

Charles E. Edwards, *Devotions and Prayers of John Calvin* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1976). Pp. 120. Reviewed by Morris McDonald.

Although out of print, this book can readily be found in used condition. These meditations and prayers by Calvin are taken from his commentary set on the Minor Prophets. There are one-page readings from Hosea through Malachi, with a prayer on each facing page, making up 52 devotions.

In his Forward the editor notes, “Prayer is the ‘vital breath,’ the ‘native air’ of Calvinism. The original lectures and prayers were extemporaneous. In his Epistle Dedicatory addressed to the King of Sweden, Calvin wrote, “Had it been in my power, I would rather have tried to prevent the wider circulation of that extemporaneous kind of teaching, intended for the particular benefit of my auditory” (4).

Calvin began each lecture with the same prayer, found on page 13: “May the Lord grant that we may engage in contemplating the mysteries of his heavenly wisdom with really increasing devotion, to his glory and to our edification. Amen.” However, he closed each lecture with a new prayer “formed at the time, as given him by the Spirit of God, and accommodated to the subject of the lecture” (4).