

thoughts and interpretation of Augustine, and as issued by him they were received by most of the Protestants of his day, and even now the "Thirty-nine Articles" of the State church are Calvinistic. "The Confession of Faith" received by the Free Church, United Presbyterian Church, and State Church of Scotland is Calvinistic. The Baptists and Congregationalists everywhere for the most part profess to be Calvinistic. Thus a great proportion of the Protestant bodies are Calvinistic, though there are many exceptions among their adherents who are undoubtedly Arminian. The symbols of their faith are sound, though some have wandered from them.

It is manifestly wrong, if not wicked, for men who are not themselves Calvinists, and who evidently know little about the subject, to boldly allege that we receive the teaching of Calvin instead of the doctrines taught by our Lord Jesus Christ. Calvin was a man of colossal mind, who studied the Word of God profoundly and prayerfully, and who put in a systematic form the truths taught in Scripture. His work was to place clearly before us what the Book really said and meant; and few men have ever lived who could do this work better than he. He takes the humble yet high position of an interpreter of the Book, and in this he shines as a bright and beautiful light.

We believe nothing on the simple authority of Calvin; we believe no affirmation because he makes it; we accept no dogma because he constructed it; no truth because he taught it; we accept all on the authority of the Book of God, and are thankful to Calvin for aiding us in understanding it, just as we are thankful to Drs. Morison, Lightfoot, Godet, and others. All these are helping us to grasp the doctrines of the Word; but none of them takes the place of the Word. Many Calvinists have never read a line written by Calvin; they take what is called their Calvinism where Calvin found it, where Augustine found it, namely from the Book of God.

The position of Calvin among us is that of one who more fully than any other has explained to us the true meaning of the record of revelation. Christ alone is our Master.