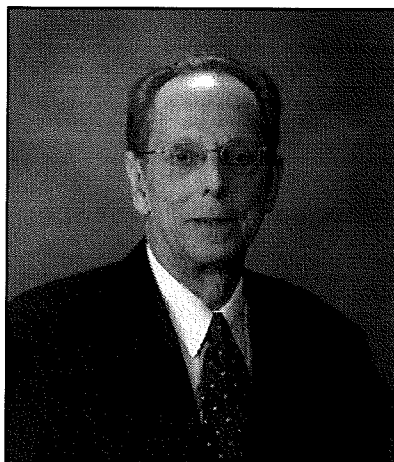




Let's Read *The Institutes* *of the Christian Religion, Class 2*

Book 1: Of the Knowledge of God the Creator
Chapters 1-5

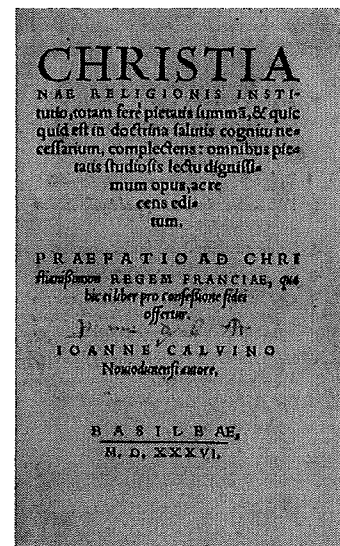


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General Characteristics of *the Institutes*

- Biblical
- Theological
- Rhetorical –
 - Calvin rejects medieval scholasticism
 - Calvin writes to move, persuade, exhort



Westminster Confession of Faith

- Chapter 1 – Of the Holy Scripture
- Chapter 2 – Of God and of the Holy Trinity
- Chapter 3 – Of God's Eternal Decree
- Chapter 4 – Of Creation
- Chapter 5 – Of Providence



Institutes, 1559 edition

Book 1 – Of the Knowledge of God the Creator

Book 2 – Of the Knowledge of God the Redeemer

Book 3 – Obtaining the Grace of Christ

Book 4 – The Holy Catholic Church

I believe in **God the Father Almighty**,
Maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in **Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord**,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the **Holy Spirit**,
the **holy catholic church**,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Book 1: Of the Knowledge of God the Creator

- Chapter 1. - The knowledge of God and of ourselves mutually connected. —Nature of the connection.
- Chapter 2. - What it is to know God,—tendency of this knowledge.
- Chapter 3. - The knowledge of God naturally implanted in the human mind.
- Chapter 4. - The knowledge of God stifled or corrupted, ignorantly or maliciously.
- Chapter 5. - The knowledge of God conspicuous in the creation, and continual government of the world.

**Our wisdom, in so far
as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom,
consists almost entirely of two parts:
the knowledge of God
and of ourselves.**

“God’s holiness is a straight-edge
to which we must be shaped.”

Being created by God

- We have limited (finite) knowledge of God
 - We only know him as he is revealed to us
(not beyond a hidden depth)
 - “We can know God truly but not fully.” (F. Schaeffer)
 - True knowledge leads to worship.
No true knowledge without piety.

“God’s holiness is a straight-edge to which we must be shaped.”

Being created by God

- We have an internal knowledge of God (a seed of religion) and an awareness of divinity.
- We have an external knowledge of God
 - In creation – the universe is a witness of God (Ps. 19), a book by which to study God.
 - In providence/history
 - By examples of justice and mercy now,
 - The cry for mercy and demand for justice later.



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