

pleasant, and sweet. But many men agreed with Gibbon that it makes God a cruel and rapacious tyrant, and with Wm James that it is                      irrational, and mean. Even at that time those who said a man's will had no more to do with his destiny than a stick in a man's hand ~~aroused~~ aroused intense opposition. Erasmus argues that damnation given for inevitable crimes would make God unjust.

And he goes on this way for a distance. He says, The God of Calvin                      exclaimed Jerome                      is a hypocrite, a liar,                      unjust, a veteran                      of crimes, and worse than the devil himself." You can see from this how favorable Preservd Smith was to Calvin! But he continues in the next paragraph.

He says, There was another side to the doctrine. There was a certain moral grandeur in the complete abandonment to God and in the earnestness that was ready to sacrifice all to His will. If we judge the tree by its fruits, at its best it brought forth a strong and good grace. The noblest examples are not the theologians--Calvin and Knox--not only drunk with God but drugged with him, much less politicians like Henry Navare and William of Orange, but the rank and file of the Huegonots of France, the Puritans of England "the choice and sifted seed wherewith God sowed the wilderness" of America. These men bore themselves with I know not ~~of~~ what of lofty seriousness, and with a matchless distane of all mortal perils and all earthly grandeur. Believing themselves chosen vessels and elect instruments of grace, they could neither be seduced by carnal pleasure now awed by human might. Taught that they were kings by the election of God and priests by the imposition of his hands they despised the puny and vicious monarchs of this earth. They remained in fact what they always felt themselves to be an elete, the chosen few."

I thought after his caricature of what Calvinists believe that it was most in eresting to see his judgment of what its results had been in the followers of Calvin in many parts of Europe at that time and in later years.

Paul makes it very clear that it is up to s us to sow the seed, but that it is God who gives the fruitage. He tells us in 1 Cor. 3:6-7 how he planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase! How important it is that we be not upset by results but that we do our best faithfully to serve Him and realize that if we faithfully serve Him we will have the joy of seeing many results of our activities for Christ thought they may not be the results that we ourselves would have expected because it is God who gives the increase.

Now this does not mean at all that men are autonomous. There is a mystery there, but life is full of mysteries. Some scientists are coming more and more to realize this. It was taught (thought) by scientists a few years ago that everything could be explained by simple laws if we could discover those laws. But they have come more and more to realize in recent years that as they find matters that seem absolutely to contradict