

Calvin Studies VI

My father was an instance of what I think was commoner among the Puritans than is generally supposed—a stiff dogmatic theology which in practice was mellowed by common sense and kindness and was conjoined with a perpetual delight in the innocent pleasures of life. He was like that seventeenth-century Scots minister who besought his flock to thank God, if for nothing else, for a good day for the lambs. He could preach a tough doctrinal sermon with anybody; but his discourses which remain in my memory were those spoken at the close of the half-yearly Communion, when he invited his hearers, very simply and solemnly, to share his own happiness.

For he was above all things a happy man. Straited means and laborious life did not weaken his relish for common joys. He found acute delight in the simplest things, for he savoured them with a clean palate. Like the old preacher he could exclaim, 'All this—and heaven too.' He had always the background of an assured faith to correct man's sense of the fragility of his hopes. Also he had none of the little fears and frustrations which are apt to cloud enjoyment. I do not think that he was afraid of anything—except of finding himself in a majority. He was wholly without ambition. He did not know the meaning of class-consciousness; he would have stood confidently before kings, and was quite incapable of deferring to anybody except the very old and the very poor. He was not, I suppose, the conventional saint, for he was not overmuch interested in his own soul. But he was something of the apostle, and, if it be virtue to diffuse a healing grace and to lighten the load of all who cross your path, then he was the best man I have ever known.

Presented at a Colloquium on
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at
Davidson College
and
Davidson College Presbyterian Church
Davidson, North Carolina

John H. Leith
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Cover Quotation

John Buchan: *Pilgrim Way* p. 251.

Suggested by Edward A. Dowey who heard this paragraph quoted
by Robert E. Speer in Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	ii
John Calvin: The Mystery of His Impact	1
<i>Heiko A. Oberman, University of Arizona</i>	
The First Pietist: An Introduction and Translation of a Communion Sermon by Jodocus van Lodenstein.....	15
<i>Iain S. Maclean, South America</i>	
Calvin's Understanding of Psalm-Singing as a Means of Grace.....	35
<i>Ross J. Miller, Trinity United Methodist Church, Eugene, Oregon</i>	
Music and the Spirit: Psalm-Singing in Calvin's Liturgy	49
<i>Ross J. Miller, Trinity United Methodist Church, Eugene, Oregon</i>	
Reflections on Calvin's Catechetics	59
<i>P. Mark Achtemeier, Graduate Studies, Duke University</i>	
An Intermediate Brilliance: The Words of Institution and the Gift of Knowledge in Calvin's Eucharistic Theology	77
<i>Thomas J. Davis</i> <i>Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University</i>	
Death, Funerals and Prayers for the Dead in Calvin's Theology.....	87
<i>Donald K. McKim, Editor, Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith</i>	
John Calvin on Theatrical Trifles in Worship	99
<i>Richard A. Ray, First Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Tennessee</i>	
Biblical Wisdom Theology and Calvin's Understanding of the Lord's Supper.....	111
<i>Hughes Oliphant Old, Trenton, New Jersey</i>	
Calvin's Theology of Pastoral Care	137
<i>David Willis-Watkins, Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	

PREFACE

The Sixth Colloquium on Calvin Studies met at Davidson College Presbyterian Church January 17 and 18, 1992. The papers given at the Colloquium are printed in this collection.

Candid shots of some participants and the group picture were made by Joel Mattison, M.D., of Tampa, Florida, who achieved distinction as a photographer of Albert Schweitzer, and by Charles Raynal.

Professor Edward Dowey of Princeton was unable at the last moment to attend. He sent a statement of his concern for the publication in contemporary English translation of some of the works of Heinrich Bullinger of Zurich. Professor Dowey proposed printing new translations of a selection of sermons and a translation of the *Summa* from the German text. Support was enthusiastic for this project.

The Colloquium has no membership or dues. The Colloquium and the printing of the papers have been subsidized by the generosity of Frank Harrington and the Peachtree Presbyterian Church of Atlanta; by the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, especially Jerold Shetler, Charles Myers, Mrs. Thornton Brooks, Richardson Preyer and Edward Mack; by Mrs. Ellis Whitehead of Dalton, Georgia; and William Cockrill of Fairhope, Alabama.

The Session of the Davidson College Presbyterian Church and Charles Raynal, its pastor together with Davidson College and John Kuykendall, its President, supported the Colloquium with their facilities and presence.

Richard Burt, Professor of Psychology Emeritus, Davidson College, and Annamarie Burt made local arrangements for the Colloquium and for the refreshments that contributed much to the joy of the occasion.

Carol Barber of the Davidson College Presbyterian Church has managed the finances of the Colloquium through the Davidson College Presbyterian Church office.

Dr. James Goodloe took responsibility for a bookstore during the Colloquium.

Michael Bush, minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia has read proofs for the articles and arranged details of the printing.

Angela Basmajian typed and prepared the papers for printing with skill and cordial good humor.

Members of the Colloquium are grateful to all who made this Colloquium a happy as well as profitable occasion.

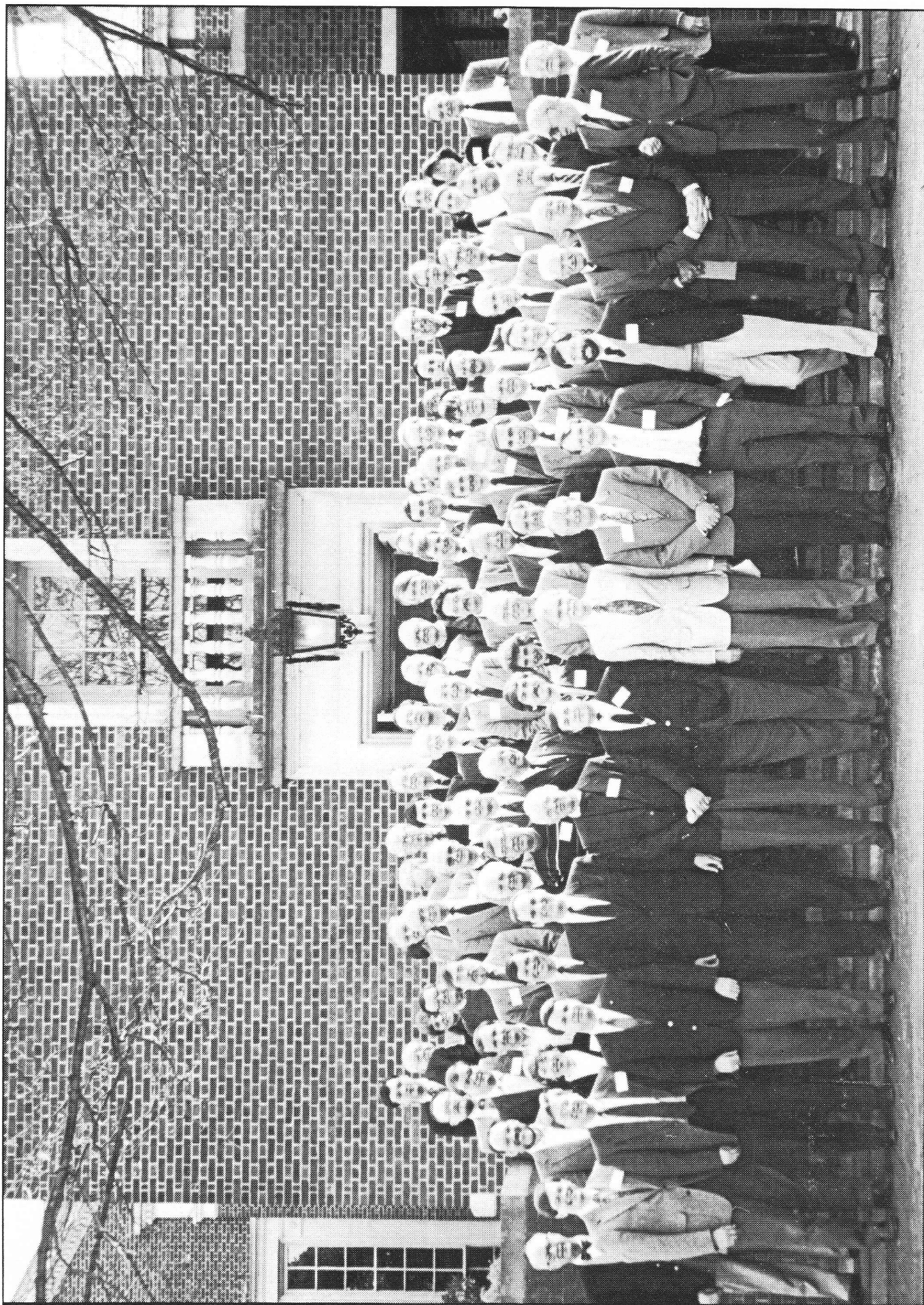
John H. Leith
August 1992



Heiko Oberman



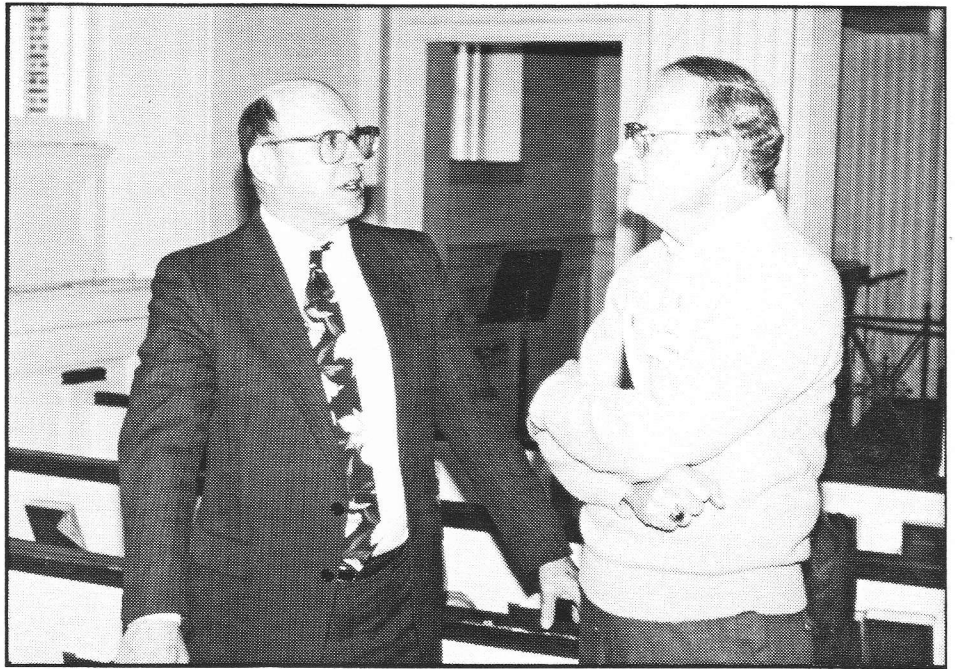
Hughes Old



Members of the Colloquium on the chapel steps at Davidson College Presbyterian Church

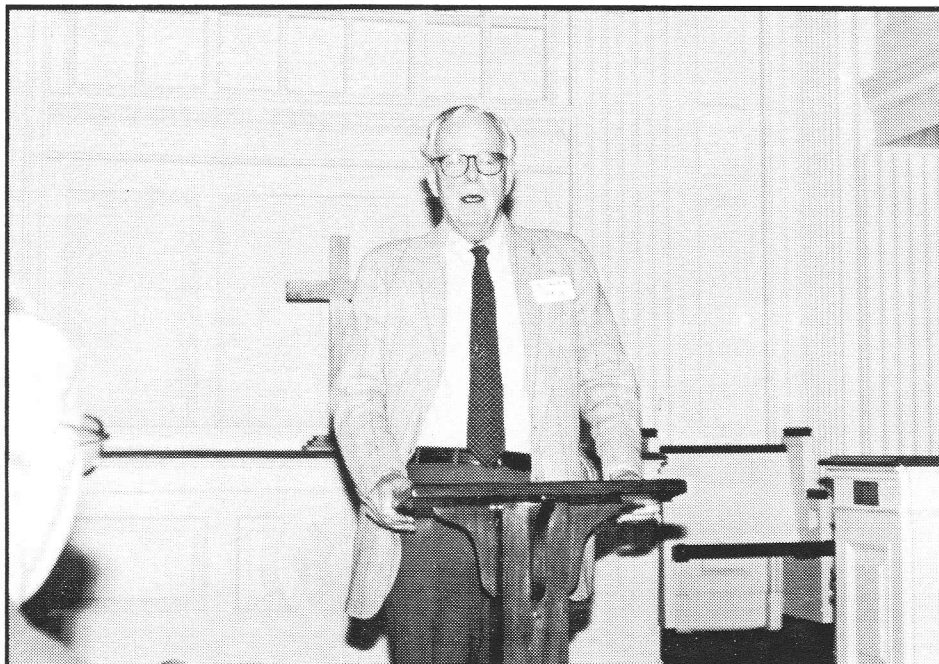
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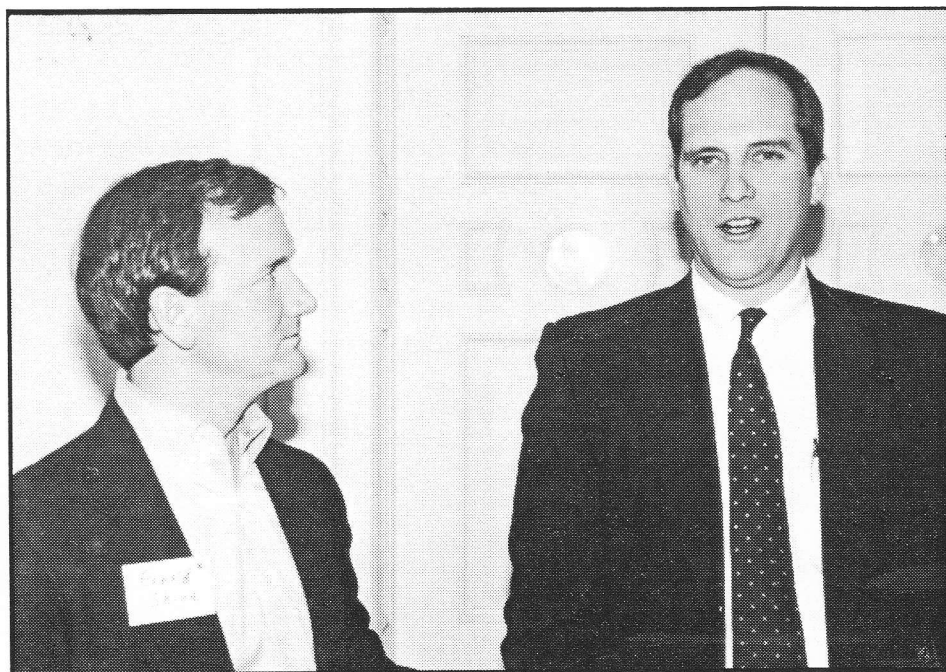
Ronald Frye



Elsie McKee

William Klemper

John H. Leith



*Ronald Shive
John Debeviose*

Stacy Johnson



*Members of the Colloquium
taking a break*