

At the time of his death he was working on a suggested plan for a new system of guarding Geneva. Mentally he was vigorous to the end.

In terms of moral purity and/or integrity of character, Calvin shows no compromise. He is often-times criticised for having been overly severe or dogmatic. This is somewhat true but is conditioned by his dedication to high spiritual ideals and the need for special emphasis in these areas in an age of decline. His views are not accepted among all theologians but his commitment is not questioned by even the most caustic of foes.

His was a work of organization and systematization. He was not so much of an innovative worker. As a preacher he was acceptable although not the orator that Farel was or the emotive crowd mover that was Luther. As a scholar and biblical exegete he stands in clear relief against the allegorizers and shallow thinkers of that time.

His influence on thought is profound and it is not limited to the church. Calvin had a salutary effect in social matters and his influence in urging that the Bible be the basis for all conduct, not just religious conduct, is a large part of the western church legacy. With his death passed the third of the trilogy of militant reformers in central Europe...those who sparked and moved the reformation. We will in class discuss his interest in mission and the impetus he gave the Gospel in the age of his witness.

THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND

II.7 England

Historical Notes: Christianity in Britain

The Christian Church in England had two beginnings! The first was during the days of the Roman occupancy...probably in the first century AD. We know something of this from the simple fact that there were bishops (Angles) from England at the Synod of Arles in 314. But in the days of the dissolution of the Roman empire the church in England was swept away by the oncoming hordes of barbarians and the force of Christianity in that place all but negated. The second beginning, therefore, came on the prongs of two missionary moves. One was by the Celtic