

**SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":**

*An In Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-*

*PART V - Malachi and ELECTION*

*WEDNESDAY, January 14th, 2009*

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- I. Some "Calvinists" claim that a person needs "SPECIAL" qualifications to understand "Calvinism". Yet the BEREAN believers (of Acts 17:11) searched the SCRIPTURES daily against what Paul himself preached – and were called "NOBLE" for it by the Holy Spirit!
- II. Standing in stark contrast to this premise are the following truths (taken from among many potential examples):
1. A "YOUNG MAN" can "CLEANSE his way' by taking heed to the scriptures (which he can apparently understand!)(Psalm 119 :9);
  2. Even a "child" can understand the Holy scriptures through the home instruction of a MOTHER and a grandmother (II Timothy 1:5; 3:15)
- III. The scriptures themselves claim to have been written for the SIMPLE (I Corinthians 1:26-29) +
- IV. While Calvinists insist that Christ died for "all" of the "ELECT", the plain truth of Scripture cannot be ignored. Notice the all- inclusive nature of the following verses which each clearly address the matters of salvation and the gospel and to WHOM it is offered:
1. Acts 10 :42 – 43
  2. Acts 13: 32
  3. Luke 2 : 10,11
  4. John 4: 42
  5. II Peter 3 : 9
  6. I Timothy 2 : 4
- V. Though many "Calvinists" explain their zeal for evangelism in terms of their desire to reach the "ELECT", this surely is IN SPITE OF their Calvinist belief! To believe that those who will be saved have been "Fixed" by God's decree, that NONE others can be saved, AND that the "ELECT" MUST BE REGENERATED by God's Sovereign act without the GOSPEL or any persuasion by any preacher OR by any faith in God on their part (ALL OF

WHICH TRUE CALVINISTS BELIEVE) could HARDLY provide MOTIVATION for earnestly preaching the Gospel!

VI. IMPORTANT HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON JOHN CALVIN:

1. Born July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1509 in Noyon, FRANCE as Jean Chauvin;
2. Born to a devoutly religious ROMAN CATHOLIC family;
3. Was heavily influenced by CATHOLIC teaching and doctrine for the first 24 years of his life;
4. His father, GERALD, held a high political office as an ecclesiastical LEGAL advisor to the Bishop - thus, he was an "inside participant" of the corrupt religiously-based political system in the town;
5. Jean (John) was on the payroll of the Church by the age of 12 and remained on it even for 1 YEAR AFTER his conversion to LUTHER'S "Protestantism";
6. At the University of PARIS, Jean's love for study - especially of LATIN - led to his legally changing his NAME;
7. Due to his father's influence, Calvin switched suddenly from his study of Theology to the study of LAW since there was much more money to be earned there. He graduated with a Bachelor of LAWS in 1531 and would eventually be granted a DOCTORATE;
8. Returning to Paris, Calvin immersed himself in classical Literature and published his first writing there;
9. Though not YET a full-fledged Protestant, Calvin began to compose his "Institutes of the Christian Religion" (a.k.a. "the Institutes") in 1534;
10. This work represented Calvin's masterful development of his own brand of Christianity. The two primary sources for this work were 1) The writings of St. AUGUSTINE (the Father of a major part of ROMAN CATHOLIC thought); and 2) the LATIN Vulgate - the official Bible of the ROMAN CATHOLIC Church in those days;
11. Calvin finished and published his work only 2 years after converting to PROTESTANTISM - and in spite of the enormous amount of pages which make up this work, we have NO CLEAR TESTIMONY IN ANY OF CALVIN'S WRITINGS CONCERNING HIS OWN SALVATION ! So it was that at the tender age of 26, John Calvin- FAR from a Spiritually mature man (by his own admission) - produced "the most

{ for a total of 13 years }

- eloquent, fervent, lucid, LOGICAL, influential, and terrible work in all of the literature of the religious Revolution";
12. Commendably, Calvin was determined that SCRIPTURE ALONE would be the sole authority for his "INSTITUTES".
  13. Unfortunately, there were 2 inherent weaknesses in his work:
    1. His reliance upon St. Augustine;
    2. His reliance on human LOGIC. (Note: compare with what the Bible says in I Corinthians 2:14"  
"...SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED...")
  14. Augustine taught that FOREKNOWLEDGE was the same as PREDESTINATION. Because Calvin followed this course of thought, he took an even more extreme view – making God the CAUSE of every event – thus, even of SIN itself!
  15. Calvin viewed God's MERCY as very limited and majored on God's JUSTICE.
  16. To Calvin, Total Depravity meant total INABILITY.
  17. Calvin taught that God is literally "Glorified" in "predestinating" some to salvation and others to damnation – though there is no difference in MERIT between the saved and the lost.
  18. Though Calvin admitted that this teaching IS "REPULSIVE" to intelligent people, he nevertheless simply claimed it as a "MYSTERY" – and continued to teach it!
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**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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