

## ***Selections for John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion***

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(Underlining and bold print are added enhancements for clarification and emphasis.)

### Predestination and The Doctrine of Election in the ***Holy Bible***:

"We have come into the way of faith," says Augustine: "let us constantly adhere to it. It leads to the chambers of the king, in which are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. For our Lord Jesus Christ did not speak invidiously to his great and most select disciples when he said, ***"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now,"*** (John 16:12). We must walk, advance, increase, that our hearts may be able to comprehend those things, which they cannot now comprehend. But if the last day shall find us making progress, we shall there learn what here we could not," (August. Hom. in Joann).

If we give due weight to the consideration, that the word of the Lord is the only way which can conduct us to the investigation of whatever it is lawful for us to hold with regard to him--is the only light which can enable us to discern what we ought to see with regard to him, it will curb and restrain all presumption. For it will show us that the moment we go beyond the bounds of the word we are out of the course, in darkness, and must every now and then stumble, go astray, and fall. Let it, therefore, be our first principle that to desire any other knowledge of predestination than that which is expounded by the word of God, is no less infatuated than to walk where there is no path, or to seek light in darkness. Let us not be ashamed to be ignorant in a matter in which ignorance is learning. Rather let us willingly abstain from the search after knowledge, to which it is both foolish as well as perilous, and even fatal to aspire. If an unrestrained imagination urges us, our proper course is to oppose it with these words, ***"It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory,"*** (Prov. 25:27). There is good reason to dread a presumption, which can only plunge us headlong into ruin.