

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

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

PART VI - Malachi and ELECTION

WEDNESDAY, January 21st, 2009

OPENING TEXT: Mal: 1,
Luke 14:15-24

I. CALVIN'S SURPRISING CATHOLIC CONNECTION:

1. The writings of St. AUGUSTINE were the actual SOURCE of what is known today as "Calvinism".
2. There is NO QUESTION that when it comes to Calvin's theology, rather than deriving it from the diligent study of the BIBLE, Calvin imposed upon the Bible certain preconceived ideas from his ROMAN CATHOLIC background which locked him into an erroneous interpretation.
3. Using a perverted interpretation of Luke 14: 23, both AUGUSTINE and CALVIN justified force in mandating church attendance.
4. Other AUGUSTINIAN teachings which Calvin presented in his writings were:
 - 1) God as the CAUSE of all things (including SIN);
 - 2) The predestination of some to SAVATION and others to damnation;
 - 3) ELECTION and "reprobation";
 - 4) FAITH as an "irresistible" gift from God.
5. "AUGUSTINE determined for all time the doctrine of GRACE" - B. B. Warfield (theologian/ author)
6. YET, AUGUSTINE believed:
 - 1) that GRACE came through the Roman Catholic SACRAMENTS;
 - 2) that Infants needed to be baptized for Regeneration (and those who are not are damned);
 - 3) that it was necessary to be BAPTIZED for the Remission of sins (NOTE: Martyrdom accomplishes this as well);
 - 4) the existence of purgatory.
7. Furthermore, AUGUSTINE was one of the first to equate the authority of TRADITION with the authority of the BIBLE.

8. In short, Calvin dipped into a badly contaminated "stream of theology" when he embraced the teachings of AUGUSTINE, whom he quoted over 400 times in his "INSTITUTES" and whom he called (among other things): "holy Father".

II. IRRESISTIBLY IMPOSED "Christianity"

1. There is a direct correlation between the following towering figures of history: 1) The Emperor Constantine (the Great) (313 AD)
2) St. AUGUSTINE; and (of Hippo)
3) John CALVIN
2. That "correlation" had to do with the "marriage" of the Church with the state for the purpose of forcing upon all of the populace the doctrines and orthodoxy of the Church (as the state/ church defined it).
3. Calvin (as St. Augustine before him) rejected the teaching of a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ. He believed that that period began at the FIRST coming of Christ and that he had been chosen as a vessel to enforce it upon all of the people.
4. The fruition of this belief was manifested in GENEVA, Switzerland where the first attempt in European history was made to impose a uniform subordination upon an entire population.
5. This he did so as to attempt "to convert GENEVA into the FIRST 'Kingdom of God' on earth. It was to be a community without Corruption, disorder, vice or SIN. It would be the "New Jerusalem" - the center from which the SALVATION of the world would radiate."
6. Sadly, those who had broken free from the shackles of the "pope" (P.C.) now willingly entered into the influence of the one who would be called the "Protestant Pope". Calvin's power became so great that it became treason against the state to oppose him!
7. No one has ever been as successful as Calvin at totalitarian imposition of "GODLINESS" upon a whole society.
8. Therefore no one has proved as clearly as he that COERCION cannot succeed because it can never change the HEARTS of men.
9. Though he had done his best, at his death Calvin believed that he had failed. He had NOT been able to produce among sinners - by the "Irresistible grace" which he sought to impose upon them - the ideal society (Augustine's "city of God").

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SPECIAL NOTES: