

Calvin wrote an address for him. That was common practice. Everyone nearly knew Calvin wrote the address. But in the address he lashed out at the superstition and foolish ideas of the times and said we should do away with these things, and put our stand on the Word of God. His friend read the address and immediately the leaders of the nation sent out orders to catch the rector and arrest Calvin. Calvin had to climb out the window of the house and get away. The next two two or three years he wandered, changing his names in every place he went. As a wandering evangelist through France.

Then a group of Protestants put up placards all over attacking the mass, and one of them was even fastened to the king's bed-chamber, to the door of his bed chamber. The king was so stirred and disgusted at that that he organized a great procession in Paris at which he and his three sons marched bare footed carrying lighted tapers and declaring their solid adherence to the church as it stood. He took 14 protestants and burned them publicly, and many others were seized. Calvin decided it was necessary to leave France. So he made his way across the border into Switzerland.

There in Switzerland, in a safe place in Basel, he set to work to try to tell the king who was helping the German protestants because of his hatred of the German emperor, that he had a completely wrong idea of these protestants! So Calvin got busy writing an open letter to the king of France, and a book which he called the Institutes of the Christian Religion. And this young man 26 yrs. of age, wrote this book in Latin in which he present in systematic, orderly fashion the views that the Reformers were presenting in various parts of Europe. He presented them in order to show which == that we are standing for true Christianity, we are standing by the Bible We are not like the king of France says, people who do disorderly things and cause upheaval and turn things over. That is not our purpose. Our purpose is to stand for what Christianity has always been. So he presented his Institutes of the Christian Religion. This was later translated from Latin into French and became a great French Classic.

His Institutes did not become widely spread among the common people like many of Luther's words did, but they were distributed and scholars all over Europe began to read them, and began to think highly of this young man, John Calvin. Calvin was then invited to go to Italy to become chaplain to a learned Dutchess in Italy. He was there a few months, and then came back to Switzerland in order to devote his life to study and writing. But as he went there was war between the king of France and the Emperor and so he found it necessary to pass through the town of Geneva on the way.

The town of Geneva had about 12,000 people in it. It was on the way between France and Italy, and it was known for its dissolute and debauchery. It was a place where people would come through and have all sorts of opportunities of for wickedness. But it was under the control of the Bishop for many years, and the Bishop had been rather tyrannical and the people had had a ~~rough~~ revolution against