

**Comparative Religion II**  
**PRESBYTERIANS**




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**Comparative Religion II**  
**PRESBYTERIANS**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES**




Danville, Illinois

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**FOUNDER – JOHN CALVIN**



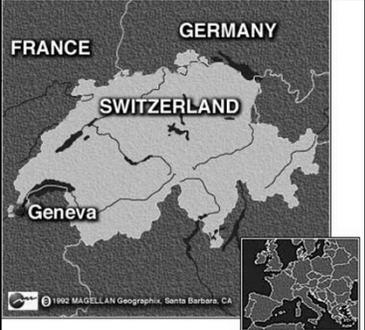

A YOUNG JOHN CALVIN



AN OLDER CALVIN IN TEACHING MODE

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Wittenberg

FRANCE GERMANY SWITZERLAND Geneva

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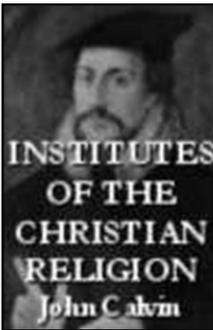

Geneva  
Switzerland

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The Double Predestination to Holiness and Sin



INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION  
John Calvin

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**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – As a young reformer, he became quite austere in his religious beliefs. He was forced to leave his native France. Settled in Geneva which became a model city for Calvinism.

Calvin published his beliefs in his famous work, *INSTITUTES OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION*.

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**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – In 1541, he became the most powerful person in Geneva. His version of Protestantism spread to Holland, Scotland, England and Germany.

He became one of the youngest of the Protestant reformers (26 years younger than Luther).

The Puritans from the British Isles took this version of Protestantism to America.

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**BACKGROUND**

**HISTORY** – Believing in the need for a trained ministry, their faith spread slowly in America.

Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Dutch and German Reformed Churches all came from Calvinism.

United Church of Canada is a mixture of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

Many founding fathers of America were Calvinist

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**BACKGROUND**

**ORGANIZATION** – Elders are in governing positions. However, laymen join the elders in a “session” which has supreme authority in spiritual matters of the local churches. Presbyteries have rule over a certain area of congregations. Representatives of Presbyteries are organized into Synods.

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**BACKGROUND**

The General Assembly is the highest court of appeals. Laymen may hold the highest position of moderator.

**CREED** – The Westminster Confession of Faith. Also accepted are the Nicene Creed and Apostles’ Creed.

**SALVATION** – Is a gift of God. Good works are fruits of salvation. Heaven and hell are not only places but are states of mind.

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**BELIEFS**

- Originally very strict in practice of their beliefs
- Two sacraments (baptism and Lord’s Supper)
- Justification by faith alone
- Priesthood of believers
- The Holy Bible is the only infallible rule of faith

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**BELIEFS**

Signs of the visible church:

1. Preach the pure gospel
2. Observe the two sacraments
3. Discipline sinners

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**BELIEFS**

The depravity of man and the greatness of God are emphasized

Predestination – some are chosen for heaven, others are not. Originally double predestination was taught – that some are chosen for heaven and some for hell.

Infant baptism, but unbaptized babies will not go to hell

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**BELIEFS**

Calvin's five basic teachings:

1. Total Depravity of Man – you are BAD
2. Unconditional Double Predestination
3. Limited Atonement – Christ only died for those chosen
4. Irresistibility of Grace – You can't resist it
5. Perseverance of the Saints – the truly converted will not fall away

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**What is Calvinism?**

**Soli Deo Gloria**  
**Sola Scriptura**  
**Sola Christo**  
**Sola Gratia**  
**Sola Fide**




**T**otal Depravity  
**U**nconditional Election  
**L**imited Atonement  
**I**rresistible Grace  
**P**erseverance of the Saints

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**SPECIAL BELIEFS**

- Christ is spiritually received and nourishes the partakers at the Lord's Supper
- Grape juice and consecrated bread are used at the Lord's Supper
- At Confirmation, a person acknowledges what was done at baptism. Laying on hands is optional
- Baptism is not essential for salvation, faith is.

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**FROM WESTMINSTER CONFESSION**

- "All (Scriptures) which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life." (p. 3)
- "The authority of the Holy Scriptures, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed,..." (ibid.)
- "The moral law doth for ever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof;...Neither doth Christ, in the Gospel, any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation." (p. 12)

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**FROM WESTMINSTER CONFSSION**

- “The visible Church,... consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion;” (p.16)
- “Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.” (p.17)
- “There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof. (p. 16)

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Originally the main body of Presbyterians were quite strict, however they have become increasingly more liberal over the years.

An example of this liberality is seen in an article in A weekend magazine from 1966 of a minister from The United Church of Canada (Originally Presbyterian). See the next slide

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**PROMINENT LOCATIONS**

- Germany
- United States
- Holland
- Switzerland
- South Africa
- Scotland
- Canada

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**WHAT AM I?**

1. DEMOCRATIC CHURCH GOVERNMENT
2. PREDESTINATION
3. LAYING ON HANDS (OPTIONAL)
4. SUPREME SOURCE OF TRUTH – BIBLE
5. DEPRAVITY OF MAN/GREATNESS OF GOD

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**WHAT AM I?**

1. DEMOCRATIC CHURCH GOVERNMENT  
Ephesians 4:11 – God appoints; Acts 14:23 – Appointed Elders; I Corinthians 12:28
2. PREDESTINATION  
Has to do with calling – Set out on the road ahead of time. Romans 8:24, 29-30; Why did Paul struggle so much – I Corinthians 9:27; Deuteronomy 30:19 – Choose life! Matt. 13:13

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**WHAT AM I?**

3. **LAYING ON HANDS - OPTIONAL**  
Hebrews 6:2 – Basic doctrine; Acts. 8:17;  
Reasons for: Holy Spirit, Blessing Children,  
Marriage, Healing, Ordination

4. **SUPREME SOURCE OF TRUTH IS BIBLE**  
John 17:17 – God’s Word is truth; Isaiah 8:20;  
II Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy  
12:30-32

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**WHAT AM I?**

5. **DEPRAVITY OF MAN/GREATNESS OF GOD**  
Psalms 8:4 – What is man?; Romans 1:28;  
Psalms 139:14; Romans 6:1-2 Jeremiah 17:9;  
Genesis 1:27-31

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**THE END**

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**CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS - Thi 332**  
**Spring Semester**  
**Gary E. Antion**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Box: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT AM I?**

**PRESBYTERIAN**

1. Democratic church government.
2. Predestination.
3. Laying on of hands is optional.
4. Supreme source is the Bible--Calvin rejected all practices not found in the Bible.
5. Depravity of man and greatness of God.