

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tacoma, WA  
Permit No. 741

Western Reformed Seminary  
5 South "G" Street  
Tacoma, Washington 98405

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



the

# WRS Journal

Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, Washington

Volume 16, Issue 1

February 2009



## *John Calvin: 500 Years after His Birth (Part 1)*

EDITOR'S NOTES *inside cover*

A SHORT LIFE OF CALVIN *pages 1-15*

Calvin's Early Years (1509-1536),  
*Ronald Vandermey*

Calvin's Middle Years (1536-1541),  
*Laurie A. P. Copeland*

Calvin's Latter Years (1541-1564),  
*Jerry Gardner*

DEFINING AND DEFENDING *pages 16-27*

A Brief Definition of Calvinism, *Ben Dally*

In Defense of the Influence of John Calvin,  
*Edward T. Oliver*

IMPACT *pages 28-40*

Calvin and Missions, *Keith Coleman*

Calvin and Worship, *John T. Dyck*

ON TOUR *pages 41-47*

A Calvin Pilgrimage: The Worship of Dead  
Men's Bones?, *Douglas Bond*

Next Issue:  
"John Calvin:  
500 Years after  
His Birth  
(Part 2)"

---

## EDITOR'S NOTES: FROM JOHN A. BATTLE

---

Those of us who are Presbyterian or Reformed and those of us who live in a free society owe a double debt to God and to one of his servants, John Calvin. God deserves all the glory and all our thanks for these blessings; Calvin himself would insist on that. It is ironic that we celebrate Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday. He himself shunned glory, instructing that he be buried in an unmarked grave, which was simply marked "J.C." But we do honor Calvin—one of God's greatest gifts to the church. God used Calvin largely to codify the Reformed faith and to initiate in Europe the movement toward limited, representative government, with economic and political freedom.

This will be the first of two issues of the *WRS Journal* featuring John Calvin. In this first issue we bring you a survey of his life, in three parts, written by Ron Vandermeij, Laurie Copeland, and Jerry Gardner. Then Ben Dally offers a brief definition of Calvinism, and Ed Oliver defends Calvin and Calvinism against its many detractors. Calvin's impact on the church and society has been huge. As far as the church is concerned, Keith Coleman tells of his great influence for the cause of missions, and John Dyck spells out his impact on public worship. Other articles on Calvin's impact are scheduled to appear in the second issue. Concluding this issue is an unusual article by Doug Bond, veteran tour guide of Reformation sites—an arm-chair tourist's guide to follow the life of Calvin.

While we desire to honor Calvin on this great occasion, we must remember that the best way to honor Calvin is to praise and honor God. In Calvin's eyes God is truly great, the sovereign King, Creator and Redeemer. May this issue of the *WRS Journal* help us all better to see God as he truly is. That would be a birthday gift to Calvin that he would approve of.

---

### Subscription Information

*The WRS Journal* (ISSN 1555-6786) is published semi-annually, every February and August. Circulation is currently 800, with a production run of 900 copies. Subscriptions for churches and school libraries in the U.S. are free. Individual subscriptions are available for \$5 US per annum (2 issues) for domestic addresses, and \$10 US per annum for international addresses. Please write or call to subscribe. You may also e-mail your subscription requests and/or comments to:

**editor@wrs.edu**

**the WRS Journal**

5 South G Street, Tacoma, Washington 98405  
(253) 272-0417

**Back issues are available electronically at: [www.wrs.edu](http://www.wrs.edu)**

*Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of WRS on any given topic.*

---

*The WRS Journal 16:1, February 2009*

# WESTERN REFORMED SEMINARY

---

Since 1983, Training Christian Leaders to Serve Christ  
*"in Spirit and in Truth"*

- Bible-believing and Reformed
- Masters programs, day and night classes
- Member of the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries
- Teacher training recognized by the Association of Christian Schools International
- Biblical counseling training for certification with the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors
- Programs recognized for VA benefits

*See [www.wrs.edu](http://www.wrs.edu) for online catalog*

---

**(253) 272-0417 ♦ registrar@wrs.edu**  
**Five South G Street, Tacoma, WA 98405**