

# John Calvin

## *Defender of God's sovereignty*

SOLA FIDE

October 8, 2017  
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### I. What was the context in which they lived, worked and breathed?

#### A. The role of faith in medieval life

- It stemmed from the teachings of the Catholic Church

#### B. For the Catholic, faith was not to be alone.

- Faith plus \_\_\_\_\_
- Grace plus \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus plus inherent \_\_\_\_\_

### II. The Reserved Reformer: John Calvin

A. God was orchestrating the events of each man's life in order to accomplish His divine will through them.

B. Calvin's views on the sovereignty of God are his legacy (for better or worse).

C. But his views were based on a careful study of the Scriptures. (Eph 2:1-10)

### III. *Sola Fide*: Faith plus nothing!

A. It is important to keep in mind that FAITH ALONE doesn't stand alone.

*Justification* BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE

#### B. Romans 3:21-27

1. Justification is the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 26)
2. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22)
3. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith (vv. 23-24)

### IV. Which are you?

THE EARNER Operates on the formula of FAITH + \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIST MAKER Operates on the formula of FAITH + \_\_\_\_\_

THE DOUBTER Operates on the formula of FAITH < \_\_\_\_\_

THE LOAFER Operates on the formula of FAITH = \_\_\_\_\_

*For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. Philippians 3:8-9*



1509 John Calvin born in France  
 1517 Luther writes 95 Theses  
 1522 Zwingli consumes sausage during Lent  
 1533 Calvin's conversion and break from Catholicism  
 1536 Calvin arrives in Geneva; writes Institutes of the Christian Religion  
 1537 Calvin expelled from Geneva  
 1540 Calvin marries widow Idelette de Bure  
 1549 Idelette Calvin dies  
 1561 Calvin preaches final sermon in February; dies in May  
 1571 Calvinistic Puritans produce Westminster Confession  
 1611 King James Bible published  
 1611 St. Peter's Basilica completed

## REFLECTING ON THE REFORMATION

To which category in section IV of the sermon notes do you tend to default as you strive to live *by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone*? How has the sermon encouraged you?

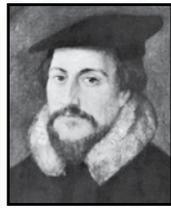
Why is it so critical for the Christian to grasp the doctrine of *justification*?

Read Romans 3:21-26.

According to this passage, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the Christian when they believe. *Imputation* reflects your eternal **STANDING**, not your imperfect daily **STATE** in this life. God declares you justified forever because He sees you in Christ. This is not based on how you feel, but rather is an unchangeable legal declaration in the mind of God.

Try to express how this truth about your eternal standing before God, regardless of daily failures and imperfections, impacts your life.

John Calvin is known for wrestling with some difficult theological concepts in his writings that other theologians viewed differently. What are some ways you have found rest intellectually, emotionally or spiritually when you didn't have full understanding of a biblical concept?



John Calvin



*Idelette de Bure, widow of John Stordeur, had two children when she married Calvin. She bore him one son and possibly a few daughters, all of whom died in infancy. Upon her deathbed she said, "O God of Abraham, and of all our fathers, in Thee have the faithful trusted during so many past ages, and none of them have trusted in vain. I also will hope."*

*During his ministry in Geneva, Calvin preached over 2,000 sermons—five on Sunday, and once daily during the week. Each lasted more than an hour and he did not use notes. Very little was preserved before 1549, when a professional scribe who developed a system of shorthand was assigned to record all of Calvin's sermons.*

### THE WORDS OF JOHN CALVIN

"It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone."

"Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out towards God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive."

"When I took the leap, I had faith I would find a net; instead I learned I could fly."

"The happiness promised us in Christ does not consist in outward advantages—such as leading a joyous and peaceful life, having rich possessions, being safe from all harm, and abounding with delights such as the flesh commonly longs after. No, our happiness belongs to the heavenly life!"

"Prayer doesn't change things—God changes things in answer to prayer."

"We shall never be clothed with the righteousness of Christ except we first know assuredly that we have no righteousness of our own."

"While all men seek after happiness, scarcely one in a hundred looks for it from God."

"How do we know that God has elected us before the creation of the world? By believing in Jesus Christ."

"True wisdom consists in two things: Knowledge of God and Knowledge of Self."

### FROM THE SERMON

Works prior to salvation	vs.	Works after salvation
For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9		What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that [kind of] faith save him? James 2:14
A substitute for faith		A byproduct of faith
Evidence of a lack of faith		Proof of saving faith
Motivated by earning		Motivated by gratitude
Accomplished in the flesh		Empowered by the Spirit
Based on trust in self		Based on a trust in God
Brings glory to self		Brings glory to God
Results in boasting		Requires humility
Me-focused		Other-oriented
Driven by fear		Based on love
Results in death		Produces life
Marked by doubt and sorrow		Characterized by assurance and joy
Unacceptable and displeasing to God		Acceptable and pleasing to God

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit [www.cbcfamily.org/events](http://www.cbcfamily.org/events). They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

### THERE'S STILL TIME TO START THE "ROOTS" STUDY—PICK UP MATERIALS TODAY!

We're not even halfway through our fall series on the Reformation which means this week is a great time to jump in with friends, coworkers or neighbors. The DVD features conversations about the Reformation and our faith with Pastor Ted and Christ Chapelites, and each study book has questions and Scripture to help you connect the study to your daily life. Pick up books and a DVD today in the Great Room or Atrium—or find it all at [www.cbcfamily.org/roots](http://www.cbcfamily.org/roots).

### WANT TO LEARN EVEN MORE? "ROOTS" ONLINE LEARNING COURSE IS FOR YOU!

From theology and history to the personalities of the movement, this online course is a chance to get a "behind the curtain" look at the Reformation with new content every week including Q&As with Dr. John Hannah, interviews with CCBC pastors, essays, videos and more. Sign up and start today at [www.cbcfamily.org/divedeep](http://www.cbcfamily.org/divedeep).

### THE BOOKSTORE HAS EXTRA REFORMATION READS.

Each week of our fall series, we're adding new books on the Reformation's five "solas." If you'd like to pick up something on the topic of faith today, stop by the shop on the first floor of the Link Building.

### REGISTRATION FOR "DADDY DAUGHTER ADVENTURE" OPENS TODAY.

Dads, we've created a fun and intentional day at Camp Thurman just for you and your little girl on Saturday, Nov. 11. Get info and register at [www.cbcfamily.org/events](http://www.cbcfamily.org/events).

### PARENTS, WHEELS 'N REELS IS THIS FRIDAY, OCT. 13.

Bring the whole family (and the kids' bikes) for a night of ridin' and movie watchin'! The fun starts at 6 p.m. in the Parking Garage. Questions? Email Jessica at [JessicaK@christchapelbc.org](mailto:JessicaK@christchapelbc.org).

### YOUNG COUPLES, AVENEW RETURNS NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 15.

Whether you're married, engaged or almost there, come for a new four-part series on major lies couples believe about their relationship. We'll meet at 12:15 p.m. in The Den. RSVP this week to Lindsey at [LindseyS@christchapelbc.org](mailto:LindseyS@christchapelbc.org).

### DON'T MISS NEXT SUNDAY'S LUNCH AND LEARN.

Dr. John Hannah and his wife Carolyn will be back with us next Sunday, Oct. 15 for lunch in the Oak Room at 12:30 p.m. Hear them teach about reformer John Knox, his family and the personal trials they faced as they fought for the gospel and God's truth. Next Generation Kids Care through age 11 is available by RSVP through this Wednesday, Oct. 11 at [www.cbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP](http://www.cbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP).

### DO YOU HAVE A HEART FOR THE HOMELESS?

Christ Chapel partners with Beautiful Feet Ministries, The NET Fort Worth and Union Gospel Mission to reach those who are currently experiencing homelessness? Check out [www.cbcfamily.org/serve](http://www.cbcfamily.org/serve) (scroll down to "New Testament Mandate") to learn how you can get involved with these amazing ministry partners.