

## Reformation Sunday School Class

John Calvin

October 1, 2017

### 1. Calvin's Life

a) 1509-1535 – Early Life

b) 1536-1538 – Geneva

c) 1538-1541 – Strasbourg

d) 1541-1564 – Geneva

### 2. Calvin's Teachings

a) Institutes of the Christian Religion

Introduction:

Section 1 – Calvin's Writings

Section 2 – The Contemporary Scene

Section 3 – The Interpretation of the Institution

Part 1 – Knowledge of God the Creator:

Section 1 – The Whole Sum of Wisdom

Section 2 – Still-born Knowledge of God

Section 3 – The Fruitful Teaching of Scripture

Section 4 – God the Creator

Section 5 – God's Creatures

Section 6 – Providence

Part 2 – Knowledge of God the Redeemer in Christ:

Section 1 – Man the Total Sinner

Section 2 – Christ in OT & NT

Section 3 – The Mediator

Section 4 – Christ the Redeemer

Part 3 – The Way We Receive Christ's Grace:

Section 1 – The Holy Spirit and Faith

Section 2 – Regeneration to Life

Section 3 – Justification by Faith Alone

Section 4 – On Prayer

Section 5 – Eternal Election

Section 6 – The Final Resurrection

Part 4 – The Outward Means:

Section 1 – The True Church

Section 2 – The Church's Ministry

Section 3 – The Church's Authority

Section 4 – The Sacraments

Section 5 – Civil Government

## b) The Geneva Catechism of 1554

### 1. The Doctrines of Faith – including The Apostles' Creed (Questions 1-130)

Q1 Minister. What is the chief end of man?

A. Child. It is to know God his Creator.

Q2. M. What reason have you for this answer?

A. C. Because God has created us, and placed us in this world, that he may be glorified in us. And it is certainly right, as he is the author of our life, that it should advance his glory.

Q3. M. What is the chief good of man?

A. C. It is the same thing.

Q4. M. Why do you account the knowledge of God to be the chief good?

A. C. Because without it, our condition is more miserable than that of any of the brute creatures.

Q5. M. From this then we clearly understand, that nothing more unhappy can befall man than not to glorify God.

A. C. It is so.

### 2. Of the Law – including The Ten Commandments (Questions 131-232)

### 3. Of Prayer – including The Lord's Prayer (Questions 233-295)

### 4. Of the Word of God (Questions 296-308)

### 5. Of the Sacraments (Questions 309-373)

## c) Calvin's Company of Pastors

## d) Calvin and Luther

## 3. Conclusion

"All those doctrines commonly associated with Calvinism depend on Calvin's view of Scripture. To destroy it is to destroy Calvinism. To deny the infallibility and supremacy of Scripture is to condemn and cast doubt upon the validity of the entire doctrinal content of Calvinism. Ultimately they stand or fall together. We cannot have a Calvinism which is shorn of his doctrine of the Word of God." C. Gregg Singer – *John Calvin: His Roots and Fruits*

"Eternal life is promised to us, but it is promised to the dead; we are told of the resurrection of the blessed, but meantime we are involved in corruption; we are declared to be just, and sin dwells within us; we hear that we are blessed, but meantime we are overwhelmed by untold miseries; we are promised an abundance of all good things, but we are often hungry and thirsty; God proclaims that He will come to us immediately, but seems to be deaf to our cries . . . Faith is therefore rightly called the substance of things which are still the objects of hope." John Calvin - *Commentary on Hebrews*; W. Robert Godfrey – *John Calvin – Pilgrim and Pastor*