

The Protestant Reformation

Part 4: Enter Calvin, The Reformation Moves to France

Intro

The Reformation has gone from Germany
to Switzerland
and now to France.

- Under John Calvin “the timid scholar”
- Born in Noyon, France, 60 miles north of Paris
- Just the opposite of Luther, he began as a priest then became a lawyer.
- In law school in Orleans, Calvin began to embrace the Renaissance that would try to bring reform through recapturing Greece and Rome.
- But in law school he met those of reformation ideas who involved Calvin in the study of Greek and Hebrew...
... and like Luther and Zwingli led himself to Christ
- The Reformation in France however became polluted through excesses of the radical Reformation.
 - the decapitation of a statue
 - the night of the placards
- Reformation meant anarchy in France.

- Calvin, from Basel, Switzerland, called to France from the outside to seek the God of the Bible. From Basel he wrote the first edition of The Institutes.
- He meant to move to Strasbourg but war forced him to stop in Geneva, which had received the Reformation under William Farel.
- Calvin was challenged to stay, declined, was rebuked, then stayed.
- Within 2 years he and Farel were ordered to leave.
- He headed to Strasbourg and was rebuked again by Martin Bucer and called “a Jonah.” He stayed to become the pastor of the Free Church of Strasbourg, the happiest days of his life. Here he married and wrote his first commentary on Romans.
- Geneva had declined greatly and so Calvin was called back to Geneva and after 3 years away returned. This time his list of reforms was accepted. Geneva’s population doubled under his leadership mostly from incoming exiles.
- Calvin wanted a “reformed society” and the evangelization of France. He flooded France with printed material. More than 10% of France became Calvinists, called Huguenots.

- “Calvinism” begins with “the glory of a sovereign God.” It was most clearly set forth 20 years after Calvin’s death because of the incursions of “Arminianism” and its remonstrance against Calvinism.

- The response of Calvinism was the Synod of Dort that set forth TULIP.

Total Depravity
Unconditional Election
Limited Atonement
Irresistible Grace
Perseverance of the Saints

- Calvin died in 1564 leaving behind the final edition of the 4 volume set of The Institutes, Calvinism, Protestant Christianity in France, and a myriad of exiles who carried his ideas back to their countries.
- But Protestantism was driven out of France by the Catholic Church in the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre in which 5,000-10,000 Huguenots were killed. France remains Catholic to this day.