

CALVIN ON WORSHIP – by Rev. Professor-Emeritus Francis Nigel Lee

Judaists and Muslims claim Moses and the godly before him worshipped a unitarian god. Nevertheless Calvinists, alias consistent believers in the Holy Bible, assert that not just Moses (Exodus 3:2-16 *cf.* John 5:45*f*) but all prior Patriarchs also from Adam to Job worshipped only the Triune God .

Calvin comments on Genesis 1:1-3 that "Moses has...*Elohim*, a noun of the plural number.... Moses afterwards subjoins that *Elohim* had spoken forth God's Word; and that the Spirit of the *Elohim* rested upon the waters.... The Scripture...always recalls us to **the Father**; and His [Son or] Word; and Spirit....

"The power of **the Spirit** was necessary..... The mass... was rendered stable...by the secret efficacy of the Spirit.... The Spirit moved...over the waters...to prevent its speedy dissolution....

"Moses now for the first time introduces God in the act of speaking...the Word.... John [1:3] testifies that 'without Him nothing was made' The world had been begun by the same efficacy of the Word by which it was completed.... Since by the Word of God things which were not, suddenly came in being -- we ought...to infer the eternity of His essence.... All things have been created by Him.... He is the Wisdom...without Whom God could never be."

Too, in Genesis 1:26, God Triune -- comments Calvin -- "is about to undertake something great.... The [judaistic] Jews make themselves altogether ridiculous, in pretending that God held communication with the earth or with angels....

"Christians therefore properly contend from this testimony ['Come let Us make man!'], that there exists a plurality of Persons in the Godhead.... I acknowledge indeed that there is something in man ['the image of God'] which refers to the Father and the Son and the Spirit."

Already at Adam's creation, God anticipated even the very manner in which Christ would later breathe His Spirit into His elect Apostles. For even way back then, the Triune God (*viz.* the Father through His Word and Spirit) breathed into man the breath of life and man's own *logos* or reason.

Without such, there could have been no comm-uni-cation or comm-uni-on between God and even pre-fall man. And no prefall human worship of the Triune God.

Calvin comments on God's creation work:¹ "Six days were employed in the formation of the world..., so that He might engage us in the consideration of His works. He had the same end in view in the appointment of His Own rest. For He set apart a day selected out of the remainder, for this special use....

"God claims for Himself the meditations [on His Word and the Spirit-ual praise and prayers]...of men on the seventh day. This is...the proper business of the whole life in which men should...exercise themselves.... Every seventh day has been selected especially for the purpose..., so that in all ages it might be held sacred.... The Sabbath was a figure of this rest....

It was commanded to men, from the **beginning**, so that they might employ themselves in the **worship** of God. It is right that it should continue to the end of the World....

"We have an equal **necessity** for the **Sabbath** with the ancient people, so that on one day we may be...the better prepared to **learn** and to **testify** our faith.... The hallowing of the Sabbath was **prior** to the [Mosaic] Law.... [It] seems to have had its origin from a well-known and received custom.... It is not credible that the observance of the Sabbath was omitted when God revealed the rite of sacrifice to the holy fathers." Cf. Genesis 3:15-21 & 4:2-4 & 8:20-22.

Calvin comments on Genesis 4:3f's Sabbatarian 'end of the days' Public Worship Service attended by Cain and Abel:² "It is interior truth alone which...distinguishes the genuine and rational **worship** of God from that which is gross and superstitious.... Certainly, they could not sincerely devote their mind to the worship of God unless that had been assured of His benevolence.... The command respecting sacrifice was given to the fathers from the **beginning**."

In Genesis 4:26 we are told that in the days of Seth and his son Enos, publicly, 'men began to call upon the name of the Lord' -- viz. 'Jehovah' the 'God Who saves.' Calvin comments:³ "This embraces, generally, the **whole worship** of God.... God prefers...piety and faith to all sacrifices (Psalm 50:14)....

"Satan contrives nothing with greater care, than to adulterate with every possible corruption the pure invocation of God.... From the beginning of the world, he has not ceased to move this stone -- so that miserable men might weary themselves in vain in a preposterous 'worship' of God....

"Adoration is worth nothing, unless **this chief point** of worshipping God aright be maintained.... Moses...here...commends the piety...which worshipped God in purity and holiness [cf. John 4:24], when **religion** among **other** people was **polluted** [Genesis 4:9-24]....

"Adam and Eve with...**other** of their children were themselves true worshippers of God [Genesis 4:25-26]. But...so great [thereafter] was then the deluge of impiety in the world, that religion was rapidly hastening to destruction....

"Seth was an upright and faithful servant of God. And after he begat a son like himself..., the face of the Church began distinctly to appear.... That worship of God was set up, which might continue.... Such a restoration of religion has been effected also in our time" -- viz. that of the **Protestant Reformation**.

"The family of Seth cherished the pure and lawful worship of God, from which the rest had fallen.... All mankind had been formed for the worship of God.... Sincere religion ought everywhere to have reigned. Yet...the greater part [viz. the Cainites] had prostituted itself...unto depraved superstitions....

"It was therefore base ingratitude in the posterity of Seth, to mingle themselves with the children of Cain [cf. Genesis 6:1-5].... It was an intolerable profanation to pervert and to confound the order appointed by God.... They profaned the worship of God, and fell away from the faith." Public praise, prayer and meditation on God's Word all waned!

At and during and after the punishment of the Great Flood, God reconfirmed true Public Worship at weekly sabbath observances (*cf.* Genesis 7:4-10 & 8:6-12 & 8:20-22). Here Calvin comments:⁴ "This passage [8:20f] teaches us that sacrifices were instituted from the beginning [1:28 to 2:7 *cf.* 4:3f]. For this end -- that men should habituate themselves by such exercises [praisingly] to celebrate the goodness of God and to give Him thanks....

"The holy fathers formerly professed their piety towards God by sacrifices.... Noah had rested upon the Word of God.... He undertook nothing without divine authority.... The sacrifice was acceptable to God.....

"All religious services which are not perfumed with the odour of faith, are of an ill-savour before God... The world is again completely restored.....

"So great was the confusion and disorder which had overspread the Earth, that there was a necessity for some renovation..... The Lord here declares it to be His pleasure that all things should recover their vigour and be restored to their function." Genesis 9:1-7 *cf.* 1:28.

At Genesis 12:7-8 & 13:3 & 26:25, Calvin comments⁵ that the altar-building Abraham's household and its fellow-believers were involved in "Public Worship.... It is certain that the saints, wherever they lived, worshipped....

"Religion ought to maintain a testimony before men. Isaac...professes himself a worshipper of the true and only God. And by this method separates himself from the polluted rites of Heathens...not for himself alone but for his whole household [Genesis 18:18*f cf.* 25:24*f* & 26:1-5].... Isaac celebrated God's Name, and gave testimony.

"The visible worship of God had also another use -- namely that men...may stimulate and exercise themselves in the fear of God.... Isaac did not rashly trifle in worshipping God, but adhered to the rule of faith -- so that he might undertake nothing without the Word of God."

Despite Laban's profession of faith in the one true God (*cf.* Romanism), Calvin condemns his idols. The Reformer comments⁶ that Laban himself "calls them his gods. It appears hence how great is the propensity of the human mind to idolatry..... Namely, that men seek out for themselves visible representations of God....

"The common filth of superstition inundated this place -- [even] while the Patriarch Shem was still living and speaking! And though there is no doubt that he endeavoured with all his power to bring back his descendants to a right mind -- we see what was his success....

"Holy Jacob had not been silent..., but had endeavoured by counsel and admonition to correct these gross vices -- but in vain.... Superstition, in its violent course, prevailed....

"Not even Rachel could be healed of this contagion..... She had often heard her husband speaking of the true and genuine worship of God. Yet she is so addicted to the corruptions which she had imbibed from her childhood, that she is ready to infect the land chosen by God with them." 'Protestants' like Jacob should therefore best not marry 'Romanists' like Rachel!

Also Job lived during the patriarchal period, and he too practised God-pleasing Public Worship. The Bible says he 'feared God' (Job 1:1f), and Calvin in sermons thereon says⁷ this described "the **religion** that was in him.... If we will frame our life aright, we must first have an eye unto God, and then to our neighbours....

"Under this 'fearing of God' ...is comprehended all religion. That is, to wit, all the service and honour which the creatures owe unto their God.... His children behaved themselves.... He himself also on his part governed them in the fear of God....

"God has ordained sacrificings even from the beginning of the world.... The sacrifices of Abel were preferred before the sacrifices of Cain -- by reason of faith.... Noah after the Flood took of the clean beasts, to sacrifice thereby.... We see he had instruction from Heaven [Genesis 4:3f & 7:8f & 8:20f]."

During that patriarchal age, it was the same also as regards Job. Explains Calvin: "The angels appeared before God -- as it were, on a solemn high day [Job 1:6f cf. 2:1]." That was during the simultaneous testing-time of the sabbatarianly-worshipping Job [cf. 1:4-5 & 2:13].

Calvin remarks (at Job 38:4-7): "Certain it is (as the Scripture shows in many other places) that **the angels** are ever in front of God.... God show that, as soon as the stars were made.

"There was a **set song** or melody to glorify Him [cf. Psalms 103:19-22 & 104:4-33].... Surely such melody [of God's angels] ought of right to waken us, and to set us up to sing the Lord's praises and to glorify Him!....

"Behold, even the angels of Heaven are provoked so to do!... It behooves us to apply this text to our instruction, to the end we may fare the better by it....

"The angels of Heaven did, as it were, leap for joy -- when they saw the excellent course and wonderful **order** of the Heaven, by God's appointment." Let man, the unique image of God, then joyously **co-exult**!

For, continues Calvin: "**The chief service which God requires of men, is to be praised**.... Our Lord...is contented that men should exalt Him and glorify Him...and that we should be moved to praise Him.... Let us mark that the angels are termed 'God's children' -- to the end we should be the more persuaded to run to the triumph that is spoken of here, and join with them in triumphing out God's praise!"

Today, one really tires of hearing about the "Judaeo-Christian tradition" (implying unitarian Judaism is the faithful older brother of its naively-trinitarian little buddy Christianity) -- and that unitarian Islam is the recovery and completion of earlier revelation corrupted by both Judaism and Christianity. For the truth is, Judaism (like Islam) is an apostate perversion of the Older Testament of which Biblical Christianity alone is the sole continuation.

The fact is, Trinitarian Patriarchal Public Worship was the root of the tree of which Christian Public Worship is the fruit. Later Judaism and Islam are but broken-off branches -- apostate, yet re-engraftable if and when penitent! First John 2:22-23 and Romans 11:11-32.

In Exodus, one sees how the Lord hears prayers (2:24) as the Triune God (3:2-14) Who softens hearts (8:8-13 & 8:28-31 & 9:28-30) on the basis of the foreshadowed blood of Christ (12:3-50). This occurs with public praise (15:1-21) under the leadership of the Congregation's Elders (3:16 & 12:21 & 18:12-21) and with reference to God's Word also in His Decalogue alias His Ten Commandments – yes, His 'ten words' (20:1-19).

In his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*,⁸ Calvin states "the Holy Spirit calls Him [the Son] 'Jehovah' The Father certainly cannot differ from the Son unless He [the Father] have something peculiar to Himself [viz. Fatherhood] and not common to Him with the Son....

"The whole entire essence [of God] must...be common to the Father and the Son.... Because no property can be more peculiar to God than essence -- according to the words "**I am**" has sent me to you' (Exodus 3:4)."

On this same Exodus 3:2f, Calvin also comments on the 'Angel of the Lord' Who appeared to Moses at the burning bush. States the genius of Geneva: "Let us inquire Who this Angel [or 'Messenger'] was! Since afterwards He not only calls Himself 'Jehovah' – but claims the glory of the eternal and only God....

"The ancient Teachers of the Church have rightly understood that the Eternal Son of God is so called, in respect to His Office as Mediator. Which He figuratively bore from the beginning, although He really took it upon Him[self] only at His Incarnation....

"Paul sufficiently expounds this mystery to us.... He plainly asserts that Christ was the Leader of His people in the desert (First Corinthians 10:4 [cf. Acts 7:30-38 & 7:51-60])....

"Nor indeed had the saints ever any communication with God, except through the promised Mediator. It is not then to be wondered at if the Eternal Word of God, of one Godhead and Essence with the Father, assumed the Name of 'the Angel' on the ground of His future mission."

In his discussion of Leviticus 10:1, Calvin comments⁹ on "how greatly God abominates all the sins whereby purity of religion is corrupted.... It was a...transgression to use strange fire...in a different way from that which God had prescribed.... Let **us** learn, therefore, so to attend to God's command -- as **not to corrupt His worship by any strange inventions!**"

Indeed, on Leviticus 22:32 Calvin adds:¹⁰ "Whatever fancies men devise, are so many profanations of God's Name. For although the superstitious may themselves please [them] by their imaginations -- yet is all their religion full of sacrilege!"

Also in Numbers (6:23-27), there is an official benediction. As well as a formula for the forgiveness of sins (14:18-20).

In Deuteronomy (6:4-9), there is a congregational Confession of Faith in respect of which Calvin comments: "The Orthodox Fathers [cf. Athanasius in his *Oration against the Arians* 3:7f] aptly used this passage.... Because since Christ is everywhere called God, He is undoubtedly the same Jehovah Who declares Himself to be the 'One God'; and this is asserted with the same force respecting the Holy Spirit."

In his *Sermons on Deuteronomy*, Calvin enjoins:¹¹ "Let all superstition and idolatry be beaten down, and let God's truth have full scope! Let all inventions of men cease! And let the world know which is the living God!

"Thus you see after what manner we must proceed.... To wit: when we once know God, we must worship Him. We must go to the perfection which is only He; and whatsoever is set up on the contrary side against Him, it must be brought to nought....

"It is certain that all Popery must needs fall to the ground. Except men's inventions may have their full course -- so as God's Word may be mingled, turmoiled, stuffed...and even falsified with men's devices!... The Papists cannot yield [or concede]...that God should be obeyed according to His Word, and that men should be contented to be taught by Him....

"The Gospel," however, "is named the 'Law of liberty' [cf. James 1:25 & 2:8-12]. It is not meant that God lays the bridle on our necks.... Nevertheless, forasmuch as God has more fully revealed the things to us which were hidden for a time, and forasmuch as we be taught much more largely nowadays than the Jews were -- there is much more reason why we should hold ourselves more in awe, and walk reverently before God....

"Let us understand that God's Spirit has not spoken this for any one time only!... He meant to deliver it for a rule to continue to the world's end -- when He said 'Do not add anything to that which I command you, neither take anything from it!' [Deuteronomy 4:2]....

"Let us learn to hold ourselves to the simplicity of God's Word! And let our only wisdom be to obey that which He says, so that He may have all pre-eminence!... God forbids to add anything to His doctrine. So He forbids to take anything therefrom"....

"Look upon the Turks [alias the Muslims]! They have some reverence to their religion. And so have the Papists also. And yet both of them are cut off from the Church of God, through their own fault....

"When men backslide again after they have once known the Gospel [Deuteronomy 4:8f], you shall see them become like dogs.... There is no more honesty nor feeling of God in them; but they be utterly bewitched....

"'Take good heed for yourselves!.... You saw no manner of image in the day that the Lord your God spake to you in Horeb from the midst of the fire.... Mar not yourselves, nor make for yourselves any graven image or representation of any portraiture!' [Deuteronomy 4:15f]....

"This kind of speech were inexpedient, if to make images were either lawful or but a small and light fault.... So then, let us bear this lesson in mind -- namely, to worship Him in Spirit [cf. John 4:24]!.... It is not for us to counterfeit God....

"The complaint that God makes, is this. Does wood or stone resemble Me? As for them, they be but dead and corruptible things. Does it not well appear, then, that dishonour and wrong is offered to My being -- when men go about...to represent Me under such shapes?

"Now, has God changed since that time? Is He not the same that He was? Then, if He had no likeness to wood and stone in olden time -- neither is He like them now! And therefore it follows that this neither ought to be nor can be restrained to any one time -- but must continue, for ever [both in this world and the next]....

"Is it not apparent that men are worse than mad, when they will needs take upon them[selves] to shape out God's being -- seeing that no shape can be made of their own souls, which are nothing in comparison to Him?.... God will not have any manner of image made of Him[self]!... If you will needs make some puppet to represent Me -- is it not as good as a defacing of My glory, and a spiting of Me to the uttermost of your power?....

"When we have shaped out a stone or a piece of wood and made it a nose, ears and all the rest of man's limbs -- yet it has not feeling at all.... There is no likeness between God and any of all the shapes that can be made to represent Him with it.... He has told us that it is not lawful for us to have any image of Him to represent Him with it... It is not lawful to make any picture at all....

"It is not lawful to shape any resemblance of God.... If any man goes about to express God's Majesty by any shape -- he does Him wrong; and it is high treason to Him, because He is incomprehensible in His glory....

"God has forbidden two things. First, the making of any picture of Him, because it is a disguising and falsifying of His glory and a turning of His truth into a lie.... The other is, that no image may be worshipped....

"The setting up of images in churches is a defiling of them...and can serve to no purpose but to draw folk from the pure and true knowledge of God.... An image is not so soon set up in a church -- but by and by, folk go and kneel down to it and do a kind of worship to it....

"The Papists paint and portray Jesus Christ Who (as we know) is not only man but also God.... Should we have portraits and images whereby only the flesh may be represented?

"Is it not a **wiping away** of that which is chiefest in our Lord Jesus Christ -- that is, to wit, of His **Divine Majesty**? Yes! And therefore, whensoever a crucifix stands moping...in the Church -- it is all one as if the devil had defaced the Son of God! You see then that the Papists...abuse their **puppets and pictures** after that fashion....

"Now let us kneel down in the presence of our good God, with acknowledgment of our faults, praying Him so to open our eyes so that we may no more venture to devise anything after our own fleshly understanding but resort altogether to His Holy Word whereby He has revealed Himself to us, and also receive His Sacraments whereby we be...confirmed in His knowledge!.... May it please Him to correct all the idolatry and superstition in the world, and to rid it in such wise from the Earth!.... For the performance whereof, may it please Him to raise up true and faithful Ministers of His Word!...

"The **Papists** pretend to worship the same God that we do. But we see how they swerve from God's Word.... The **Jews** can say well enough that they worship the God of Abraham, and

that they have the Law that was given by Moses. But in the meanwhile, they have renounced Jesus Christ Who is the end of the Law.... Moreover, they have so perverted God's service, that they be strayed quite and clean from the right way.

"Likewise the Papists will say that they worship God, and Him Whom He has sent to be the Redeemer of the world. But yet for all that, men see how they have transfigured God and abolished His service and made a hotchpotch of all the superstitions of the **Heathen** with the Religion that God ordained....

"'Thou shalt not make thee any graven image nor the likeness of anything that is in Heaven above or on the Earth beneath or in the waters under the Earth; thou shalt not bow down to them!' (Deuteronomy 5:8f].... Men may excuse themselves.... Men might shroud themselves under colour of good intent. But we see, on the contrary part, that God abhors it....

"They may well enough say...that their meaning is to serve God. But what for that? He accepts no such service, but rather curses it and utterly dislikes it....

"It is a disguising of His Majesty to make any visible image unto Him. Therefore this text teaches us to forbear to do the things that seem good to ourselves.... We must not pretend our own good intents, to justify the things that we ourselves have invented!...

"It is certain that under the Ten Commandments, God intended to give a rule that would endure for ever.... Let us **not** think that the things which Moses speaks of the Sabbath Day, are needless for us!....

"The Apostle in the fourth [chapter of the Epistle] to the Hebrews, applies the things that were spoken of the Sabbath Day to the instruction of the Christians of the New [Testament] Church.... The whole sovereign welfare of man consists in being created after the image of God. What is to be done now, seeing that the said image is defaced by sin -- but that it may be repaired again?....

"It is not enough for us to go to some Sermon upon the Lord's Day, to receive some good instruction, and to call upon the Name of God. But we must also digest the same things, and bend all our wits to consider the gracious things that God has done for us.... By that means, we must frame ourselves to the things that may lead us to our God....

"See what the order is which we must keep at this [Sabbath] Day!... It serves to call us together...to apply ourselves the better to the serving of God, and to dedicate that Day wholly unto Him, so as we may be utterly withdrawn from the world....

"It is not enough for us to think upon God and His works upon **the Lord's Day**, every man alone by himself. But we must meet together....to make open or [**Public**] **Confession** of our **Faith**.... It is meet that we should come into the company of the faithful...with all the whole body of the Church, by keeping this order which the Lord has so commanded...in **hearing...His Word**, in **making Common Prayer**, in making **profession** of our **faith**, and in having the use of the **Sacraments**....

"Let us retain still the outward **order**!... And when we have bestowed the Lord His Day in **praising** and magnifying God's Name and in minding His works -- let us show all the week after, that we have profited in the same!"

On Deuteronomy 6:1-4, Calvin remarks about the Triune God:¹² "We must procure to the uttermost of our power -- so that He may be worshipped by all men! Yea, and so that His service may continue even after our decease....

"Therefore, let us endeavour to teach such as shall succeed us. So as God may ever be worshipped and known to be the Father and Saviour of the whole world, and men give themselves wholly unto Him....

"The [**Islamic**] **Turks** at this day do say they worship the God Who made Heaven and Earth. But yet, it is but an idol which they worship! But how so?

"They name Him the Maker of Heaven and Earth -- and they have no images. That is true. But yet, for all that, they have but an idol instead of God -- because they admit not our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the lively image of God His Father.

"And we know how St. John says [First John 2:23] that he who denies the Son, denies the Father too. Therefore, they have not God but an idol.

"As much is to be said of the [**Judaistic**] **Jews**. The Jews boast of their having the Law -- and of their worshipping of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

"But what for that? They be but backsliders -- and have renounced God's Law, for as much as they have rejected Jesus Christ Who is the soul of the Law. It is He [the Son] Whom He [the Father] will have to be worshipped [in the Spirit]!... He that does not honour the Son -- does not honour the Father Who sent Him [Psalm 2:12 & John 5:23]....

"The Jews are inexcusable.... We see how the Prophets upbraid them with their wilful forsaking of God, so that they could not excuse themselves by saying that they had not heard anything, as the poor *Paynims* [or **Pagans**] might do.... And nowadays, when God speaks to us with open mouth, and we have Him perfectly disclosed to us by the Gospel -- is it not too great a lewdness, that men should run astray?...

"Were there ever any superstitions more gross and more outrageous than are to be seen nowadays in the **Popedom**? It is true that the Jews meddled with the superstitions of the Heathen, and took much filth and uncleanness from them. But if all be well searched, it will be found that the Papists have far exceeded them! For God's Word is, as it were, at this day buried among them....

"We should learn to discern our [Triune] God -- from all the idols which the world forges to itself.... We should not attempt anything, but that which He allows.... The Papists can well enough protest that their intent is to serve the God Who made both Heaven and Earth. And so also do the Jews and Turks. That case is common to them all.

"But yet for all that -- you see how the **Turks** have wound themselves into a maze of superstitions, through the deceitfulness of their Mahomet who has bewitched them. Again, the **Jews** on their part have grown out of kind, and have mingled the Law with their own inventions -- refusing the Redeemer Who had been promised them, Who is the very Foundation of all that religion to which they should have kept on holding.

"And as for the **Papists**, the world sees how they have corrupted all truth and turned it utterly into lying. Therefore let us learn that if we will not worship strange gods -- we must so hold ourselves in awe that we attempt not anything, unless we be sure that it is according to God's will! For wheresoever we fall to worshipping Him after our own device, we do set up an **idol** in our own brain. And that is a thing which He utterly dislikes, rejects, and abhors....

"Now let us proceed to that which Moses adds -- 'without adding anything to it...or without taking anything from it' [Deuteronomy 12:32].... That is a good trial of our subjection to God -- when we receive His Word, and...His Commandments bear such sway with us as we bow down our necks to receive the yoke that He lays upon them.... It is not lawful for us to add any whit to the things that God commands -- nor to take any whit from them, as the Papists do in these days...in mingling their own follies with God's Word....

"The Papists, then, do blaspheme God two ways. First, in taking upon them to be holier than He would have them to be. For when we devise means [out] of our own head to please God withal after that fashion -- it is all one as if we had not been well advised in the matter....

"Nevertheless, men think and suppose that they themselves can do yet much better.... The **Anabaptists** came hither to...the town hall...about eighteen years ago.... Men were constrained to **reprove** their doctrine **openly**....

"Since that time, we have seen in our own days...how **other Heretics** have been favoured at their coming hither.... That horrible blasphemer was supported...by such as had so long despised God.... They protested sufficiently that their desire was to have the Gospel. But that was the 'gospel' of Mahomet -- to turn all things upside down...

"It is **not** by the virtue of the wood [of **crosses**], that we be so blessed before God by means of our Lord Jesus Christ -- as the Papists brutishly bear men in hand. For when they hear the '**cross**' spoken of -- they be tied to it with a devilish superstition. Yes, and with so brutish a superstition...that they should leave Jesus Christ and fall to **worshipping a piece of wood**....

"But when the Scripture speaks of the curse which our Lord Jesus bare in His body to set us free with it -- it sets before us two things. First, that when we look upon the wood, we should take it as a token of the curse, and thereat conceive a terror in ourselves -- for the thing of itself is horrible. This much concerning the wood....

"Therefore, as for all the **crosses** which the **Papists** set up -- what betoken they else, but that they bring God's **curse** upon themselves?... Look how many crosses there are in the Popedom! So many records are there that cry out for God's vengeance against those wretched **unbelievers**, which content not themselves with the amends that was made...when our Lord Jesus Christ endured the curse in Himself which was due unto us!"

"From Second Samuel 6:6-12, Calvin gleans¹³ that "none of our devotions will be accepted by God, unless they are conformed to His will. This rule ruins all the man-made inventions in the Papacy's so-called worship of God, which has so much pomp and foolishness.... If we want to worship God in accordance with our own ideas, it will simply be abuse."

At Psalm 33:2, Calvin comments:¹⁴ "The Name of God no doubt can...be celebrated only by the **articulate voice**.... Even now, if believers choose to cheer themselves with musical instruments, they should...make it their object not to dissever their cheerfulness from the [vocal] **praises** of God. But when they frequent their Sacred Assemblies -- musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense....

"Men who are fond of outward pomp, may delight in that noise. But the simplicity which God recommends to us, by the Apostle, is far more pleasing to Him. Paul allows us to **bless** God in the Public Assembly of the saints, **only** in a known **tongue** (First Corinthians 14:16).

"The **voice** of man...assuredly excels all inanimate instruments of music.... We should always take care that no corruption creep in, which might both defile the pure worship of God and involve men in superstition."

In Isaiah 8:19*f*, that True Prophet warns God's people not to listen to pseudo-charismatic false-prophets and their "spirits...that peep and that mutter" ecstatically. Calvin comments:¹⁵ "All the godly...should fortify themselves...against all ungodliness. He [God through Isaiah] therefore entreats...to resist courageously, if anyone shall tempt...unto **superstition and unlawful modes of worship**.... He shows how wickedly they had departed from God's Law....

"Isaiah advises his disciples to give this answer, if they shall happen to be tempted unto **wicked modes of worship**.... The Heathen consult their gods, and yet those gods are false!

"Shall we not more highly esteem Him Whom we know to be the true God, and Who has **revealed** Himself to us?... This is a shield by which all the superstitions which come imperceptibly upon us, ought to be repelled....

"The Prophet alludes to that passage in Deuteronomy [18:10-15 *cf.* 13:1-5] in which the Lord forbade them to go to **magicians** and soothsayers [alias false-prophets].... Every nation had its interpreters or fortune-tellers.... It was therefore the will of the Lord that they should depend entirely on His Word....

"The Prophet arms the godly against the schemes and contrivances of wicked men...with the exhortation to be satisfied with God alone as their Teacher, and not to offer Him such an insult as to disregard His instruction and seek other teachers.... He [God through Isaiah] directs our attention to the Law....

"**The Law** contains the testimony or declaration of the will of God toward us [Christians].... God **reveals** Himself to us in **the Law**.... **The Law**...contains the doctrine of salvation, and the rule of a good and happy life....

"He justly forbids us to turn aside from it, in the smallest degree. As if he should say, 'Forsake all the **superstitions!**.... Also Christ speaks, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear **them!**' (Luke 16:29)....

"We are therefore enjoined to **hear the Law and the Prophets!**... Everything which is added to the Word, must be condemned and rejected. It is the will of the Lord that we shall **depend wholly on His Word**....

"Everything that is introduced by men on their own authority, will be nothing else than a corruption of the Word.... If we abide by **the Law** of the Lord, we shall be protected against superstitions and **wicked modes of worship**....

"If wicked men depart from the true doctrine, they will evince nothing else than their own blindness and darkness. We ought to despise their folly, so that it may not be an obstruction to us. As also Christ teaches us..., 'they are blind...and leaders of the blind.' Do you wish of your own accord -- to perish with them? (Matthew 15:14)."

From Isaiah 29:14, comments Calvin,¹⁶ "it is sufficiently evident that those who learn from 'the inventions of men' how they should worship God -- not only are manifestly foolish, but wear themselves out by destructive toil. Because they do nothing else than provoke God's anger.... How great is the **abhorrence** with which He regards false-worship!"

At Isaiah 56:4-7, Calvin comments:¹⁷ "The sincere worshippers of God who keep the Sabbaths..., though they be 'eunuchs' [Acts 8:27-39] or labour under any other obstruction, shall nevertheless have a place in the Church.... With the 'keeping of the Sabbath' he connects obedience and adherence to 'the Covenant'.... Hence we may readily infer that when he spoke hitherto about the Sabbath, he had in view not an idle ceremony but perfect holiness.... His Church...is not confined, as formerly, within those narrow limits of Judea -- but is extended through the whole world....

"'Whosoever shall **keep My Sabbaths**'.... Under this word, is **included the whole worship of God**.... He testifies that **the grace of God shall be diffused throughout the whole world**.... All men, to whatsoever nation or place they belong, are freely admitted...into the House of God [alias the Visible Church Universal]. This temple has been enlarged to such a degree that it extends to every part of the whole world. **For all nations have been called to the worship of God** [Mark 11:19 *cf.* Revelation 15:4]....

"Christ calls the temple 'the house of prayer' -- with reference to that time when the Gospel had not yet been published.... When 'the vail of the temple was rent' (Matthew 27:51) and pardon of sins was proclaimed..., God began everywhere to be called upon by 'all peoples.'"

At Isaiah 58:13f, Calvin comments:¹⁸ "Nothing can be more pleasing or acceptable to God, than **the observance of the Sabbath and sincere worship!**... Men do wrong if, laying aside the Commandments of God, they esteem highly those things which are of no value....

"We see the reason why **God...recommends in the whole Scripture the observance of the Sabbath**.... He contemplated something higher than the outward ceremony....

"**Meditate** on the heavenly life!.... Christ died and rose again [Matthew 28:1f], so that we have a continual Sabbath [Revelation 14:13]. That is, we are released from our works so that the Spirit of God may work mightily in us....

"The Lord takes the highest delight in the true observance of the Sabbath.... He brings them back to the true observance of the Sabbath -- and shows that it will be well with them, if they shall worship God in a right manner."

On Jeremiah 7:21-31, Calvin comments¹⁹ that "the Jews preferred to follow their own humour, rather than to obey God and His Commandments.... If then...we wish to render our worship approved by God -- let us learn to cast aside whatever is our own, so that His authority may prevail over all our reasons.... When men allow themselves to worship God according to their own fancies and do not attend to His Commandments -- they pervert true religion."

On Jeremiah 17:19-27, Calvin gives these comments about the Sabbath-desecrating Judeans soon before their exile:²⁰ "So great and so gross was the contempt of the Law, that they neglected even the observance of the Sabbath.... The Jews were so audacious in the time of Jeremiah, that they openly violated the Sabbath.

"Men were become so lost...as not to pretend any religion. The licentiousness of the people was so great that they had no shame. Nay, they all openly showed that they had wholly cast away the yoke of God and of His Law....

"The Prophet was sent by God to charge the people with this gross and base contempt of the Law. As though he had said: 'Go...and pretend that you retain at least some religion!

"Yet, even in...the observance of the Sabbath you are deficient. For 'you bring burdens' -- that is, you are carrying on business on the Sabbath, as on other days. As then there is not among you even an external sanctity as to the Sabbath -- why do you go on with your evasions? For your impiety is sufficient proved!'....

"It was not God's will that the profanation of the Sabbath should be made known partially, but everywhere be proclaimed -- in order that He might shame not only the king [alias the State] but also the whole people [alias the Commonwealth].... God intended most clearly to condemn the Jews for their base and inexcusable contempt of the Sabbath....

"The profanation of the Sabbath was a proof of their shamelessness.... They thereby showed that they cared nothing either for God or for His Law....

"They showed that they despised the Law of God, while...the observance of the Sabbath was a thing of great importance.... To observe it, was easy. Hence appeared the twofold impiety of the people -- because they despised God's singular favour of which the seventh day was an evidence; and because they were unwilling to take rest on that day.... In so easy a matter, they hesitated not...to insult God....

"It was not lawful even in the fields or in desert places to do anything [laborious] on the Sabbath.... It was extremely shameful to carry a burden through the gates of Jerusalem!...

"They wished publicly to reproach and despise God.... The Jews were not only reproachful towards God, but also dared to show their impiety in His Own renowned city -- and...in His very sanctuary!...

"Men often excuse themselves on the ground of difficulty. 'I could wish to do it; but it is too onerous for me.'

"They could not have alleged this as to the sanctification of the Sabbath! For what can be easier, than to rest for one day? Now, when they carried their burdens and did their work on the Sabbath as on other common days -- it was as it were designedly to shake off the yoke and to show openly that they wholly disregarded the authority of the Law....

"In Exodus 31:13 and Ezekiel 20:12...the reason why He commanded the Jews to keep holy the seventh day...was so that it might be to them a symbol of sanctification. 'I have given My Sabbaths,' He says, 'to you -- that you might know that I am your God Who sanctifies you.'

"If then we consider the end designed by the Sabbath Day, we cannot say that it was an unimportant rite. For what could have been of more importance to that ancient people, than to acknowledge that they had been separated by God from other nations in order to be a holy and a peculiar people to Him -- nay, to be His inheritance?....

"The Apostle also, in the Epistle to the Hebrews (4:9), shows that we are to understand spiritually what God had formerly commanded respecting the seventh day.... Men should rest from their works as God rested from His works after He had finished the creation of the world....

"Isaiah, in the fifty-eighth chapter, teaches us with sufficient clearness what **the design of the Sabbath is** -- even that the people should **cease from their own pleasure**. For it was to be a **day of rest** in which **they were truly to worship God** and to leave off pursuing any of the lusts of their own flesh....

"Even heathen writers, whenever they speak of **the Sabbath**, mention it as the difference between the Jews and the rest of the world. It was...**a general profession of God's worship**, when they rested on the seventh day.

"When they now regarded it [the Sabbath Day] as nothing, by carrying their burdens and violating their sacred rest -- it was doubtless nothing less than wantonly to cast away the yoke of God, as though they openly boasted that they despised whatever He had commanded. There was then in the violation of the Sabbath a **public** defection from the Law....

"To sanctify the Sabbath Day, is to make it different from the other days.... They ought not then to have done their own concerns on that day, as on other days. For it was a day **consecrated** to God. He then adds that it was a day which He commanded their **fathers** to keep holy [Genesis 2:1-3 & 4:3f & 7:4-10 & 8:6-12 *etc.*]....

"As then the whole Law of God and the whole of religion fell to the ground through the violation of the Sabbath -- the Prophet rightly reminded them here that this day was commanded to be observed by their **fathers**. We may add further, that they were not ignorant of the

memorable punishment by which God had sanctioned the observance of the Sabbath.... For He reminds them that the Sabbath had before been violated by their fathers....

"Therefore the Prophet thus speaks -- 'Carry no burden through the gates of this city!'... 'If you observe the Sabbath-Day, the perpetuity of the kingdom shall be secured to you'....

"When he thus speaks, he had doubtless...a regard to a true observance of the Day..... **In the observance of the Sabbath, therefore, is briefly included the whole of religion....**

"Jeremiah...promised...that the city would be made safe -- if they **truly and faithfully worshipped God, and testified that by observing the Sabbath....** It was the same as though God said that He would by all means be gracious to them -- if only they observed the Sabbath. That is, **if they with a pure heart devoted themselves to His service....**

"Yet the Prophet declares here, that the destruction of the holy city was nigh at hand -- if they violated the Sabbath Day as they had been accustomed to do.... Jeremiah...says in effect -- 'Behold, I am present with you by God's authority! If you will violate the Sabbath as hitherto -- what excuse can you make?'"

On Jeremiah 19:4f, Calvin comments²¹ that "God...complains that He had been forsaken by them -- because they had changed the worship which had been prescribed in His Law.... They would have said -- 'We have not forsaken God..., but what we wish to do is to add to His worship!' ...

"Let us know that God is forsaken as soon as men turn aside from His pure Word!.... They who had...contrived new forms of 'worship' -- doubtless followed their own foolish imaginations."

In Jeremiah 23:16-28, God warns His people against **heeding the false-prophets** (both formerly and **latterly**) who come to them in the Name of God and say: '**I have a dream!**' Comments Calvin:²² "We see that many at this day are perplexed.... We are constrained to contend with those who arrogate to themselves the name of the 'Catholic Church' -- who boast that they are bishops....

"God had commanded Jeremiah to forbid the people to hear the false-prophets. Let us not at this day wonder that faithful teachers who desire to maintain true doctrine and genuine piety, feel themselves constrained to oppose those men...who shelter themselves under the masked names of 'Pastors' and 'Prelates' and 'Bishops' so that they may delude the unwary and the ignorant!....

"Jeremiah says that they brought forward the 'vision' [from out] of their own hearts, and did not speak what came from God's mouth.... But whosoever applied his mind to the **study** of truth, can never be deceived -- if by this mark which is set before us, he distinguishes between Prophets and 'prophets' ...

"Everyone who speaks according to the mere suggestions of his own mind, must be an impostor. Nobody...ought to be deemed a sound Teacher but he who speaks from God's mouth.

"But here, a question may be raised. How can the common people understand that some speak from God's mouth -- and that others propound their own glosses? I answer that the doctrine of the Law was then sufficient to guide the minds of the people....

"The Papists will have their own devices to be taken as oracles.... But we...say that perfect wisdom is alone to be found in the Law, in the Prophets, and in the Gospel.... There is nothing more clear than God's teaching -- provided men do not wilfully become blind....

"Jeremiah introduces another mark by which the false-prophets might be known as different from the true Prophets -- they flatter[ed] the ungodly.... They wished to be deemed the instruments or agents of the Holy Spirit, while they were vainly announcing...their own imaginations.... They were only apes, as [false] 'prophets' -- when they prattled of 'visions' and [self-]confidently declared that they brought forward the 'revelations of the Spirit'....

"I have heard what the "prophets" said who prophesy lies in My Name -- saying, "I have dreamed; I have dreamed!"'" Jeremiah 23:25. In other words, beware of those who claim to be a 'prophet' or a 'priest' or even a 'king' -- but who yet go around declaring: 'I have a dream!'

Comments Calvin: "It has been God's will in all ages, to test the faith of His servants -- by permitting to Satan and his ministers the liberty of pretending falsely [in] His holy Name.... Whenever false-prophets test our faith -- let us remain firm! Holding this principle -- that we ought wisely to consider whether God Himself is speaking, or whether men falsely boast themselves to be His servants!...

"These dreams are like the fictitious and spurious forms of worship by which True Religion was formerly subverted.... The impiety of the false-prophets...was an indirect defection. For they brought forward their dreams -- and falsely professed that they were God's servants, though He had not commissioned them....

"We see how many curious men there are, at this time, who disturb all things by their own inventions..... How confidently also do many propound their own inventions as oracles! It behooves us, then, to be watchful -- not only so that we may shun open abominations, but so that we may also retain the pure and true Word of God so as not to allow false-workers insidiously to corrupt and vitiate anything....

"The "prophet" that has a dream -- let him tell a dream! But he that has My Word -- let him faithfully speak My Word! What is the chaff [of dreams] to the wheat [of God's Word]? -- says the Lord!" Jeremiah 23:28.

Comments Calvin: "Ministers of Satan appeared, who corrupted and perverted all things. [Yet] there were a few [True Prophets of the Lord] who sincerely declared the Truth of God -- and faithfully explained what God commanded....

"The meaning is, as though he had said: 'Let not the false-prophets by their fallacies impede the course of God's servants!' 'Let him with whom God's Word is, speak the Word of God!' ...

"The hearers...were not to desist from rendering obedience to **the Law** -- howsoever much Satan might strive to subvert their faith.... The difference between **true** and **false** doctrine was **nothing less** -- to him who made a **careful examination**...between wheat and chaff." Cf. too First John 4:1-6 with First Corinthians 11:28-29 & 12:10 & 14:29!

On Ezekiel 20:12-20, Calvin comments²³ that "God here commends His Sabbaths.... By the Sabbath...the Israelites might acknowledge themselves separated by God so as to experience Him as their Father in all things....

"The Sabbath...displayed God's gratuitous adoption.... It was...the greatest ingratitude to break the Sabbath...., the symbol of sanctification....

"This is easily gathered from the institution of the Sabbath, when God is said to have **rested** from His work on **the seventh day**. Genesis 2:2; Exodus 20:11 & 31:17; Deuteronomy 5:14. Now **there is no doubt, that He wished to bring the faithful to imitate His example**....

"The grace of regeneration was promised to the ancient people, when God consecrated the seventh day. And the Apostle also shows this in the Epistle to the Hebrews -- when He treats of the true and lawful use of the Sabbath....

"**The Sabbath was a 'Sacrament'** -- since it was a visible figure of an invisible grace.... There is a mutual agreement in the Sacraments by which God binds us to Himself and we mutually pledge our faith [to Him].... Hence also the foolishness is refuted of those who think the Sacraments nothing but marks of outward separation....

"God requires faith on the part of His people. And He promises in return what He witnesses and prefigures by an outward sign.... God's promise was given, by which He bore witness to them, that **if they sought from Him the Spirit of regeneration -- the Sabbath would be really given them as a pledge and sign of it**....

"**His Sabbaths should be sanctified**.... Hence we see that Sacraments are never destitute of the virtue of the **Spirit** -- unless when men render themselves unworthy of the grace offered them.... The Sacraments are effective, **through faith**."

Said Jesus: 'In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men!' Matthew 15:9. Comments Calvin:²⁴ "Christ has faithfully and accurately given the meaning....

"**In vain is God worshipped; when the will of men is substituted** in the place of doctrine! By these words, all kinds of 'will-worship' as Paul calls it (Colossians 2:23), are plainly condemned....

"Since God chooses to be worshipped in no other way than according to His Own appointment, **He cannot endure new modes of 'worship'** to be devised! As soon as men allow themselves to wander beyond the limits of the Word of God -- the more labour and anxiety they display in worshipping Him; the heavier is the condemnation which they draw down upon themselves. For by such inventions, religion is dishonoured."

We defer considering a summary of Calvin's comments on worship in First Corinthians -- until a little later. But in Galatians 4:10^f, where Paul warns against the observance of 'days and months and times' -- Calvin comments:²⁵ "What sort of observance...did Paul reprove? It was that which would bind the conscience by religion as something that was necessary to the worship of God and which...would make a distinction between one day [such as Good Friday or 'Christmas Day'] and another [such as any other non-sabbath weekday].

"When certain days are [mis]represented as holy in themselves; when one day is distinguished from another on religious grounds; when 'holy days' are reckoned a part of divine worship -- then days are improperly observed.... When we [Protestants] today make a distinction of days [between the weekly Christian Sabbath alias the Lord's Day on the one hand and all other days on the other], we do not lay a snare of necessity on the conscience.... We merely give heed to order and harmony [*cf.* Acts 20:7 and First Corinthians 14:33-40 & 16:2 and Revelation 1:10].

On Ephesians 2:20, Calvin comments: "We are...enabled to distinguish between a true and a false Church.... Hardly any 'churches' boast more loudly of the name ['Church'] than those which bear a false and empty title....

"We are...taught where to seek the Word of God -- in the Prophets and Apostles.... The beginning of our [Protestant] religion must be sought from the creation of the world. In vain do Papists and the Turks and other sects boast of their antiquity! For they are the degenerate offspring of true and pure religion.

In Colossians 2:22^f, the inspired Paul condemns all 'will-worship.' Here Calvin comments:²⁶ "Superstition among the Greeks, receives the name of *ethelothreskeia* -- the term which Paul here makes use of....

"*Ethelothreskeia* literally denotes a voluntary service which men choose for themselves at their own option -- without authority from God.... It should be a settled point among all the pious **that the worship of God ought not to be measured according to our views....**

"Consequently, any kind of service is not lawful simply on the ground that it is agreeable to us..... We owe to God such humility as to yield obedience simply to His Commandments -- so as not to lean to our own understanding *etc.* (Proverbs 3:5)."

In Colossians 3:16, Paul enjoins: 'Let **the Word** of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom -- teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord!' Calvin comments:²⁷ "It behooves you [Christians] to sing hymns and songs that sound forth God's praise....

"A psalm is sung to the accompaniment of some musical instrument; a hymn is properly a song of praise, whether it be sung simply with the voice or otherwise; an ode [*oodais*] contains not merely praises but exhortations and other matters. He wants the songs of Christians to be spiritual, and not made up of frivolities and worthless trifles!"

Writes Paul: 'I do not permit a woman to teach.' First Timothy 2:12. Comments Calvin:²⁸ "Paul is not taking from women their duty to instruct their family; but is only excluding

them from the Office of Teaching [in the Church] which God has committed exclusively to men.... The reason that women are prevented from teaching [there], is that it is not compatible with their status.... All wise men have always rejected *gunaikokratian*, the government of women, as an unnatural monstrosity."

Paul also enjoins Preachers to be workmen who rightly distribute the Word of God. Second Timothy 2:15. Comments Calvin: "This is a fine metaphor which accurately explains the main purpose of teaching.... Since we should be satisfied only with God's Word -- what purpose is there in having...sermons and even...the office of Pastor?... But Paul assigns to Teachers the duty of 'carving' or dividing [and distributing] the Word -- like a father dividing the bread into small pieces to feed his children.

"He advises Timothy to 'divide aright' -- lest, like men without skill, he succeeds only in cutting the surface and leaves the inmost pith and marrow untouched.... I take what is said here, to have general application and to refer to a judicious dispensing of the Word which is adapted to the profit of those that hear it.... A 'right dividing'...is a manner of exposition adapted to edify. This is the rule by which we should judge every interpretation of Scripture." Cf. First Corinthians 14:29f.

In warning against false-prophets in Second Timothy 3:9, Paul assures us that 'their folly shall become evident unto all men.' Calvin comments that "they will be confounded shamefully....

"Although they themselves will get worse every day, they will do no harm to others.... The Lord will expose their madness to many who at first were deceived by their enchantments.... But their deceptions quickly come to nothing. For the Lord opens the eyes of man, so that they begin to see what was for a time hidden from them....

"Godly Pastors...are to be told about the good success that the Lord will give to His Own teaching.... He holds out to Timothy the sure hope of a successful outcome, to encourage him to fight.... Just as God's truth prevailed against the magicians' tricks [in Egypt against Moses] -- so He promises that the teaching of the Gospel will be victorious against every kind of newfangled false-imaginings of men."

Finally, on the Epistle to the Hebrews, Calvin comments:²⁹ "Our salvation...in hope...leads us straight to Heaven.... There remains a rest [or *sabbatismos*] for the people of God; that is, a spiritual rest....

"This is a definition of the perpetual Sabbath of which the highest human happiness consists, where there is a likeness between men and God in which they [Christians] are united with Him.... Because the completion of this rest is never attained in this life, we must always be striving towards it. Thus believers enter in -- but on condition that they continuously run and press on....

"Having said 'not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together' -- he adds 'but exhorting one another.' Meaning that all believers ought to strive to bring together the Church on every side.... What is the purpose of the coming of Christ, but to gather us all together?....

"Let us offer up a sacrifice of **praise!**' He returns to that particular doctrine...of the abrogation of the old ceremonies.... Another form of sacrifice is left for us..., no less pleasing to God -- namely the offering to Him of the calves of our **lips**, as...Hosea says (14:2).

"The sacrifice of **praise** is not only equally pleasing to God, but more so than all the outward things that were used [before Calvary].... It is the finest worship of God, and the one which is to be preferred to all other exercises -- that we should celebrate the goodness of God by the giving of **thanks**. This, I say, is the rite of sacrifice which God commends to us today....

"Without brute beasts, we do have something to offer God -- and...in this way He is rightly and perfectly worshipped by us.... It is the Apostle's plan to tell us what is the proper way of **worshipping** God under the New Testament.

"He reminds us in passing that we cannot honestly call on God and glorify His Name, except through Christ as our Mediator. It is He alone Who hallows our lips (which are otherwise defiled) to sing the praises of God; He Who opens the way for our **prayers**; He Who...performs the office of Priest by standing before God in our name." He Who is **God's Word!**

Authorities in the Early Church Fathers -- and some even just prior to the Middle Ages -- very clearly maintained that especially Christ's **Church** should never transgress His Second Commandment. Explains Calvin in his *Letter to King Francis*:³⁰ "It was a Father [the 400 A.D. Epiphanius in his *Epistle to Jerome*] who said, 'It is a horrid abomination to see in Christian temples a **painted image** either of Christ or of any saint.'

"Nor was this pronounced by the voice of [just] a single individual. But an Ecclesiastical Council [the 305 A.D *7th Council of Elvira* at its canon 36] also decreed, 'Let **nought** that is **worshipped, be depicted** [in churches or wheresoever]!' " However, "very far are they [the Renaissance-Age Romanist Church Leaders] from keeping within these boundaries -- when they leave not a corner without images."

In his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Calvin exhorts:³¹ "Let Papists, then, if they have any sense of shame, henceforth desist from the futile plea that **images** are the books of the **unlearned**.... It is well-known what kind of **monsters** they obtrude upon us as 'divine'....

"What are the **pictures or statues** to which they append the names of 'saints' -- but exhibitions of the most shameless luxury or obscenity? Were any one to dress himself after their model -- he would deserve the pillory! Indeed, brothels exhibit their inmates more chastely and modestly dressed -- than **churches** do **images** intended to represent virgins....

"Paul declares that by the true **preaching** of the Gospel, Christ is portrayed and in a manner crucified before our eyes. Galatians 3:1. Of what use, then, were the erection in churches of so many **crosses of wood and stone**, silver and gold -- if this doctrine were faithfully and honestly **preached?**

"Viz. Christ died so that He might bear our curse upon the tree, so that He might expiate our sins by the sacrifice of His body, wash them in His blood and, in short, reconcile us to God the Father. From this one **doctrine**, the people would learn **more** than from a **thousand crosses**

of wood and stone!" Calvin adds:³² "We think it **unlawful** to give a visible shape to God -- because God Himself has forbidden it.... Still **more unlawful** must it be, to worship such a representation **instead** of God -- or to worship God **in** it....

"Let us here consider whether it is expedient that churches should contain representations of **any** kind -- whether of events, **or** human forms!... Let us remember that for [some] five hundred years during which religion was in a more prosperous condition and a purer doctrine flourished [than later during the Middle Ages] -- [the edifices of] Christian churches were completely free from visible representations....

"It appears to me more unbecoming...to admit **any other images** -- than those living symbols which the Lord has consecrated by His Own Word: I mean Baptism and the Lord's Supper." Also see Olevianus's and Ursinus's *Heidelberg Catechism*, Q. & A. 97f.

Calvin continues:³³ "Godliness, to stand on a firm footing, keeps itself within its proper limits.... **Superstition** is so called because, **not content with the prescribed manner and order**, it heaps up a needless mass of **inanities**....

"By His Law, it pleases Him to prescribe for men what is good and right.... Thus He holds them to a sure standard -- so that no one may take leave to contrive **any sort of worship** he [or she] pleases....

"Nothing is more acceptable to Him, than obedience.... The more inclined the playfulness of the human mind is to dream up various rites with which to deserve well of Him, the more diligently ought we to mark this fact....

"In vain therefore do we attempt new forms of works to win the favour of God Whose lawful worship consists in obedience alone.... Any zeal for good works that wanders outside God's Law, is an intolerable profanation of divine and true righteousness."

On the Second Commandment, Calvin comments:³⁴ "The purpose...is that He does not will that His lawful worship be profaned by superstitious rites.... He makes us conform to His lawful worship -- that is, a spiritual worship established by Himself.... He marks the grossest fault in this transgression -- [as] outward **idolatry**!...

"How we sin, if today we cannot bear what Paul has taught to be unbearable -- that the lawful order of Divine Worship is reduced to men's decision! Especially, when they command men to worship according to the elements of this world which Paul testifies to be against Christ [Colossians 2:20].... He passes over all these things [2:22]...as if he counted them of no value. Indeed, Paul knew that all counterfeit worship in the Church was condemned....

"Whenever this superstition creeps in that men wish to worship God with their fictions -- all laws enacted for this purpose immediately degenerate to...gross abuses.... God threatens...that He will strike with blindness and amazement those who 'worship' Him with the doctrines of men [Isaiah 29:13f].... They are all 'laws' apart from God's Word -- laws made by men, either to prescribe the manner of worshipping God, or to bind consciences by scruples....

"It is **not** a Church which passing the bounds of God's Word wantons and disports itself in the framing of new [human] laws! For does not that Law once spoken to the Church [by God], hold good forever?

"Everything that I command, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to it or take from it!' [Deuteronomy 12:32]. And another passage: 'Do not add to the Word of the Lord or take away from it, 'lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar!' [Proverbs 30:6f]....

"This was spoken to the Church. What else then do they [these passages] declare, but its [the Church's] recalcitrance? For they boast that, after such prohibitions, it nonetheless dared add and mix something of its own with God's teaching!...

"Whenever one considers this inordinate human rashness -- which cannot contain itself within God's Commandments but must, wildly exalting, run after its own inventions -- the name 'Church' is falsely pretended.... These words...forbid the Church Universal to add to or take away anything from God's Word, when the worship of the Lord and precepts....are concerned.... The Lord, Who long ago declared that nothing so much offended Him as being worshipped by humanly-devised rites, has not become untrue to Himself!...

"A part of the reverence that is [to be] paid to Him, consists simply in worshipping Him as He commands -- mingling no inventions of our own.... The Spirit loathes this [latter] insolence, solely because the inventions of men in the worship of God are impure corruptions [see, for example, Second Kings 16:10-18]....

"Many marvel why the Lord so sharply threatens to astound the people who 'worshipped' Him with the commands of men [Isaiah 29:13f], and declares that He is vainly worshipped by the precepts of men [Matthew 15:9].... The Lord has strong reasons to abominate such perverse rites, which are performed for Him according to the wilfulness of human nature....

"Even though those who obey such laws in the 'worship' of God have some semblance of humility in this 'obedience' of theirs -- they are nevertheless not at all humble in God's sight. Since they prescribe for Him those same laws which they observe!

"Now this is the reason Paul so urgently warns us not to be deceived by the traditions of men [Colossians 2:4f], or by what he calls *ethelothreskeia* -- that is, 'will-worship' devised by men apart from God's teaching [Colossians 2:22f].... Those who expect His approval for their paltry observances contrived by men's will -- and offer to Him, as if involuntarily, a sham 'obedience' which is paid actually to men -- do not hold to that path."

Against the above eccentric ecclesiastical eclecticism, we must posit unadulterated confessional Calvin-ism! The unvarnished teaching of the Word of God!

As Calvin himself states³⁵ in his 1544 tract *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*, "the principal place" of "the Christian Religion...amongst us" is given to "the mode in which God is duly worshipped.... We may not, by fabricating perverse modes of worship, provoke His anger against us.

"God disapproves of all modes of worship not expressly sanctioned by His Word.... God not only regards as fruitless but also plainly abominates whatever we undertake from zeal to His worship, if at variance with His Command.... Every addition to His Word, especially in this matter, is a lie....

"The whole form of divine worship in general use in the present day [1544], is nothing but mere corruption. For men pay no regard to what God has commanded or to what He approves in order that they may serve Him in a becoming manner. But assume to themselves a license of devising modes of 'worship' -- and afterwards obtruding them upon Him as a substitute for 'obedience'....

"God rejects, condemns, abominates all fictitious worship -- and employs His Word as a bridle to keep us in unqualified obedience. When shaking off this yoke, we wander after our own fictions and offer to Him a 'worship' [which is] the work of human rashness -- howsoever much it may delight ourselves....

"The advocates of human traditions paint them in fair and gaudy colours; and Paul certainly admits that they carry with them a show of wisdom. But as God values obedience more than all sacrifices -- it ought to be sufficient for the rejection of any mode of worship that is not sanctioned by the Commandment[s] of God....

"God has so often and so strictly interdicted all modes of 'worship' prescribed by man.... God in many passages forbids any new 'worship' unsanctioned by His Word....

"He declares that He is grievously offended with the presumption which invents such worship, and threatens it with severe punishment.... It has for the most part an external splendour which pleases the eye.

"It is more agreeable to our carnal nature.... But there is nothing which so blinds the understanding of men and misleads them....

"For while it is incumbent on true worshippers to give [to God] the heart and mind -- men are always desirous to invent a mode of serving God of a totally different description, their object being to...keep the mind to themselves.... The mockery which worships God with nought but external gestures and absurd human fictions -- how could we without sin allow to pass unrebuked?....

"We must listen to the voice of God! And hear in what estimation He holds that profanation of worship which is displayed when men, overleaping the boundaries of His Word, run riot in their own inventions."

Finally, in his 1662 *Confession of Faith in the Name of the Reformed Churches of France*, Calvin concludes:³⁶ "It is not for us to invent what seems good to us, or to follow what may have been devised in the brain of other men -- but to confine ourselves simply to the purity of Scripture.... Anything which is not derived from it, but has been commanded only by the authority of men -- ought not to be regarded as the service of God....

"True religion has been perverted by keeping the commandments of men.... Our Lord Jesus Christ confirms the same, by saying (Matthew 15:9) that in vain would we know God by human tradition.... Men have turned aside from pure and holy obedience to God.... This was to open a door to all superstitions. It has been the origin of the **worship of images**...[and] the filling of churches with **pomp and parade**....

"Far is it from being permitted, to honour God by human inventions!.... There would be no firmness nor certainty, neither bottom nor shore in religion. Everything would go to wreck -- and Christianity differ in nothing from the **idolatries of the Heathen!**"

It cannot be our purpose to present all that has been said by Calvin on First Corinthians (especially chapters twelve to fourteen). Here, however, we would simply be reminded therefrom: that Calvin says that preaching needs to be delivered in demonstration of the Spirit and in power; that Christians, with God's Word, shall judge even angels (First Corinthians 6:3); that the Corinthian 'tongues' were real human languages; that the Corinthians made wrong use of the gifts of God for congregational ostentation and display; that they needed to shake off their previous idolatry; that the gifts of 'powers' and 'prophecy' and 'discernments' and 'tongues' and 'interpretation' were all different; and that the Corinthians were not to seek an ecstatic pseudobaptism by the Spirit, because they had all been baptized with the Spirit when they were baptized with water.

According to Calvin, all miracles and miraculous gifts ceased at the completion of the inscripturation of Scripture. While available, all of the *charismata* were to be exercised only in love. "Prophesying" -- says Calvin -- means declaring God's Word; and "tongues" means foreign languages. Prophesying alias preaching had pride of place among God's gifts to Christ's Church. And the study especially of the Biblical languages is essential for appropriate preaching, which must clearly be intelligible.

Calvin states "our speech ought to be the reflection of our minds" -- and not meaningless gibberish. All congregational messages and prayers and songs in a foreign language, must be interpreted.

"How **laughable** it would have been, had the tongue of a **Roman** been directed by the Spirit of God to utter **Greek** words!" For then "he would have been like the parrots, magpies and crows which men train to make human sounds."

Says Calvin: "Paul thinks it a great fault if the **understanding** takes no part in prayer.... What is more out of keeping with its very nature -- than its coming **only** from the **lips**, and **not** from the innermost recesses of the **soul**?" For **then**, it is "the devil" who has "deprived the world of its senses."

Indeed, "the Papists are so obstinately stupid.... They make excuses for praying **without understanding**....

"They also prefer the **ignorant** to mutter and murmur in words that are **unknown to them**." It is just like the ridiculous phenomenon where "a Spaniard curses God in German" -- when nobody present even **understands** German!

In 'praying in the spirit,' explains Calvin, "the **mind** should not be inactive. In 'singing in the spirit,' he adds, "the Psalms had as their themes the **praises** of God.... What is plainer than this **prohibition**: 'Thanksgivings or prayers should **not** be repeated in **public** -- except in the language everyone understands?'"

For "**public** prayers are **not** to be couched in **Greek** among the **Latins**, nor in **Latin** among the **French** or **English**..., but in the vulgar tongue [alias the common language] -- so that **all** present may **understand** them."

When God spoke to the erring Corinthian Christians, comments Calvin, "they understood Him no better than they would [understand] any **barbarian or foreigner** making unintelligible sounds **in an unknown language**. And that was a dreadful curse....

"Paul wants all believers to be, as far as possible, mature in their thinking.... Tongues were useful in many ways. They met the needs of...spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world. There was therefore **no nation** to which they could **not communicate** it....

"Paul warns them that they will be making themselves the laughing-stock of unbelievers or the uninformed, should they come into their gathering and hear them uttering sounds but **not speaking intelligibly**.... Unbelievers and the uninformed are laughing at all your nonsense!"

Paul complains: "'What is this, then, Brethren? When you come together -- **each one** has a psalm..., has a tongue..., has an interpretation? Let all things be done unto **edifying!**'"

Comments Calvin: "Paul now shows them a way to rectify those **evils**.... **The Church must not be devoting itself to useless and futile practices.**"

Explains Calvin: "Paul now gives an outline of the order, and lays down the mode to be followed. 'If you intend to speak in tongues [during Public Worship], only two of you should speak.... Not more than three.

"And an interpreter [or translator] should be present at the same time.... Languages are useless without an interpreter!"

Comments Calvin: "Paul imposes restrictions on prophecy as well, because 'too many cooks spoil the broth'.... Paul shows them how it is possible to use it for the good of the Church, even when they have to keep quiet....

"For it is an inestimable benefit that there are some [Prophets] who are experienced in **judging** -- so as not to allow sound teaching to be corrupted by the deceiving ways of Satan, or to be spoiled in any other way by **worthless nonsense**".... While **two or three Prophets** spoke, the others **should judge**.... Thus he spared none -- but subjected the authority of **all** to the censure of the Word of God."

Calvin's *Ecclesiastical Ordinances* reflect First Corinthians 14:27-31. There, he writes: "With regard to Pastors -- whom Scripture sometimes calls Overseers, Elders and Ministers -- their Office is to proclaim about God.... To the end that nothing disorderly [*cf.* First Corinthians

14:26-40] should be done in the Church -- no man ought to undertake this Office without vocation!... In order that all Ministers may maintain purity and agreement of doctrine among themselves, it will be expedient for them [after the message has been given on the Lord's Day] to meet together [in Presbytery or as a Presbyterial Committee of Preaching Elders] on one particular day of the week for discussion of the Scriptures....

"The Prophets of the Lord are **not** like 'men possessed' who, once an **ecstatic influence** (*enthousiasmos*) had laid hold of them, lost their self-control! It is certainly a fact that the Prophets of God were **not beside themselves!**"

Yet, in addition, "nobody is exempt from the criticism of others.... All [Prophets] must be given a hearing -- with the stipulation that their teaching [too] must at the same time be subjected to criticism....

"However, another question is asked -- by what standard is the examination to be made?... There is no doubt that it ought to be controlled by the Word and Spirit of God -- so that only what is perceived to be from God received approval, [and so] that nothing is condemned except by means of His Word.... God alone is in charge of the judgment.... Men [*viz.* the '*hoi alloi*' alias the other Prophets], are simply His Heralds."

Precisely in order to secure peace in the churches, it is essential for the spirits of the Prophets and of the Preachers to be subject to those Prophets or to those Preachers themselves (*cf.* First Corinthians 14:32). This is so, precisely because God is the Author of peace and not of dis-order or a-kata-stasis. 'For God is not the Author of confusion, but of peace.' (First Corinthians 14:33a).

Comments Calvin: "This is a most valuable sentence. For it teaches us that the only way we can serve God, is by being people who love peace and are eager to have it.... Of course, there is the *proviso* that we must understand by 'peace' -- the peace of which the **truth of God** is the bond! For if we have to fight against godless teaching, then, even if it is necessary to move Heaven and Earth -- we must nevertheless persevere in the struggle....

"If unbelievers resist -- we must struggle against them, and we must not be afraid that we will be blamed for the disturbances. For the peace of which rebellion against God is the token, is an accursed thing. Whereas the struggles which are necessary for the defence of the Kingdom of Christ, are blessed."

Now when "the Corinthian church" came together, comments Calvin, it "was spoiled by this fault." It had become "a place for the **chattering of women**.... **Paul accordingly forbids them to 'speak' in public, either by way of teaching or prophesying.**"

During congregational worship, Paul enjoins: 'Let all things be done decently and in order!' First Corinthians 14:32-40. **Comments Calvin:** "Seemliness should be preserved, and disorder should be avoided.... The Lord allows us freedom...in order that we may not think that His worship is confined to those things.... **He has not allowed us unlimited and unbridled liberty** -- but has, so to speak, put **railings** round about it.

"He has **restricted** the freedom which He has given us in such a way, that it is **only from His Word** that we can make up our minds about what is right.... We may easily infer from this, that the Church's laws [provided consonant with and never against Holy Scripture] are not to be regarded as mere human traditions.... They are based on this general injunction -- and clearly give the impression of being approved as it were **from the mouth of Christ Himself**....

"**Religious meetings** are enjoined us by **the Word of God**.... But unless these meetings are stated, and have fixed days allotted to them, how can they be held?

"We must, as the Apostle expresses it, **do all things decently and in order**. First Corinthians 14:40 [*cf.* too 16:1-2].... Without this politic arrangement..., the dissolution of it would instantly lead to the disturbance and ruin of the Church.... **The Lord appointed a Sabbath**.... No man can assert that **it** is a matter with which **we** have **nothing to do!**....

"Prayer...extends also...to the **public prayers** of the Church. These...ought not to be made except in the manner which, for the sake of order, has been established.... Hence certain hours are fixed beforehand -- hours which, though indifferent in regard to God, are necessary for the use of man, so that...all things may be done in the Church as Paul enjoins, 'decently and in order'. First Corinthians 14:40....

"Seeing that in the Sacred Assembly all things ought to be done **decently and in order** (First Corinthians 14:40), there is nothing in which this ought to be more carefully observed than in settling **government** -- irregularity in any respect being nowhere more perilous! Therefore, lest restless and turbulent men should presumptuously push themselves forward even to teach or rule..., it was expressly provided that **no one should assume a Public Office in the Church without a call** (Hebrews 5:4 and Jeremiah 17:16)."

Just like Calvin, also the first extant commentary on First Corinthians (Chrysostom's), banishes **idolatry**. It also rightly concludes that ecclesiastical "**prophecy**...is to be free from reproach among the unbelievers -- and has very great credit and usefulness."

Public **tongues-speaking**, however, is quite different. For (thus Chrysostom) "it is not the same thing for anyone to come in -- and see one speaking in **Persian**, and another in **Syrian!**"

So all **tongues-speaking**, all **praying in the Spirit**, all **preaching or 'prophesying' in the Spirit**, and all **psalmsinging in the Spirit** -- at the very multilingual and cosmopolitan Corinth or wherever -- were **never matters of ecstatic utterances**. Whenever such occurred, that was **always to happen -- only in clearly-recognizable spoken and understood languages**.

This, then, was the inspiredly-prescribed pattern for God-pleasing Public Worship in the church at Corinth. According to First Corinthians 1:2 & 14:33 & 16:1f & 16:19f, **connectionally**, it is to be followed also "in **all churches** of the **saints**" -- even today!

In First Corinthians twelve to fourteen, the *locus classicus* of New Testament Worship, prescribes a firm Calvinistic Liturgy. It is indeed truly amazing that Pentecostalists and Evanjeljyfish have been able not only to misread many passages like First Corinthians 12:1-10 & 13:1-12 & 14:14-37 -- but in addition so successfully to market their own aberrations thereof,

that the very distinctiveness of Protestantism if not even of Christianity itself are thereby being threatened.

Frankly, the naked choice before us today is either the ongoing anthropocentric idolatrous prostitution of preaching and praise and prayer -- or the resurrection of Biblical Public Worship. As Rev. Brian Schwertley has pointed out in his *Biblical Analysis of John Frame's 'Worship in Spirit and in Truth'*³⁷

"Contemporary Worship has its roots in Arminian pragmatic revivalism. Arminian revivalists learned that feminine, emotional, tear-jerking songs -- helped people make a 'decision for Christ.' They also learned that entertainment performances and organ interludes -- brought more people into the tent....

"Second, in the late 1960s and early 1970s many potheads [or drug-addicts] and hippies became professing Christians. Many of these converted hippies ('the Jesus people') incorporated the communal, simple, emotional style of singing they were accustomed to -- into their services.

"This new style of worship often consisted of one-verse choruses that were sung over and over again until people were worked into an emotional frenzy or meditative type of trance.... This new emotional, non-doctrinal type of worship has its roots not in the Bible -- but in hedonistic, counter-culture, mystical paganism....

"Third, there was the rise of the 'church growth movement' [and 'gospel magicians' like Acts 8:9-13's Simon the ex-sorcerer] -- which offered a pious-sounding but totally pragmatic justification for man-centered, entertainment-oriented 'worship.' The fact that modern 'celebrative' music was shallow, worldly and immature -- was not important. Because worship must be 'user-friendly'

"In this paradigm, worship is not primarily considered to be directed to God -- but to man. Worship is treated as another evangelistic church-growth tool.... Today -- 'churches' often have child-like, repetitive songs coupled with rock bands, drama groups, comedian pastors, liturgical dances, videos and movies....

"Our God, [however,] is a consuming fire [Hebrews 12:22-29].... The worship of such a God (Jehovah) ought to be done in a serious majestic manner. Churches which practice the new 'celebrative' worship with the jokes, skits, entertainment, vain-repetition 'romper-room' choruses, rock bands, and campfire antics -- are neither serious, respectful, or majestic.

"'But, brother, these people are sincere!'" [-- it is quickly objected] "Indeed, many are! However, sincerity which is not based on truth -- is worthless....

"The 'celebrative' worship paradigm, is an outgrowth of the charismatic movement.... It is rooted in an irrational type of Christian existentialism.

"What charismatic churches often do, is whip the people into an emotional frenzy by means of exciting music, visual-sensual programs, cheerleaders called 'worship leaders' (whose primary

function is to encourage the people to get more emotional and worked up), highly repetitive worship choruses.... These deluded souls are taught to equate an 'empty-headed' music-driven emotional experience -- with God's presence....

"Is it any wonder that many charismatic churches regard doctrine and solid exegetical preaching as unimportant?... The charismatic movement is leading many 'Protestants' back to Rome.... Personal enjoyment is the chief aim....

"Our culture does not look to the prophets of Baal -- but to sports, Hollywood, and Las Vegas! This self-centered, entertainment-oriented, hedonistic attitude has thoroughly penetrated many modern evangelical churches.

"Modern celebrative music is...a syncretistic worship. It is a mixture of the elements of worship -- with the...hedonistic worldview....

"We live in a time of great declension. Most of what passes as conservative Presbyterian practice today in the area of worship -- is really much closer to Arminian evangelicalism and prelacy, than the original intent of the *Confession of Faith*....

"The 'conservative' Presbyterian seminaries and major 'Reformed' publishers and most people in 'Presbyterian' denominations do not really believe in confessional worship. 'A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The 'prophets' prophesy falsely.... And My people love to have it so!' (Jeremiah 5:30-31)."

Now, how can the above Pentecostal-ization and Evanjeljyfish-ification of Public Worship be countered? Only by repentingly and whole-heartedly returning to Calvin and the Protestant Reformation!

Footnotes

- 1) J. Calvin: *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*, in his *Selected Works*., Baker, Grand Rapids, 1983 ed., I:126.
- 2) Calvin: *Comm.* on Gen. 4:3.
- 3) Calvin: *Comm.* on Gen. 4:26 & 6:1-3.
- 4) Calvin: *Comm.* on Gen. 8:20-22.
- 5) Calvin: *Comm.* on Gen. 26:25.
- 6) Calvin: *Comm.* on Gen. 31:19.
- 7) J. Calvin: *Sermons upon the Book of Job*, George Bishop, London, 1574, pp. 4,7,11, 14 and 695a&b.
- 8) J. Calvin: *Institutes of the Christian Religion* I:13:23.
- 9) J. Calvin: *Harmony of the Pentateuch*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981, 3:431f.
- 10) *Ib.*, I:344.
- 11) J. Calvin: *Sermons on Deuteronomy* [1583], Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 1987 ed., pp. 102b@40-50, 114a@65 to 115a@48, 124a@49-59, 133@4:15 to 139b@38, 164a@12-34, 164a@12-35, 187a@22-30, 188a@12-55, 202a@11-28, 204b@40 to 205b@36. Here, we update Arthur Golding's Elizabethan-English translation of Calvin's French into the modern vernacular.
- 12) *Ib.*, pp. 267a@47-267b@18, 269a@20-44, 270a@5-25, 471b@63 to 472a@20, 525a@47 to 525b30, 532b@42-62, 766a@6-40.
- 13) J. Calvin: *Sermons on Second Samuel*, Banner of Truth, Carlisle Pa., 1992 rep., p. 246.
- 14) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948 rep., I:538f.
- 15) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Prophet Isaiah*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1981, I:287-91.

- 16) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., I:397f.
- 17) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Prophet Isaiah*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., IV:180-86.
- 18) *Ib.*, pp. 241-43.
- 19) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Lamentations*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., I:397-414.
- 20) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the Prophet Jeremiah and the Lamentations*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, n.d. rep., II:377-90.
- 21) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Lamentations*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., II:438f.
- 22) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the Prophet Jeremiah and the Lamentations*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, n.d. rep., III:166-97.
- 23) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the First Twenty Chapters of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948 rep., II:299-312.
- 24) J. Calvin: *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, and Luke*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., II:253f.
- 25) J. Calvin: *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1965 rep., pp. 77 & 154f.
- 26) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1981 rep., 201f.
- 27) J. Calvin: *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians*, p. 353.
- 28) J. Calvin: *The Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, and the Epistles to Timothy, Titus and Philemon*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1964, pp. 217 & 313f & 325f.
- 29) J. Calvin: *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews and the First and Second Epistles of St. Peter*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1963 rep., pp. 48f & 144f & 211, on Heb. 4:9f & 10:24f & 13:15.
- 30) J. Calvin: *Letter to King Francis*, paras. 21f, at the front of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- 31) J. Calvin: *Inst.* I:11:7.
- 32) *Inst.* I:11:12f.
- 33) *Ib.* I:12:1-3. & II:7:5.
- 34) *Ib.* II:8:17 & IV:10:9-17 & IV:10:23f.
- 35) J. Calvin: *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*, in his *Selected Works.*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1983 ed., I:126-33 & I:151-53.
- 36) J. Calvin: *Selected Works*, II:147-49.
- 37) In B. Schwertley's *Sola Scriptura and the Regulative Principle of Worship*, Reformed Witness, 26550 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, Mi. 48076, n.d. (circa 2000), pp. 229f.