

The Christian Life

An Introduction to Calvin's *Institutes*

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May 8 - June 12, 2022



Class 1 | Introduction and Overview

- A Brief History of John Calvin
- The *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- *De vita hominis Christiani*
- Why Study This Book?

A Brief History of John Calvin

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- 1509 - Born in Noyon, France
- 1528 - Law degree
- c. 1533 - Calvin's conversion, flight from France
- 1536 - 1st ed. of *Institutes*, Calvin arrives in Geneva
- 1538 - Calvin and Farel exiled from Geneva
- 1539 - 2nd ed. of *Institutes*, includes chapter on the Christian Life
- 1541 - Calvin returns to Geneva
- 1559 - 5th, final ed. of *Institutes*, Geneva Academy
- 1564 - Calvin dies on May 27

The *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

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- Five Characteristics of the *Institutes*
 - Biblical
 - Systematic
 - Polemical
 - Pastoral
 - Devotional

De vita hominis Christiani

De vita hominis Christiani

- First appeared as the last chapter in the 2nd ed. of the *Institutes* (1539).
- This chapter was published independently as its own book, with varying titles over the years
 - 1549, English, *Of the Life or Conversion of a Christian Man*
 - 1550, Latin, *A distinguished little book on the life of a Christian Man*
 - 1857, German, *Booklet on the Life of a Christian Man*
 - 1906, Dutch, *John Calvin's Golden Booklet concerning right Christian Walking*
 - 1952, English, *Golden Booklet on the True Christian Life* (still in print)

De vita hominis Christiani

- Modern Editions
 - Robert White, *A Guide to Christian Living*, Banner of Truth, 2009.
 - Burk Parsons and Aaron Denglinger, *A Little Book on the Christian Life*, Ligonier, 2017.

Why Study This Book?

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- A biblical understanding of Sanctification
- Bearing our cross
- Making sense of suffering
- Assurance of faith and salvation
- In short, how ought we live? (Romans 12:1-2)

Class 2 | Scripture's Call to Christian Living

- Reading for next class
 - Parsons, *Christian Life*, chapter 1 (pages 1-17)
 - Beveridge, 3.6.1-5 (Hendrickson, pages 444-447)
 - Battles, 3.6.1-5 (Vol. I, pages 684-689)
 - White, chapter 17 (only pages 785-789)