

The Christian Life

An Introduction to Calvin's *Institutes*

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Assassination of la Place

**from an 1887 edition of *Foxe's
Book of Martyrs*, illustrated by
Joseph Martin Kronheim**



A Note on Current Editions

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- Translator (year) | Publisher | Original Ed. | Notes
- Beveridge (1845) | Public Domain (Hendrickson) | 1559 Latin | Difficult to read but widely accessible and inexpensive.
- Battles (1960) | Westminster John Knox | 1559 Latin | Modern English, expensive, available in paperback but can find used hardcover online.
- White (2017) | Banner of Truth | 1541 French | Very easy to read. Has chapters, rather than the Book-Chapter-Paragraph structure of the 1559 Latin ed.
- Beach (2010) | Reformation Heritage Books | *Piety's Wisdom: A Summary of Calvin's Institutes* | A condensed version of the *Institutes* using Calvin's own words.

Class 2 | Scripture's Call to Christian Living

1. Scripture as the Guide to Christian Living
2. Scripture's Instruction for Christian Living: Love Righteousness
 - Because God Is Holy
 - Because the Church Is Holy
3. Christ, the Ultimate Reason to Love Righteousness
4. False Christians Do Not Love Righteousness
5. True Christians Fall Short, but Do Not Despair

1. Scripture as the Guide for Christian Living

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- The “goal of God’s work in us is to bring our lives into harmony and agreement with His own righteousness”
- God’s work — Regeneration
- Thus, Calvin’s goal is “simply to present to godly people a model for ordering their lives”

2. Scripture's Instruction for Christian Living: Love Righteousness

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- Two main parts to the system of Christian Living that Scripture instructs us
 1. The “Love of Righteousness” that “must be implanted and poured into our hearts.” **This is the content of ch. 1 [Book 3, ch. 6]**
 2. The “model that will keep us from losing our way in our pursuit of righteousness.” **This is the content of chs. 2-5 [Book 3, chs. 7-10]**

Scripture instructs us for Christian Living by 1) calling for the inward change of a genuine love for righteousness, and 2) giving us a guide for how we can pursue righteousness without growing weary or losing our way.

2. Scripture's Instruction for Christian Living: Love Righteousness

- Regarding the first point: the inward change to love righteousness. We are to love righteousness...
- Because God is holy (Lev 19:1-2; 1 Pet 1:13-16)
- Because the Church, God's dwelling place, is holy (Heb 13:14; Psalm 15, 24)

3. Christ, the Ultimate Reason to Love Righteousness

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- A third reason to love righteousness: the example of Christ

4. False Christians Do Not Love Righteousness

4. False Christians Do No Love Righteousness

- To Calvin, no such thing as a “nominal Christian”
 - To those who claim to know Christ, but do not imitate him, have not truly ‘learned Christ’ (Eph 4:20-24)
- “Doctrine is not a matter of the tongue, but of life”

**5. True Christians Fail to Love
Righteousness, but Do Not
Despair**

5. True Christians Fail to Love Righteousness, but Do Not Despair

- The Word of God is Their Guide
- They Walk in Integrity/Sincerity
- They Make Progress in Sanctification, **Even if it's Small**