



The Expository Genius of
John Calvin

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A Long Line of Godly Men

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A Long Line of Godly Men Profile





JOHN CALVIN

1509–1564



The Expository Genius of John Calvin

“The aim of this book is to raise the bar for a new generation of expositors. The method is to see what a commitment to biblical preaching looks like by examining the work of a man who was sold out to this sacred duty.” – Dr. Steven J. Lawson

“Calvin was the exegete of the Reformation and in the first rank of biblical exegetes of all time.”
– John Murray



“Calvin stands today as the most influential minister of the Word of God the world has ever seen. No man before or since has been so prolific and so penetrating in his handling of Scripture. Calvin’s exegetical insights address most of the Old Testament and all of the New Testament except Revelation. By overwhelming consent, he remains the greatest Biblical commentator of all time.”

- Dr. Steven J. Lawson



Calvin the Man

- Born July 10, 1509 in Noyon, France, 60 miles northeast of Paris
- Raised to enter the Priesthood
- Age 14 – Entered the University of Paris
- Age 17 – Master of Arts Degree
- Age 23 – Doctor of Law Degree



Calvin's Conversion

Through his own study of the Doctrines of Grace (early 20's), "He immediately changed his allegiance, abandoning the Roman Catholic Church to join the growing Protestant cause." — Dr. Steven J. Lawson



Basel, Switzerland (1534 – 1536)

- Began writing Institutes of the Christian Religion. “I labored at this task especially for our own Frenchmen, for I saw that many were hungering and thirsting after Christ and yet that only a very few had any real knowledge of Him.” – Calvin
- “Calvin’s Institutes would become the defining masterpiece of Protestant theology, the single most important book to be written during the Reformation.” – Dr. Steven J. Lawson



Detour to Geneva

- William Farel, Protestant Leader at Geneva –
“If you do not assist us in this work of the Lord, the Lord will punish you.” – William Farel
- Appointed Professor of Sacred Scripture and Pastor of Saint Pierre Cathedral.
- 18 months later, both Farel and Calvin were banished from the city.
- Back to Strasbourg – Pastors a Protestant congregation – Finds a wife



Back to Geneva (1541)

- There to stay until his death, May 27, 1564 at the age of 54
- Geneva, never easy! (II Timothy 4:7)

- “Among these refugees from abroad was a Scotsman named John Knox, who commended Calvin’s church in Geneva as ‘the most perfect school of Christ that ever was in the earth since the days of the Apostles.’ While in Geneva, Knox was part of a team of Protestant exiles who sat under Calvin’s exposition and translated the Geneva Bible for English-speaking refugees. It was the first Bible to have theological notes printed in the margin, a direct extension of Calvin’s pulpit. This Bible became the predominant Bible among English Puritans for the next one hundred years. Additionally, it became the official version of the Scottish Protestant church and the household Bible of English-speaking Protestants everywhere. The Pilgrims brought the Geneva Bible with them on the Mayflower to America, and it became the Bible of choice among the early Colonists.” – Dr. Steven J. Lawson



Calvin the Preacher

- Verse by verse, Book by Book
- Theodore Beza (Calvin's successor) said of John Calvin's preaching, "Every word weighed a pound."



Calvinism

- According to Calvin: “Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God. The Father chose a people, the Son died for them, the Holy Spirit makes Christ’s death effective by bringing the elect to faith and repentance, thereby causing them to willingly obey the gospel. The entire process (election, redemption, regeneration) is the work of God and is by grace alone. Thus God, not man, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation.”
- “Calvinism stands for grace.” – J. Boice