

A Case Against Calvinism – Lesson 3

Calvin: A Look at the Man

Titus 2:1-2

Introduction: During this lesson we are going to take a look at the man for whom Calvinism is named, John Calvin. There are some difficulties with our pursuit of understanding Calvin. My desire here is to be intellectually fair with his history. Here's the problem there are not many dispassionate historical views of Calvin. Almost all historians either love him or they hate him. For the one they think he is the greatest hero of the present day church or they think he is the worst villain. Those who love him are often dishonest about certain historical facts surrounding him. They conveniently leave out certain facts in their records which do not look favorably upon him. Those who hate him tend to focus on those aspects of his history which impugn his character in order to further their argument against his doctrine. They also are dishonest in their record of his life.

That is generally the way it is with the man known as John Calvin, you either love him or you hate him. There is an attempt by many Calvinists today to disassociate Calvin from Calvinism.

Just as we discovered with Augustine, very little is known by the church about Calvin. Ignorance about the man seems to be equally spread out among those on both sides of the doctrinal issues.

I. The life of Calvin.

A. His _____.

B. His _____.

C. His _____.

D. His _____.

1. Institutes of the Christian _____.

2. His _____ ministry.

E. His _____.

II. The theology of Calvin.

A.

1.

2.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

III. The conflicts of Calvin.

A.

B.

C.