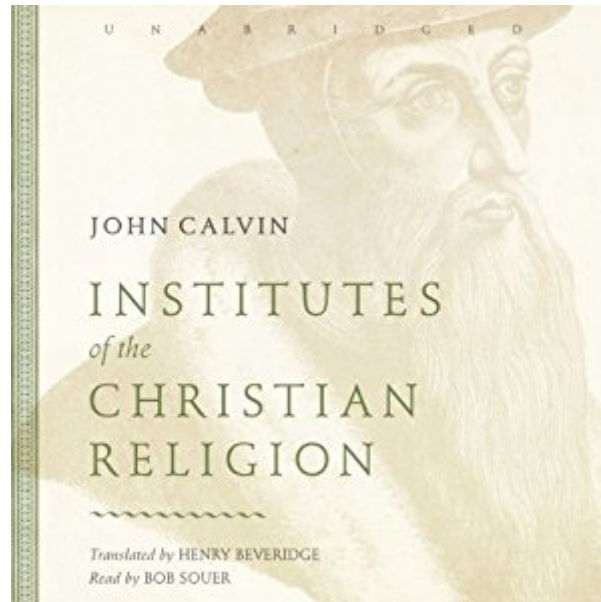




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# Institutes Of The Christian Religion



## Synopsis

Institutes of the Christian Religion is John Calvin's seminal work on Protestant systematic theology. Highly influential in the Western world and still widely read by theological students today, it was published in Latin in 1536 and in his native French in 1541. The book serves as an introductory textbook on the Protestant faith for those with some previous knowledge of theology and covers a broad range of theological topics from the doctrines of church and sacraments to justification by faith alone and Christian liberty. It vigorously attacks teachings which Calvin considered unorthodox, particularly Roman Catholicism to which Calvin says he had been "strongly devoted" before his conversion to Protestantism. The overarching theme of the book - and Calvin's greatest theological legacy - is the idea of God's total sovereignty, particularly in salvation and election. Institutes of the Christian Religion is highly-regarded as a secondary reference for the system of doctrine adopted by the Reformed churches, which is commonly referred to as Calvinism.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 67 hours and 6 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: October 25, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00GC36KXU

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Calvinist #179 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity #5519 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

## Customer Reviews

Hands down my favorite translation. Can't put this book down. It truly makes Calvin come alive! Wonderful work, thank you Banner of Truth!

Make sure you purchase the correct edition. does not distinguish which edition is being reviewed. I bought Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion (The Library of Christian Classics) Kindle Edition by John Calvin (Author), John T. McNeill (Editor), Ford Lewis Battles (Translator). This is the real deal. An excellent translation, done by Battles. Over 1800 pages. I have just started reading it.

A pleasure so far. This edition is expensive, over \$40, but worth it. I will update this review as I read the book. Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion (The Library of Christian Classics)

Unless you have a deep interest in the formation of early protestant thought you will find this tough going. If you are a serious student or researcher not crippled by a deep fixation on wiki and want a true insight in the formation of Protestant beliefs this will give you a look into the thinking of key doctrinal formation.. If you lack the stamina take notes into the teacher's view of Calvin rather than your own. Remember he probably never read the book himself/ Ignorance is easily transmitted but the price of knowledge is a painful one.

This e-book is well organized and presents the material well. The Institutes is a classic piece of theology that I cannot really give a review of. It contains Calvin's position on many doctrines of the Christian religion. Having been written by a reformer, much of the book is argument against the opponents to his theology and the Catholic Church. I don't really know the history or context of these opponents and Calvin seems to assume his readers are already familiar. This made it a bit difficult for me. Overall, this was a very good read for me, being newer to the reformed theology from evangelicalism and this helped me frame my mode of thinking on many different topics. By the way, librivox has the full audiobook for free this helped me to listen to longer sections that were less interesting to me then read it on kindle when something popped out as interesting.

The recent reissue of Beveridge's 19th century translation of Calvin's Institutes is a very nice complement to the more comprehensive scholarly edition by McNeil (translated by Battles). If you are trying to decide between the Battles and the Beveridge translation here are a few things to consider. 1. The Battles has extensive editing, which includes a thorough cross-referencing of the pertinent quotations that Calvin refers to, as well as the pertinent Biblical texts and intertextual references. McNeil is a quality editor, but as with any editing, the view of the editor is never without a measure of bias. If you are looking to get a fresh interpretation of Calvin, you try reading the Beveridge first, or skip over the footnotes in the Battles. 2. The Beveridge provides alternative readings based upon the French edition of the Institutes. I've found this aspect to be quite interesting. Calvin's style in French tends to be a bit more expansive and colorful than his Latin. 3. The Beveridge has the benefit of being a one-volume hardback, as opposed to the two-volume hardback of the Battles. The one-volume has a bit more heft to carry around, but you always have the complete work with you if you are out and about. 4. The subject headings are different in the two

editions. The Beveridge provides a full sentence overview outline at the beginning of each chapter division, whereas the Battles provides subheadings for each minor section. There are pros and cons to each approach, of course. Whatever edition you decide to get, you will not be disappointed. Calvin's Institutes is a masterpiece of Western literature, and one of the most important works of the Christian Church of all time.

At this give-away price, it ought to be downright criminal NOT to avail of this profound classic. Yeah, we can all read the Bible, but leave it to Calvin to dig deep into the scriptures and "break it down" for you. If you exhibit enough patience to finish this work, you may be tempted to read and re-read it in order to arrive at your own position on sin, salvation, election, and, most of all, on the issue of sovereignty of God. For the lazy hedonists among us, I suggest that it be acquired in the audio version at audible.com. If you are not already a member, sign up for a 30-day free trial at audible.com and download Calvin's Institutes for free: even if you cancel later, you will get to keep it...guilt free. If you don't cancel, get next the audible Foundations by R C Sproul: then you would be virtually undefeatable in any debate on Calvinism (but be prepared to lose lifelong friends).

John Calvin's "Institutes of the Christian Religion" is a monumental work in Protestant theology. Paul L. Lehmann, Th.D., late theology professor at Union Theological Seminary, based his introductory course in systematic theology on Calvin's work back in 1973 when I took it. Calvin divides his effort into four books, "The Knowledge of God the Creator," "The Knowledge of God the Redeemer in Jesus Christ," "The Way in Which We Receive the Grace of Christ" and "The External Means or Aids by Which God Invites Us Into the Society of Christ and Holds Us Therein." I recommend this book to the theological student and pastor as well as to the layperson who wishes to do serious reading in the academic field of theology. In my 36 years in the ministry, I have been helped time and time again by this great work. Mercury Man from White Plains, Westchester County, New York

A very helpful work for both systematic theology and historical theology. Instead of listening to what everyone else says Calvin believed you can read an English translation of what he actually wrote on many topics about the beliefs of the Reformers in the 1500s.

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