



John Calvin's *Institutes in the Christian Religion* (1541)

A PPA Seminar: Fall 2017

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Study 3: Chapter Two, Pt. 1: Knowledge of Man and Free will

Read pgs. 29-108

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Rom. 11:36)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 51:5; Eccl. 7:29; Romans 5:12-19; 11:33-36

“Know Thyself”

1. Though the ancient philosophers rightly taught man to know himself, explain how they went wrong in their thinking? Can man be rightly or properly known apart from God the Creator? Why, or why not? [pgs. 29-31]
2. Do men by nature desire to hear the truth about themselves? Why, or why not? What is the key to understanding human nature according to Calvin? What is the “foundation of our philosophy” according to Chrysostom (AD 347-407)? [pgs. 29-30, 50-53]
3. What is man’s origin? What is his purpose? [pgs. 30-33]
4. What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God? What are specific God-like qualities does man share with God from the beginning? [pgs. 31-33]
5. Was the image of God complete erased according to Calvin? Be careful here and qualify your answer. In your own words, describe mankind after the fall. Though an anachronism, what letter of the famous Calvinian TULIP (ca. 1618) does this concern? [pgs. 33-36]
6. What is original sin, and what two specific results does it bring? Is there hope? [pg. 35-36]
7. Is God the author of sin? Why or why not? Why does mankind tend to blame God for his sins? What is the reasoning behind this? (We will study more on this in due time) [pgs. 36-37]

“Free or Not Free?”

8. Though man is made in God’s image, after the fall, is it better to describe man as free or as a slave? Explain. What did Augustine (AD 354-430) mean when he wrote: “Those who defend free will wreck it, instead of making it secure”? [pgs. 38-39]

9. Describe in your own words a Christian perspective on the mind and will of man [pgs. 39-42]

10. How did some of the church fathers follow the philosophers “more than was necessary” with regard to free will? What does this teach you? [pgs. 43-44]

11. Where does the “strength of free will lie”? How must man be dependent upon grace? Should the term “free will” be discarded according to Calvin? [pgs. 45-48]

12. How does the great Augustine teach us biblically and clearly about free will? [pgs. 48-50]

Terms/Implications/Applications

- Duplex Cognitio
- Two Covenantal Circles
- Divinitatis Sensum/ Sensus Divinitatis
- Semen Religionis
- Metaphysical commonality, epistemological antithesis
- Theater of God’s Glory
- Spectacles
- Re-Enchantment
- Fideism
- Presuppositionalism
- Evidentialism
- *Fides Quaerens Intellectum*
- Original Sin
- Free will
- Total/Radical Depravity