



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

A PPA Seminar: Fall 2017

Rev. Charles R. Biggs

## Study 8: Chapter Four: Faith with an Explanation of the Apostles' Creed, Pt. 2

Read pgs. 183-293

*"[True and saving faith is] a firm and certain knowledge of God's goodwill to us which, being founded on the free promise given in Jesus Christ, is revealed to our minds and sealed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."*

*Prayer: "May the LORD grant that we may be engaged in the mysteries of His Heavenly wisdom with a true increase of piety, for His glory, and for our edification. Amen."*

### Scripture Reading: Acts 4:12

#### *Objective Faith: Faith's Object Summarized in Apostles' Creed*

1. What wisdom, warning, and manner does Calvin begin his instruction of the object of the believers' faith summarized in the Apostles' Creed to "those who are willing to obey the truth"? How does God "accommodate knowledge" about Himself to us? [pgs. 210-11]

#### *Deity of Christ*

2. Give a scriptural argument for the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit from reading Calvin. [pgs. 213-221]

#### *Trinitarian Theology*

3. Give a scriptural argument for God being one, yet three. How might Gregory of Nazianzus help us to conceive of God as Trinity of Persons, yet one? Why is there a need for Trinitarian terminology? Do you agree or disagree; explain your reasons. [pgs. 222-229]

### ***God the Father***

4. Summarize Calvin's understanding of the first part of the Apostles' Creed. How should God's providence be a source of "enduring comfort" to the believer? [pgs. 229-33]

### ***God the Son/ Christ the God-Man***

5. Summarize Calvin's understanding of the second part of the Apostles' Creed. Why is Jesus called "Christ"? What are the benefits to believers of Christ's kingly and prophetic offices? Explain in your own words the mystery and wonder of Jesus Christ being one Person with two natures. [pgs. 233-257]

### ***Works of Jesus Christ***

6. Summarize what hope and joy the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of Jesus Christ ought to bring to the believer. How is Christ "all-sufficient" for the believer according to Calvin (seek to memorize pgs. 256-57)? Let these truths be your hope, your praise, your prayer to more deeply believe the love of God in Christ for you (Eph. 3:17-19)! [pgs. 244-57]

### ***The Holy Spirit***

7. Summarize Calvin's understanding of the third part of the Apostles' Creed. What is the specific work of the Spirit of God in the salvation of God's people? [pgs. 257-258]

### ***One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church***

8. Summarize Calvin's understanding of the fourth part of the Apostles' Creed. How specifically is the church 'holy'? What are the "marks of the visible church"? How are these marks helpful to the believer? [pgs. 259-93]
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Is Rome a true church of Christ? Why, or why not? Do you agree with Calvin's qualifications? [pgs. 274-76]

### ***Forgiveness of Sins***

10. Define and describe a biblical view of the forgiveness of sins from your reading of Calvin [pgs. 276-283]

### ***Resurrection and Hope***

11. What is the hope of the resurrection life for believers? Will all human beings who have ever lived be resurrected? What are some of the implications of this truth for your life now? [pgs. 287-91]

### ***Terms/Implications/Applications***

- Fides Implicita/ Explicita
- Accommodation
- Deus Revelatus
- Deus Absconditus
- Autonomous/ Theonomous
- Communicatio Idiomatum
- Munus Triplex
- Usus Tertius
- Hypostasis
- Ousia
- Autotheos/ Aseity
- Nestorianism
- Eutychianism
- Chalcedonian Christianity