptist merged to produce the English Baptists in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England

The Puritans and The Influence of Calvinism Had great impact in America through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

**These were difficult times for The Reformed Movement, as it sought to establish itself in the heart of the people against the "Majority Political Religion" of The Roman Church. The Authorities, like Mary Queen of Scots, were terrified of the reformers, in her case, John Knox.**

# Anabaptists and Calvinist

“... the Baptists sharpened Calvinism when it gave glory to the act of God in Christ, and they softened it where it detracted from their conception of God as the One who acted in Christ.”

# The Word of God and It's Interpretation Became A Threat to Scottish and English Political Power

The greatest distinction of the Geneva Bible is the extensive collection of marginal notes and cross references (notes) it contains. Most Prominent of the Reformation leaders who wrote these notes were John Calvin, John Knox, and Miles Coverdale. The notes comprise nearly 300,000 words, or nearly one-third the length of the Bible itself. The notes in the Geneva Bible were against: slavery, divine right of kings, and the supremacy of the church in religious/political life which every one of the English kings and queens sought to control.

The Threat was bigger than an "ism" it was the Word of God



**Henry VIII**

1491 – 1547

Tenure

(37 years, 282 days)

**1509 – 1547**



**James I**

1566 – 1625

Tenure

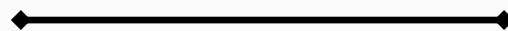
(22 years, 4 days)

**1603 – 1625**

1509 - John Calvin -1564



1703 - Jonathan Edwards -1758



- ❖ **John Wycliffe** translated the Bible into English in 1382 setting up the English Reformation. **Henry VIII** enacted the Act of Supremacy in 1534 to give him more power over the Anglican church; though of more significance for us was his allowing the “Great Bible” to be published in the English language.
- ❖ **Edward VI** who succeeded Henry VIII at the age of nine acting through the influence of his regent made the book of Common Prayer (2<sup>nd</sup> printing) Calvinistic in theology.
- ❖ **Mary Tudor** (“Bloody Mary” from 1553-8) oversaw a return to Catholicism.
- ❖ The long reign of **Queen Elizabeth** (44 years), allowed the Geneva Bible to be published; it was the the first Bible to have chapters and verses and that did not include the Apocrypha (inter-testamental books).
- ❖ With the Ascension of **James I** (1603), we see a Presbytrian theologian King directly involved in translation of the KJV of the Bible, which was to replace the Geneva Bible in popularity for the next 300 years.
- ❖ The Puritan **Jonathan Edwards** a strong passionate Calvinist brought Calvinism into the American Revivals of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His legacy continues to today.



# A Calvinist Would Assert, that,

His theology is a systematic approach to the promise, covenant, and providence teachings of the grace of God found throughout Scripture.

Calvinism as a system was developed further by subsequent reformed theologians. (1) Total Depravity, (2) Unconditional Election, (3) Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption), (4) Irresistible Grace (Effectual Calling), and (5) the Preservation/Perseverance of the Saints; this came from the Synod of Dort (1618-9), where the strict-hyper Calvinist walked out and did not contribute, so it is really a balanced approach to Soteriology not particularly tied to a dogma nor a person from whom it's name comes.

# Total Depravity

- **Human Depravity is Total in five ways**
  - **Depravity Affects Every Human (Rom. 3:23)**
  - **Our Rebellion is Total (Rom. 3:9-11)**
  - **In Man's rebellion every thing he does is sin (Rom. 7:18)**
  - **Man Cannot Submit to God (Rom. 8:5-9)**
  - **Man's Rebellion deserves eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46)**
- **“...if we humble ourselves under this terrible truth of our total depravity, we will be in a position to see and appreciate the glory and wonder of the work of God discussed in the next four points.”**

# Irresistible Grace

- The Atonement Purchased Irresistible Grace (Luke 22:20)
- Grace can be resisted until God Wills to overcome resistance (Eph. 4:30)
- The New Covenant Brought Grace that triumphs over resistance (Ez. 36:26-27)
- No-one can resist God's will (Rom. 9:14-23)

## Particular Redemption

### ■ Christ's death accomplished

- The effectual grace to believe and come to Christ (Lydia example – Acts 16:14),
- The Atonement for a particular group of people, however...

There are texts that seem to deny particular atonement (I Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9)

There are texts that refer to a Particular Group – the Church (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28)

- The Calvinist asserts that atonement is particular to those God irresistibly brings to faith, and further that Christ's death was intended by God to obtain the very willingness to believe. In other words, the divine grace that it takes to overcome our hardness of heart and become a believer was also obtained by the blood of Jesus.

# Unconditional Election

- Election appears individual, “in Him”, rather than corporate through the church (Eph. 1:3-6, 11)
- Election appears individual as we are in Christ Because of God’s doing individually (I Cor. 1:26-30), not within a group, i.e. the Church, though we may belong to the church.
- Our Belonging to God, seems the cause of us coming to Jesus and not the effect (Jn. 17:6-9; 6:37-39)

# Perserverance of The Saints

- The final paragraph last sentence on Perseverance from the Westminster Confession of Faith talks about the carnal Christian, as bringing “temporal (not eternal) judgments on themselves.”
- The Obedience or Holiness That Comes from Faith Is Necessary for salvation (Heb. 12:14; I Jn. 2:3-6)
- Buit the keeping does not depend on ourselves, it depends on God (I Pe. 1:3-5; Jude 1:24-25)
- Falling Away from Faith and Holiness Shows that We Never Belonged to Christ (I Jn. 2:19)

GGA Time; and We Need you to sign up to help!

You Collegians are the Engine that makes this important ministry to the international students coming to CSM work!

Please sign up to help from August 11 to 17 in particular to make this a reality, using this QR code, at right.

I have a pickup this Saturday from 8 – 2 p.m., if you can give me an hour of your time, please text me at (303) 596-1498,



# Credits

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