



# **JOHN CALVIN AND THE INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE**

## **CALVIN STUDIES X AND XI**

Papers Presented at the 10th and 11th Colloquiums  
of the Calvin Studies Society  
at Columbia Theological Seminary

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After the 2002 conference, John H. Leith, fell critically ill. He died on August 12, 2002. This volume is dedicated to his memory, in appreciation for his contributions to the study of the theology of John Calvin and its heritage for the churches today.

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**The 11th Biennial Calvin Colloquium**

*John Calvin and the Interpretation of Scripture*

A Conference at Columbia Theological Seminary

March 1-2, 2002

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# Preface

These papers come from presentations at two conferences on the study of John Calvin's theology, January 28-29, 2000, and March 1-2, 2002, held at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. The programs included Friday evening meals and dinner programs in the Richards Center refectory on the Seminary Campus. Participants enjoyed good conversation, nurtured by a love of Calvin's theology and standing friendships. The combination of commitment to the worship and work of the church in the Reformed traditions with stimulating reflection on its main theological origins made for gatherings remarkable for their combination of faith seeking understanding and nurture as well as personal delight in common sharing.

Davidson College Presbyterian Church and Davidson College formerly hosted these conferences, attended by pastors, seminary, college, and university teachers, and quite a large number of church lay people. In 1982, Dr. John H. Leith, Pemberton Professor of Historical Theology, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, was president of the North American Calvin Studies Society and wanted to supplement the meetings in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with others on alternate years. Through his wide connections and friendships in the worldwide community of Calvin scholarship, nine conferences, meeting every other year from 1982 to 1998, brought outstanding scholars and encouraged younger students to join together in the widespread renewal of Calvin studies.

In 1999, when the editor came to Columbia Theological Seminary, President Douglas Oldenburg and Academic Dean James Hudnut-Beumler, very much wanted the conferences to continue on the campus. Two years later, President Laura Shelton Mendenhall and Academic Dean D. Cameron Murchison warmly supported the March 1-2, 2002 conference. In addition to outstanding presenters from North America, visiting scholars from Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom shared their research in lively ways that engendered enthusiastic responses. Columbia Seminary faculty members attended and presided over the sessions. Visitors enjoyed the hospitality of the Campus and meeting each other in a new setting.

The papers are printed as they were given. The presentation of Robert Kingdon, "Worship in Geneva Before and After the Reformation," from the January 2000 conference, is published in *Worship in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, edited by Karin Maag and John D. Witvliet (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004), pp. 41-60.