

Acts

- Acts 6:7
- Acts 9:31
- Acts 12:24
- Acts 13:49
- Acts 16:5
- Acts 19:20
- Acts 28:30-31

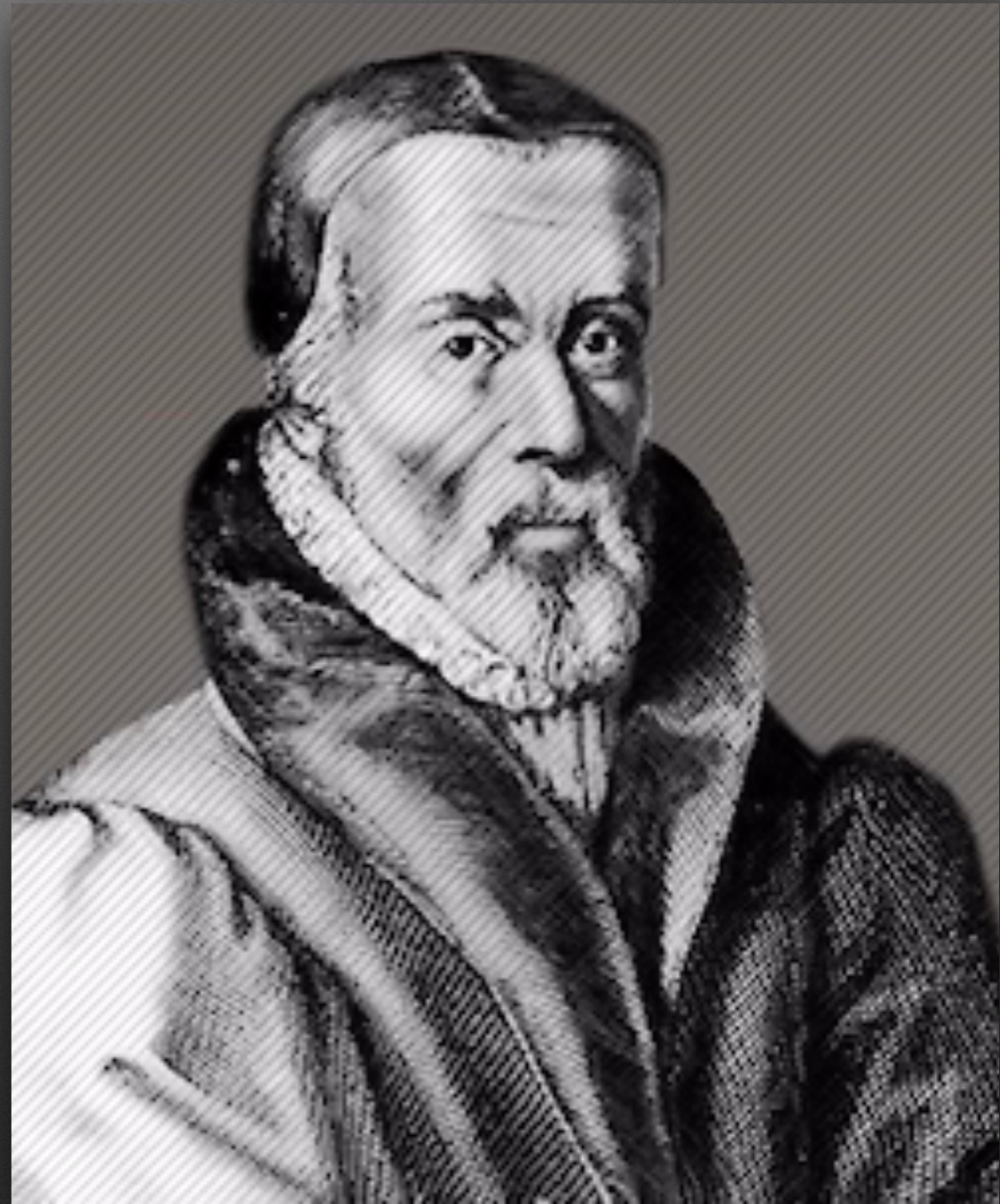


Lesson 11: The Church Responds to Reform, Part 2

Tyndale, Calvin, and Knox

William Tyndale (1495-1536)

- Priest & professionally trained linguist at Oxford
 - Wycliff's stomping grounds
- Compelled to translate the Bible from Greek & Hebrew into English
 - Wycliff's version was translated from the Latin
 - "I defy the pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the scripture than thou dost."



Tyndale the Martyr

- Fled England to continue his work on the continent
- Completed the NT
 - Printed and smuggled them back to England
- Discovered, betrayed, and arrested
 - Burned at the stake for his “crimes” (October 1536)
 - Final words: “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes!”

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- **Son to a Church Lawyer**
 - Study for the priesthood (1523)
 - Father fought with church officials. Calvin now to be a lawyer (1527)
 - Father died (1531) freeing Calvin to pursue theological studies
- **From Student to Radical**
 - 1532-34 Calvin went from Christian humanist to full blown Protestant



Young Calvin

- Calvin was an intellectual and by no means driven by emotion
- Driven into exile
 - Nicholas Cop's 1 November 1533 address
 - Calvin's Friend and professor
 - Called for reform
 - Met with persecution from the government and the populace
 - Cop fled to Basel Switzerland
 - Calvin to western France, then followed Cop in 1535
 - In 1535 he produced the 1st edition of his famous *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Calvin the Reformer

- 1536 - Detoured to Geneva Switzerland
 - Met William Feral, the fiery evangelist who called Calvin to stay and help reform Geneva
 - The plan was to make Geneva a model of Christian community
 - Sought to make the church independent from civil government
 - Geneva city council didn't like the idea of Church discipline
 - Calvin and Feral were banished

Strasbourg Exile (1538-41)

- Preached every Sunday
 - A large church of French protestant refugees
- Lectured every week
 - Theology
- Wrote voluminously
 - First commentary on Romans
- Moved back to Geneva (1541)
 - Jacob Sadoletto wrote to Genevans slandering Calvin and the Reformation
 - Calvin Responded

Genevan Reforms

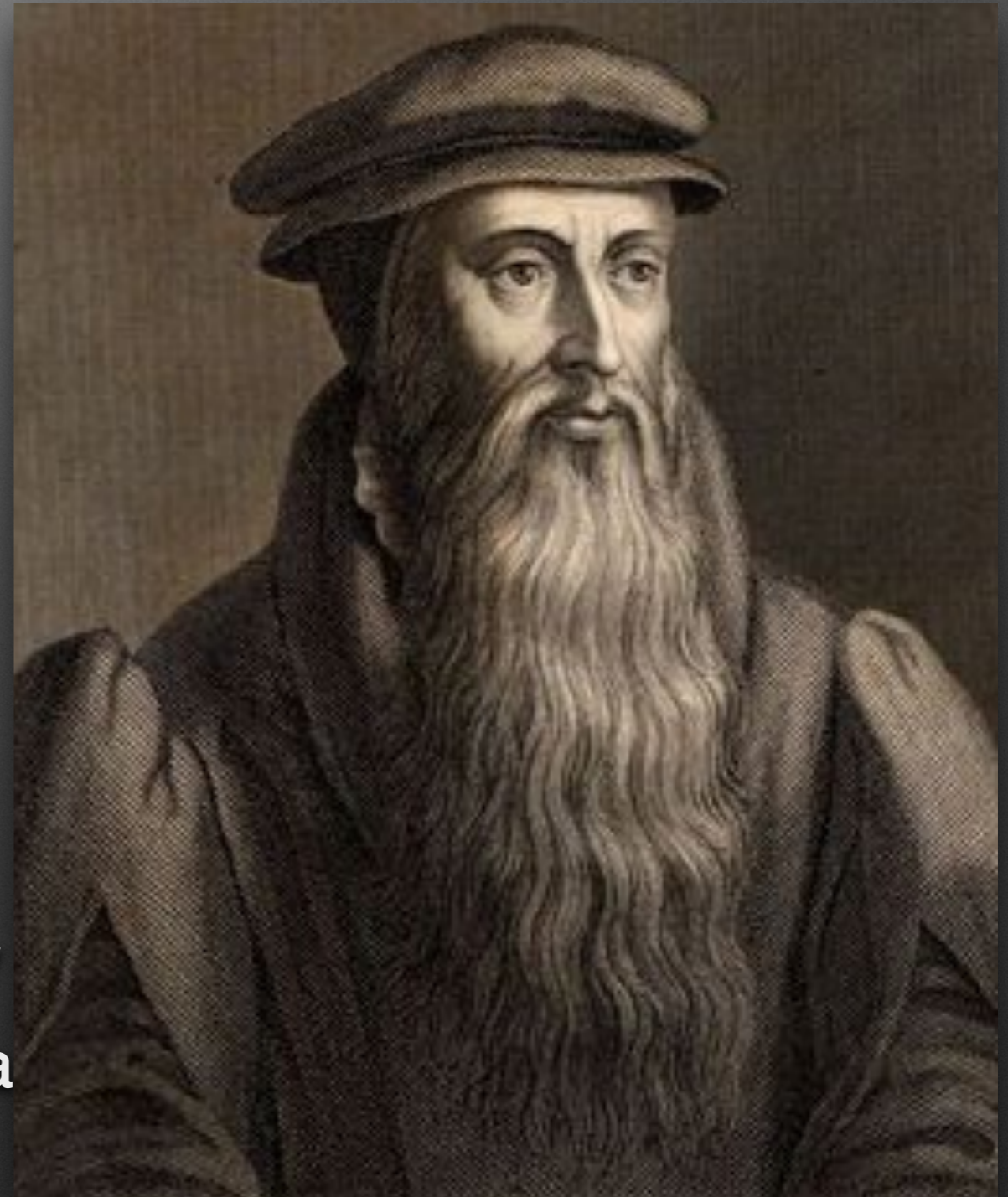
- **Compromise on church government**
 - Elders had to be elected from the city magistrates
 - But the church (not the state) held the power of discipline
- **Reformer of society not just the church**
 - Strong civil penalties for adultery, prostitution, pornography, drunkenness, dancing, gambling, swearing, disobedient children, etc.
 - Strong opposition in the Libertines

Calvin the Pastor

- Calvin's Calendar
 - Sunday - Preaching morning & evening
 - Week Days
 - Lectured Theology twice a week
 - Preached and taught the Scriptures three times during the week in various settings
- Reform came to Geneva through the Word. Preaching the Bible reformed Geneva, not civil code.

John Knox (1514-1572)

- Ordained as a priest in Scotland (1536)
 - Soon after became a layman
 - Attached himself to a fiery evangelist (Wishart)
 - Became a galley slave for 19 months
- Moved to Protestant England
 - Fled England and “Bloody” Mary
 - Found himself in Calvin’s Geneva



Knox in Geneva

- Pastored the English speaking refugees
 - Instrumental in producing the Geneva Bible
 - Leaned heavily upon Tyndale's work
- Wrote controversial works
 - *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women* (1558)
 - *The Appellation* (1558)

Knox in Scotland

- Returned to native Scotland in 1559
 - Passion for his native people to know the gospel
 - Scotland in the hands of another (Catholic) woman, Mary of Guise and then her daughter Mary Queen of Scots
 - In 1557 (two years prior) Scottish nobles renounced Roman Catholicism
 - By Mary's (Queen of Scots) reign (1561), she was a Catholic queen in a protestant country
 - Knox and Mary had a very antagonistic relationship

Knox's Ministry

- Power in Prayer
 - “One man with God is a majority”
 - “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe” - Mary Queen of Scots
- Power in the Pulpit
 - A BOLD proclaimer of God's Word
 - “Without the preaching place, I think few would have occasion to be offended at me; and there I am not master of myself, but must obey him who commands me to speak plain and to flatter no flesh on the face of the earth.”



In The End

- Knox grew physically frail and had to be literally “placed” into the pulpit
- Final days consisted of reading Scripture/sermons and prayer
 - Thoughts on 1 Cor. 15: “Is not that a comfortable chapter?”
 - Calvin’s sermons on Ephesians: Now it is come. Come, Lord Jesus, sweet Jesus; into thy hand I commend my spirit.”

23

THE ABOVE STONE
MARKS THE APPROXIMATE
SITE OF THE BURIAL
IN ST GILES GRAVEYARD
OF JOHN KNOX
THE GREAT SCOTTISH DIVINE
WHO DIED 24 NOV 1572

Conclusion

- Men like Tyndale, Calvin, and Knox were nothing special
 - An academic
 - A shy theologian
 - A weak galley slave
- They were men who fully depended upon God and who boldly proclaimed God's Word
- Through such men, The Holy Spirit of God used the Word of God to both save and sanctify the people of God...and transform the world!