

Christianity in the Reformation Era

Christian Perspectives



Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church



Schedule
9:30AM Sundays

January 12, 2012 Volume 37

Our Descriptor

We seek to discern God's will for us in today's world, and put into practice what we learn, through scripture, and the writings of theologians and other scholars. We are member-led and encourage lively discussion.



organized Christian commonwealth that reflected God's glory.

In this class we will first explore the early life and influences on Calvin, including his permanent exile from his home country of France, and how he ended up in Geneva. We will then explore aspects of Calvin's theology - what made him different from Luther?

Welcome to Newsletter Number 37

THE Fall-Spring Theme Christianity in the Reformation Era

This week (January 15) we will transition from the first generation of the reformers to what we calling the second generation of reformers. We will kick that off by introducing John Calvin and the reformation in Geneva.

We are supposed to know everything about Calvin - after all we are Presbyterians! In the next few lessons we will find out if we do.

John Calvin (1509-1564), without question, was the most important theologian and religious leader of the second generation. He was multilingual, highly intelligent and educated (a PhD at age 22), and immersed in humanistic thinking, as well as legal studies. Known for his comprehensive theology, his preaching, and for his leadership in helping create a Protestant city government that emphasized a well

Finally we review Calvin as the architect of Geneva's ecclesiastical institutions as he sought to make the city a civic reflection of God's glory - an "anti-Munster".

By the way - this lesson will not be the end of our learning about Calvin. Because we will learn in future lessons that Calvin had other obsessions - one of the big ones was to somehow free his beloved France from the tyranny of a corrupt version of Christianity called Catholicism. And most people are not aware of how successful he was in spreading what came to be called Calvinism out of Geneva, even though he stayed there the rest of his life.

In future lessons we will explore how Calvinism spread to France, the Low Countries, and Scotland. Then we will return to the Catholics and explore both reform and counter-reformation.

Lots of stuff to cover.

See you this Sunday.

Christianity in the Reformation Era

Context and Introduction

- The Landscape of Early Modern Christianity
- Late Medieval Christendom—Beliefs, Practices, Institutions
- Christian Humanism—Erudition, Education, Reform

The First Generation

Martin Luther's Road to Reformation

Huldrych Zwingli—The Early Reformation in Switzerland

Early Reformation in Germany - The Peasants' War of 1524-1525

The Emergence of Early Anabaptism

Early Protestantism—France, the Low Countries, and England

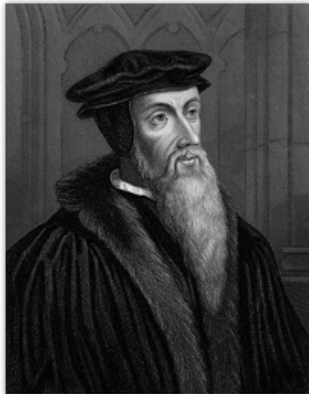
The Henrician Reformation in England

The Early Catholic Response

Rise and Fall of the Kingdom of Münster



Luther



Calvin



Simons



Peasants's War

The Second Generation

John Calvin and the Reformation in Geneva

Calvinism in France and the Low Countries

John Knox and the Scottish Reformation

Menno Simons and the Dutch Mennonites

Roman Catholicism after Trent

Expansion

Going Global—Catholic Missions

The French Wars of Religion

Elizabethan England—Protestants, Puritans, and Catholics

The Thirty Years' War—Religion and Politics



ZWINGLI

Reflections on Christianity and Reformations