

JOHN CALVIN, 1509 - 1564

I Introduction

II Calvin's life and times

III Calvin's works:

- i) The Institutes of the Christian Religion
- ii) The biblical commentaries

IV Calvin's Geneva

V Conclusion

Books on Calvin

Unfortunately, many of the titles I have used are now out of print. There are four biographies I have found useful:

Jean Cadier, The Man God Mastered (IVP, 1960)

Emanuel Stickelberger, Calvin (James Clarke, 1959)

Albert-Marie Schmidt, Calvin and the Calvinistic Tradition
(Longmans, 1960)

T.H.L. Parker, John Calvin, A Biography (Westminster
Press, 1975)

Calvin's works are best consulted via the 'Library of Christian Classics' series (SCM):

The Institutes of the Christian Religion, translated (superbly) by Ford Lewis Battles (2 vols); extracts from the Commentaries, edited by Joseph Haroutanian (and with a fine introduction); and Theological Treatises, edited by J.K.S. Reid.

The commentaries themselves can be picked up second hand in various editions; the New Testament volumes were published by Oliver and Boyd a few years back in excellent modern translations.

On Calvin's thought, J.S. Whale's The Protestant Tradition (Cambridge, 1962), John T. McNeill's The History and Character of Calvinism (Oxford, 1962) and W.Fred Graham's The Constructive Revolutionary (John Knox Press, 1978) are all good. Francois Wendel's Calvin (Fontana, 1968) was an Open University set book and covers the ground well. Two pamphlets worth mentioning are John Murray, 'Calvin as Theologian and Expositor' (Evangelical Library Lecture, 1964) and B.B. Warfield 'Calvin as a Theologian and Calvinism Today' (Evangelical Press).

Finally, Abraham Kuyper's Lectures on Calvinism (Eerdmans, 1962) R.H. Tawney's Religion and the Rise of Capitalism (Murray, 1960) and Leonard Verduin's The Reformers and Their Stepchildren (Paternoster, 1964) give varied and stimulating perspectives on the subject.