



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

A PPA Seminar: Fall 2017

Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Study 2: Chapter One, Pt. 2: Knowledge of God

Read pgs. 1-28

“What God’s Son has told me, take for truth I do; Truth Himself speaks truly, or there’s nothing true.” – Gerard Manley Hopkins

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 1:18-21, 2:14-16; Heb. 11:3; Acts 17:27-28

True Knowledge of God and Man

1. What is true fear and reverence of God? What is the opposite of true fear of God? Do you fear God? Why, or why not? [pgs. 6-9]

2. What are the three primary ways God reveals Himself? [pgs. 1-28]
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

3. What is God’s internal revelation? God’s external revelation? Is this revelation unclear? [pgs. 1-28]
 1. Internal Revelation:
 2. External Revelation:

4. How is God specifically revealed in creation? Give some examples from your observation of God’s world. [pgs. 9-11]

5. How is God specifically revealed in providence? Give some examples from your own life. [pgs. 12-13]

Spectacles

6. Why does man need additional revelation from God in order to rightly know Him? Where is this revelation of God found? [pgs. 14-17]

7. List as many ways as possible as to why the Spirit must be active in our study and reading of Holy Scripture [pgs. 20-28]
 - a. What is the important relationship between the Spirit and the Word (This will always be a very relevant topic of discussion in the church)?

 - b. How is Scripture authenticated?

 - c. What are secondary proofs of Scripture's authority?

8. Thoughtful reflection: Which came first the chicken or the egg according to Calvin? More seriously, which came first the church or the scriptures? Did the church form the scriptures or did the scriptures form the church?

9. Thoughtful reflection: What is the starting point of Calvin's knowledge (epistemology)? How are evidences ("secondary proofs") for the existence of God or testimonies to Scripture's authority useful in Calvin's teaching?

Terms/Implications/Applications

- Duplex Cognitio
- Two Covenantal Circles
- Divinitatis Sensum/ Sensus Divinitatis
- Semen Religionis
- Metaphysical commonality, epistemological uniqueness
- Theater of God's Glory
- Spectacles
- Re-Enchantment
- Fideism
- Presuppositionalism
- Evidentialism
- *Fides Quaerens Intellectum*