

John Calvin, *The Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* (reprinted; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2008). Pp. 95. Reviewed by Morris McDonald

Here is a book every Christian should possess and read in this John Calvin anniversary year. It is a devotional classic. Translator Henry J. Van Andel wrote, "It warms the heart, inspires the mind, and strengthens the will." The Suncoast Bible Presbyterian Church in Palm Harbor, Florida, has made copies available for every household in the church.

Calvin wrote these five chapters, divided into 38 sections, as part of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. This material may be found in pages 1-35, vol. 2 (Beveridge edition) or on pages 684-725, vol. 1 (Battles edition).

An older devotional book, *The Imitation of Christ*, written by Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471), sees life's highest ideal in the monastic life. "Thou must be contented for Christ's sake to be esteemed as a fool in this world, if thou desire to lead the life of a monk" (37). He also wrote, "O Lord Jesus, forasmuch as thy life was narrow and despised by the world, grant me to imitate thee, though the world despise" (225).

Calvin wrote in a practical nature, promoting faithfulness in one's own calling rather than withdrawing into a monastic, contemplative life. A prayer by Calvin in the preface closes with these words, ". . . that we may at last come to that blessed rest which thy only begotten Son has acquired for us through his blood. Amen."