

**Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin**  
(Translation by Henry Beveridge)  
Men's Theology Study – June 2, 2021– 6:30 pm

**Book 2 – Of the knowledge of God the Redeemer, in Christ, as first manifested to the fathers, under the law, and thereafter to us under the gospel.**

Discussion Video:

**Chapter 7b (s. 6-17) – The Law Given, Not to Retain a People for Itself, but to Keep Alive the Hope of Salvation in Christ until His Advent**

Sections 1-2: The Law as a Schoolmaster

Sections 3-5: Conditional Promises of the Law

Sections 6-13: The Threefold Office and Use of the Moral Law

- Sections 6-9: The First Use of the Moral Law
  - Section 6:
    - What is the first use of the moral law?
    - Why is it necessary?
  - Section 7: Augustine: “If the Spirit of grace be absent, the law is present only to convict and slay us (2.7.7).”
    - Does this detract from the excellency, the importance, or the usefulness of the law?
  - Section 8:
    - How does the law affect the reprobate and the elect differently?
    - In the precepts of the law, in what two ways is God seen? How is he seen in Christ?
  - Section 9: Why would Augustine pray to the Lord, “...command what cannot be fulfilled; no, command what cannot be fulfilled unless by thy own grace (2.7.9)”?
- Sections 10-11: The Second Use of the Moral Law
  - Section 10:
    - What is the second use of the law?
    - Why is it necessary for the good of society?
    - According to 1 Tim 1:9-10, how is the law for the lawless?
  - Section 11: How does the law affect the prideful and the lawless differently?

- Section 12: The Third Use of the Moral Law
  - What is the third use of the law?
  - In what two ways does the regenerate man benefit from the third use of the law?
  - What does it mean to bind someone's conscience?
- Section 13: Antinomianism
  - Why does Calvin consider it to be impious to discard the law?

#### Sections 14-17: The Abrogation of the Law

- Section 14-15: Abrogation of the Law and Curse of the Law
  - Section 14:
    - What is the rationale behind those who claim the moral law has been abrogated?
    - How can we argue that the moral law has continued from creation? (Hint: See Westminster Confession of Faith 19, Of the Law of God)
  - Section 15: Interpreting Paul in Gal 3:10, what does it mean for us to be freed from the "fetters of the Law"?
- Section 16: Abrogation of the Ceremonial Law
  - Why have the ceremonial laws been abrogated?
  - How does the New Testament describe the ceremonial law and Christ?
- Section 17: Moral Law Not Abrogated
  - Ephesians 2:14-15, "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of two, so making peace..." What is the "dividing wall of hostility" that has been abolished?
  - How were the Jewish ceremonies "more a confession than an expiation of sins?"