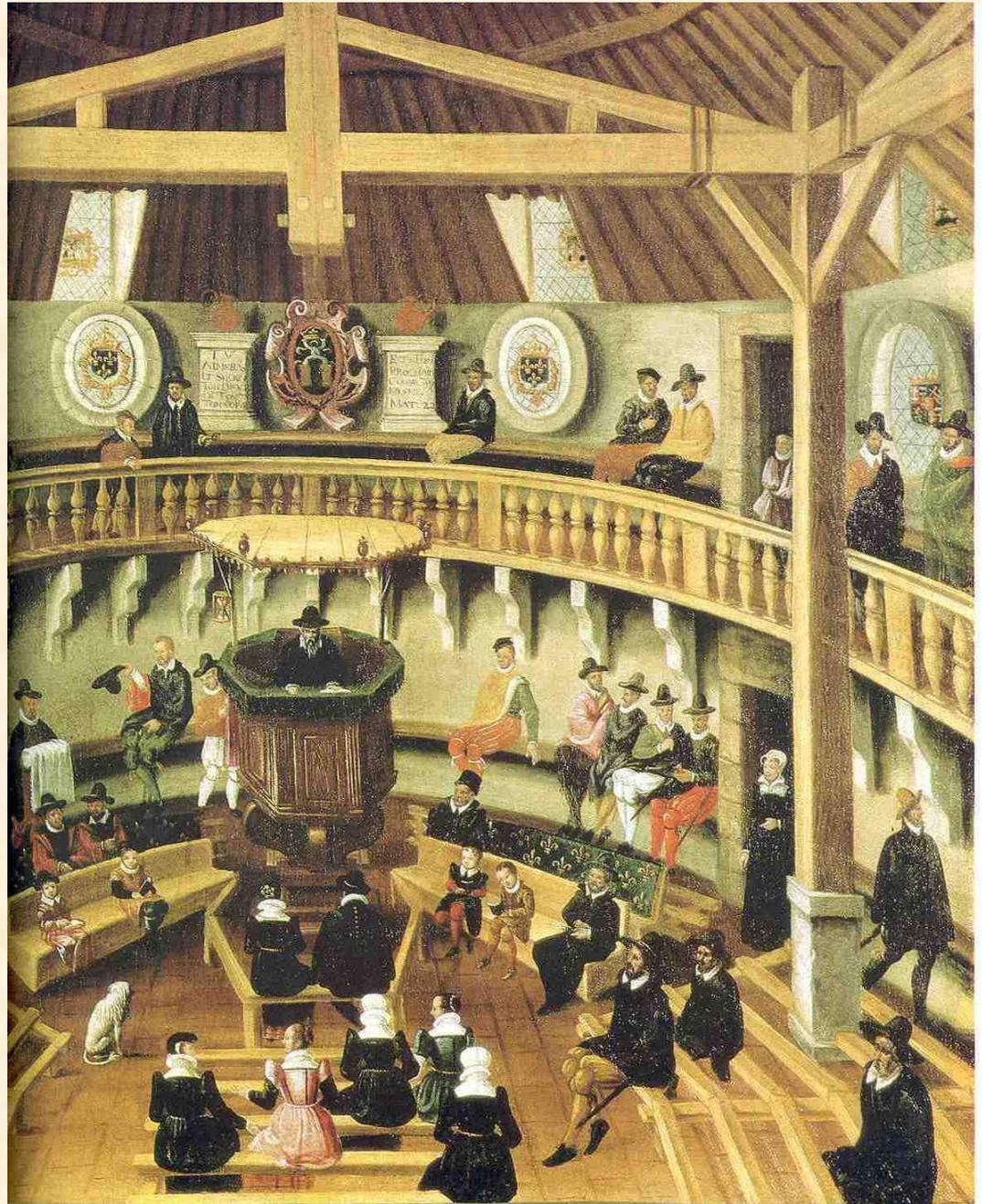


# Calvinism: On Fire & World Changing

Randy Broberg  
History of the Church  
Maranatha Chapel  
September 12, 2011



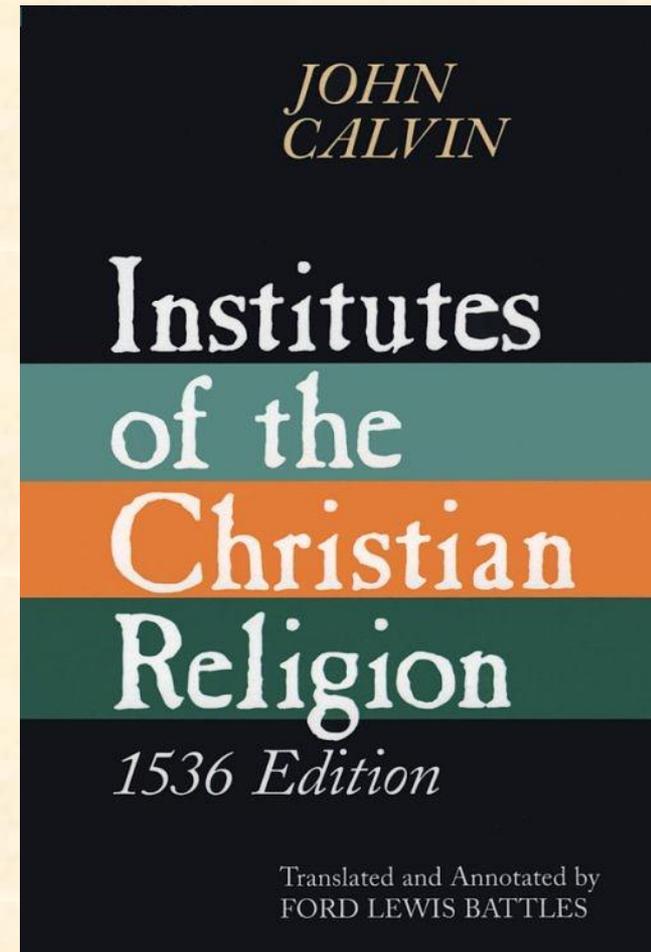
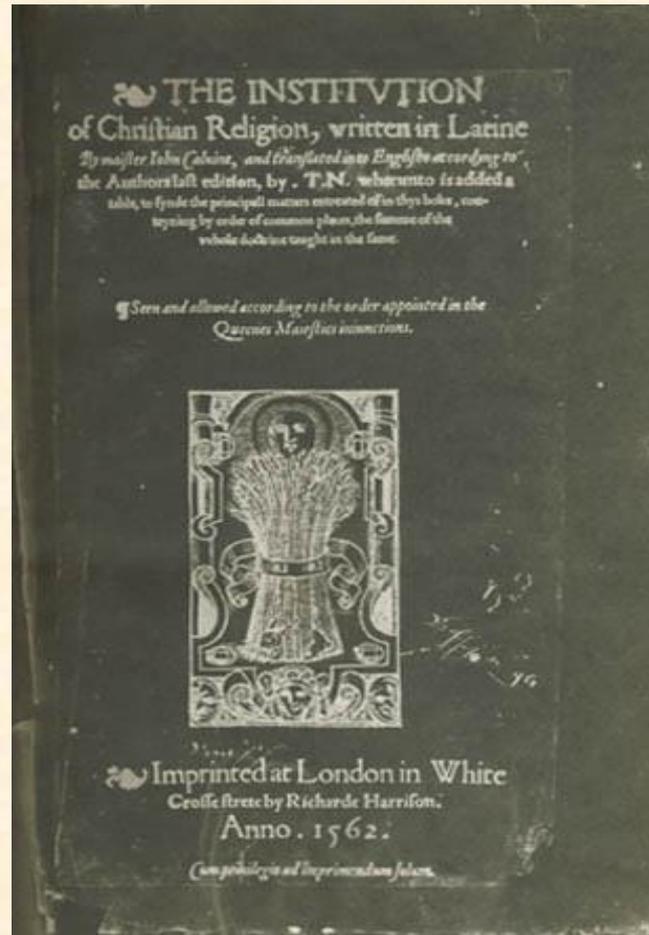
# Avoid Misconceptions and Anachronisms!

- Calvin wasn't a "dictator" or a "theocrat".
- Calvin didn't create "TULIP"
- Calvin wasn't a "Presbyterian"
- Calvin didn't clearly teach "Covenant Theology" (Replacement Theology)
- Calvin wasn't a "Puritan"
- Calvin wasn't clearly "Amillennial"
- Calvin wasn't a "capitalist"
- Calvin wasn't a "democrat"
- Modern notions of "free will" and "determinism"
- Calvin, in my view, wasn't "Calvinist" as that term has become commonly used today.



# Calvin's Four (not 5) Points!!!

- *Institutes of the Christian Religion* : Four “Books”
  1. Know God: Just and Loving
  2. Know Yourself: Sinner who needs saving
  3. Know Christ and his work. Rely on that, not works
  4. Live a life as part of his Body, the Church
- IT'S NOT TULIP!!



The 1536 Edition was the first one and it's short enough to read from front to back

# Calvin on the Supper:

The Lord's Supper is "a spiritual banquet, wherein Christ attests himself to be the life-giving bread, upon which our souls feed unto true and blessed immortality."

(Institutes, Vol. II, p. 1360)



# Calvin on Infant Baptism



- “It is now clear, how false the doctrine is which some long ago taught, and others still persist in, that by baptism we are exempted and set free from original sin....”
- “children who happen to depart this life before an opportunity of immersing them in water, are not excluded from the kingdom of heaven.
- ... The sacrament is afterwards ***added as a kind of seal***, not to give efficacy to the promise, as if in itself invalid, but merely to confirm it to us. Hence it follows, that the children of believers are not baptized, in order that though formerly aliens from the Church, they may then, for the first time, become children of God, but rather ***are received into the Church by a formal sign, because, in virtue of the promise, they previously belonged to the body of Christ.***”
- BUT: “***But from this sacrament, as from all others, we gain nothing, unless in so far as we receive in faith..***”

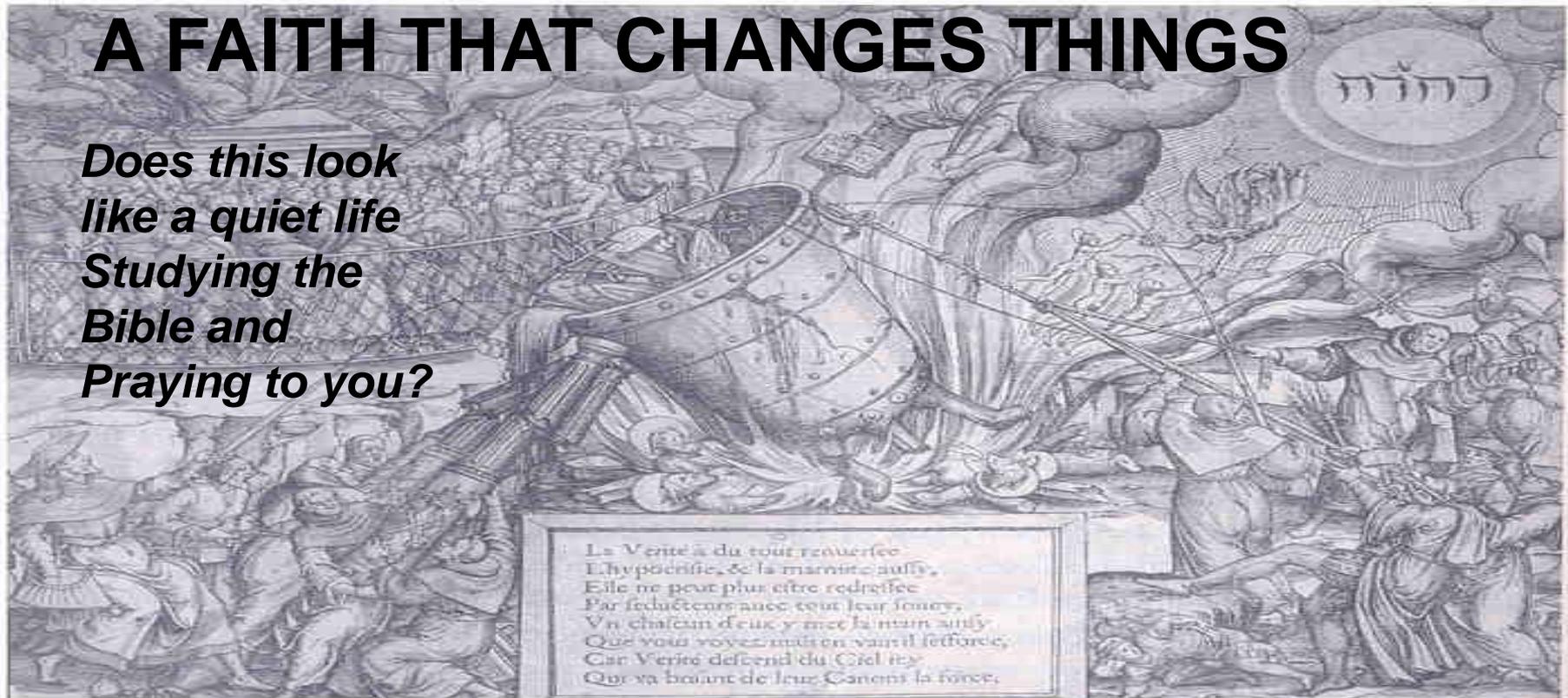
# Calvin on Church/State

- John Calvin saw all governments as institutions whose aim was to glorify God.
- Jesus Christ is the ruler of both the temporal and spiritual kingdoms.
- In Calvin's view the **State has "the divinely appointed task of fostering the church, protecting it from false doctrine, and punishing offenders for whose crimes excommunication is insufficient."** (Walker, p. 475)



# A FAITH THAT CHANGES THINGS

*Does this look  
like a quiet life  
Studying the  
Bible and  
Praying to you?*



4. “The Overturning of the Great Marmite.” This colored woodcut that circulated widely in France early in 1562 expresses the optimism felt by many recent converts in that year that the Catholic Church’s days were numbered. It compresses into a single image many common themes of the printed propaganda for the cause: that a corrupt Catholic clergy kept believers in the dark the better to profit from their ignorance, that the restored light of the Gospel could overcome this, and that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church. From the tetragrammaton in the upper right—a symbol for God used by Reformed artists from the 1520s onward to avoid depicting the divinity in human form—the Bible descends borne by the Holy Spirit to topple the stewpot filled with the false wares of the Roman church (papal bulls, indulgences, cardinal’s hats, etc.). The suffering of martyrs in the fire beneath the stewpot also helps to crack it. In vain, an array of churchmen strain to keep it afloat when they are not fishing more benefices from it or turning away to caress their womenfolk. In the upper left, other churchmen keep the laity blindfolded and fenced off from the truth. At the very top left corner, the Pope topples from his throne. (Cliché Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris)

# Iconoclasm Characterizes Calvinism But Also Zwinglianism and Anabaptism



• John Calvin said, "Images cannot stand in the place of books," and he whitewashed the walls of Reformed churches in Geneva.





TIS AL VERIBREN, GHEB EEN, OFT GESCHETEN  
 ICK HEB DE BESTE CANSE GHESTREKEN  
 1566

LAET ONS WEL BIDDEN SONDER OPHELDEN

OCH DAT ONS HEERDOM TE MEER MACH GEIDEN

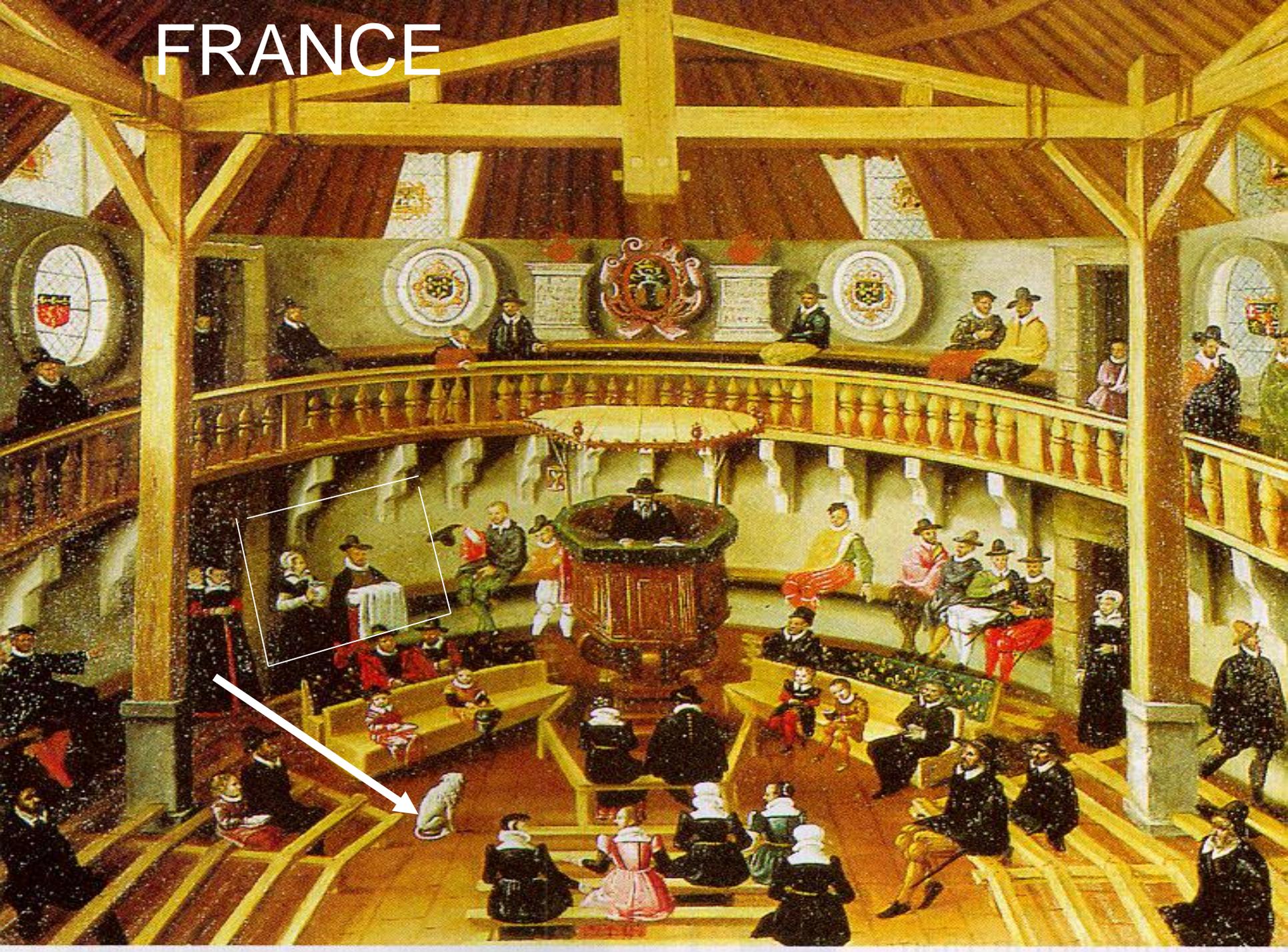
LAET ONS RAS KEREN EN WORDEN NIET MOE

WANT EELIE DEES CREMEKIE HOORT DEN DVYVEL TOE

## What idols need smashing today?

6. Emblematic Print of the Iconoclasm. This Netherlandish print contemporary to the events of 1566 depicts the Beggars on the right (many wearing at their belts the beggar's bowls adopted as the symbol of the cause) engaged in what is presented as a cleansing operation. The statues, chalices, and other objects of the church that they pull down and sweep away are said by the caption to belong to the devil. On the left Catholic clergymen pray to the pope, seated like the whore of Babylon atop a seven-headed beast, to preserve their sanctuary, but above them the devil carries away more crucifixes, croziers, and censers and admits in the caption that the game is up, whether they pray or shit. (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)

# FRANCE



# Calvinism spreads through Europe

*In Just a Few Years*

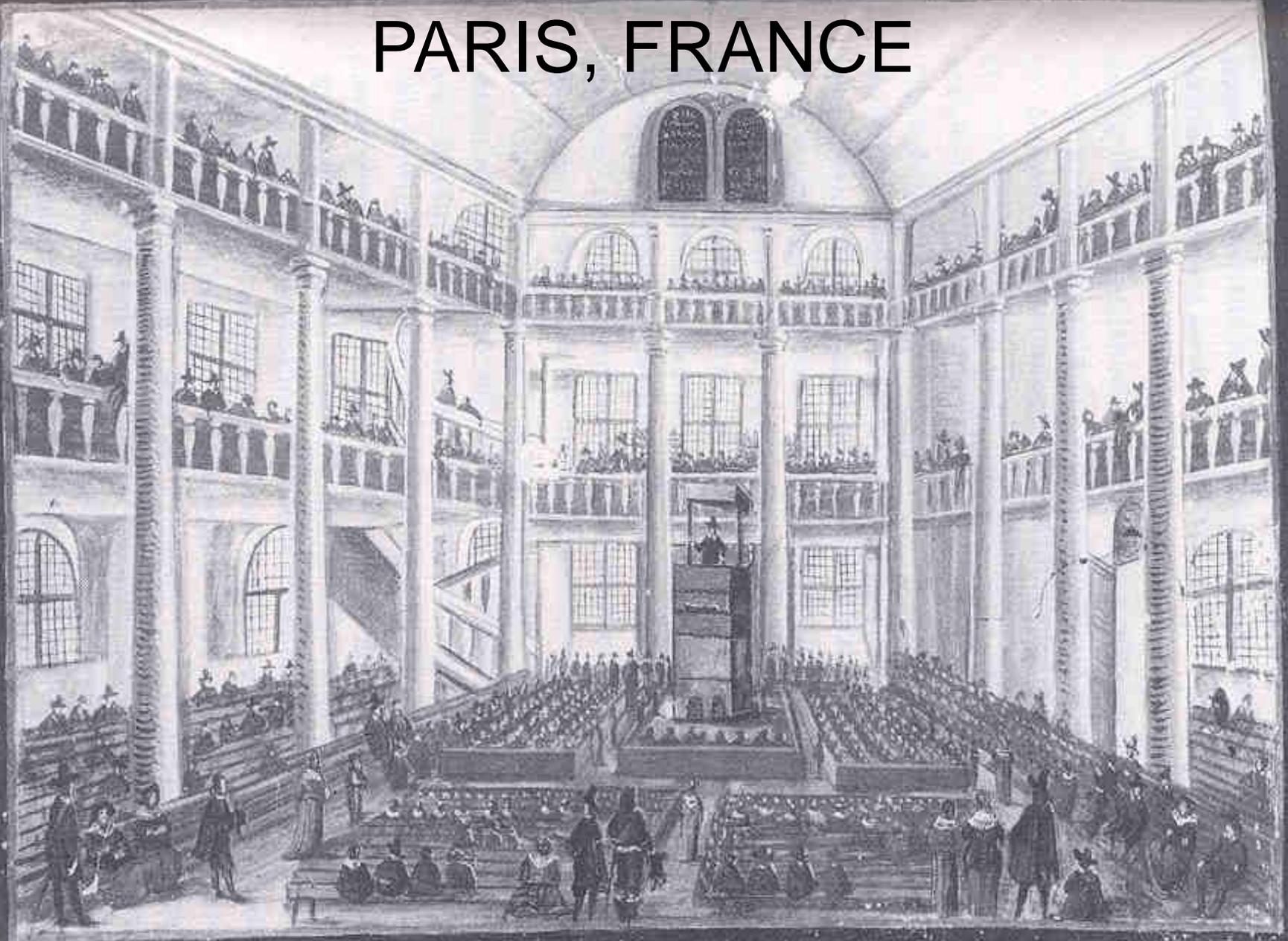
- Switzerland- Swiss Reformed Church
- Netherlands- Dutch Reformed Church
- France- Dominant Protestant Group (Huguenots)
- Scotland- John Knox brought Calvinism to Scotland and it became the Presbyterian Church
- England- Puritans



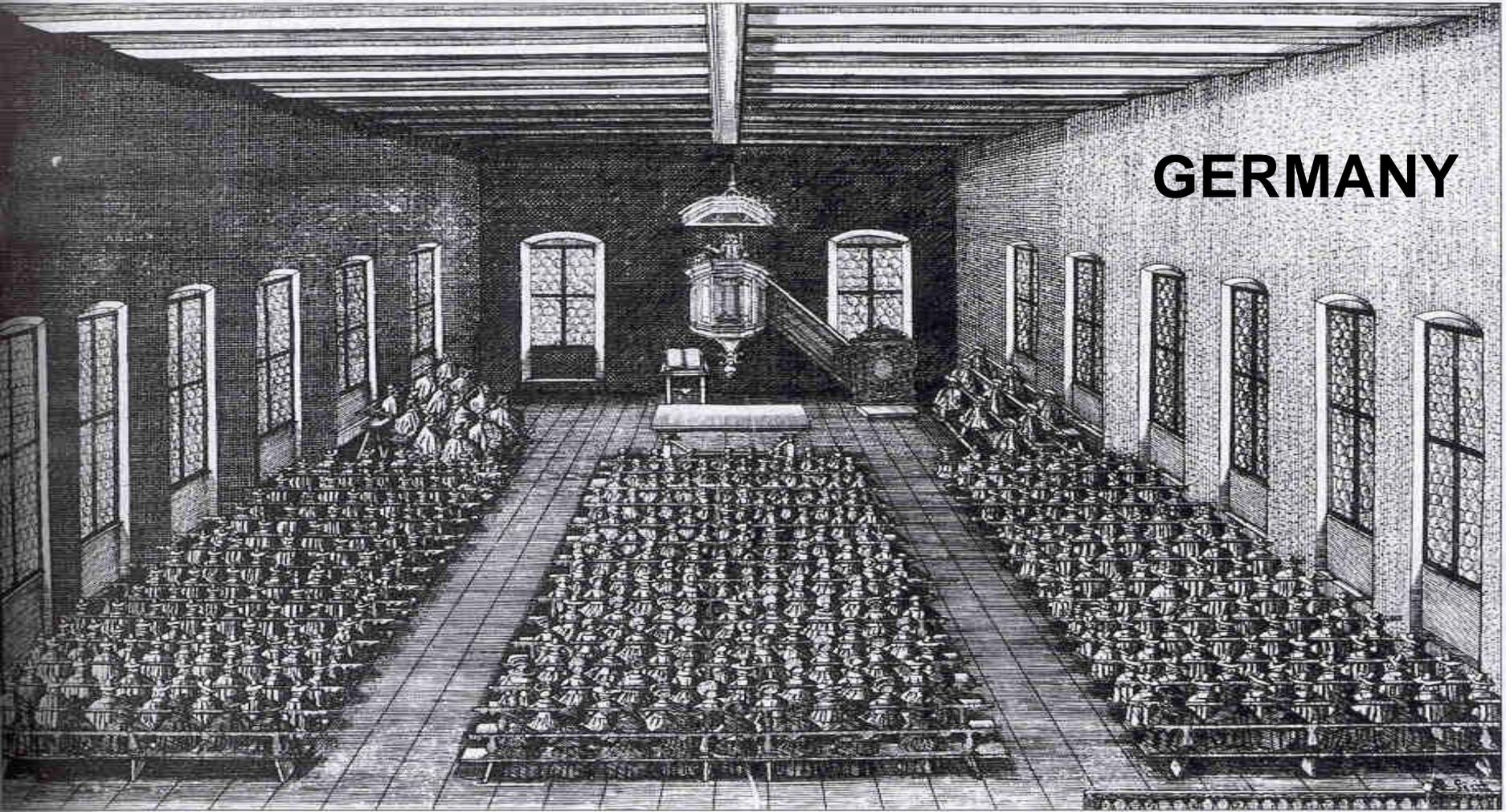
MAP 11-3 THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION ABOUT 1560 *By 1560 Luther, Zwingli, and Loyola were dead, Calvin near the end of his life, the English break from Rome fully accomplished, and the last session of the Council of Trent about to assemble. Here is the religious geography of western Europe then.*

TEMPLE DE SAINT ANTOINE

# PARIS, FRANCE



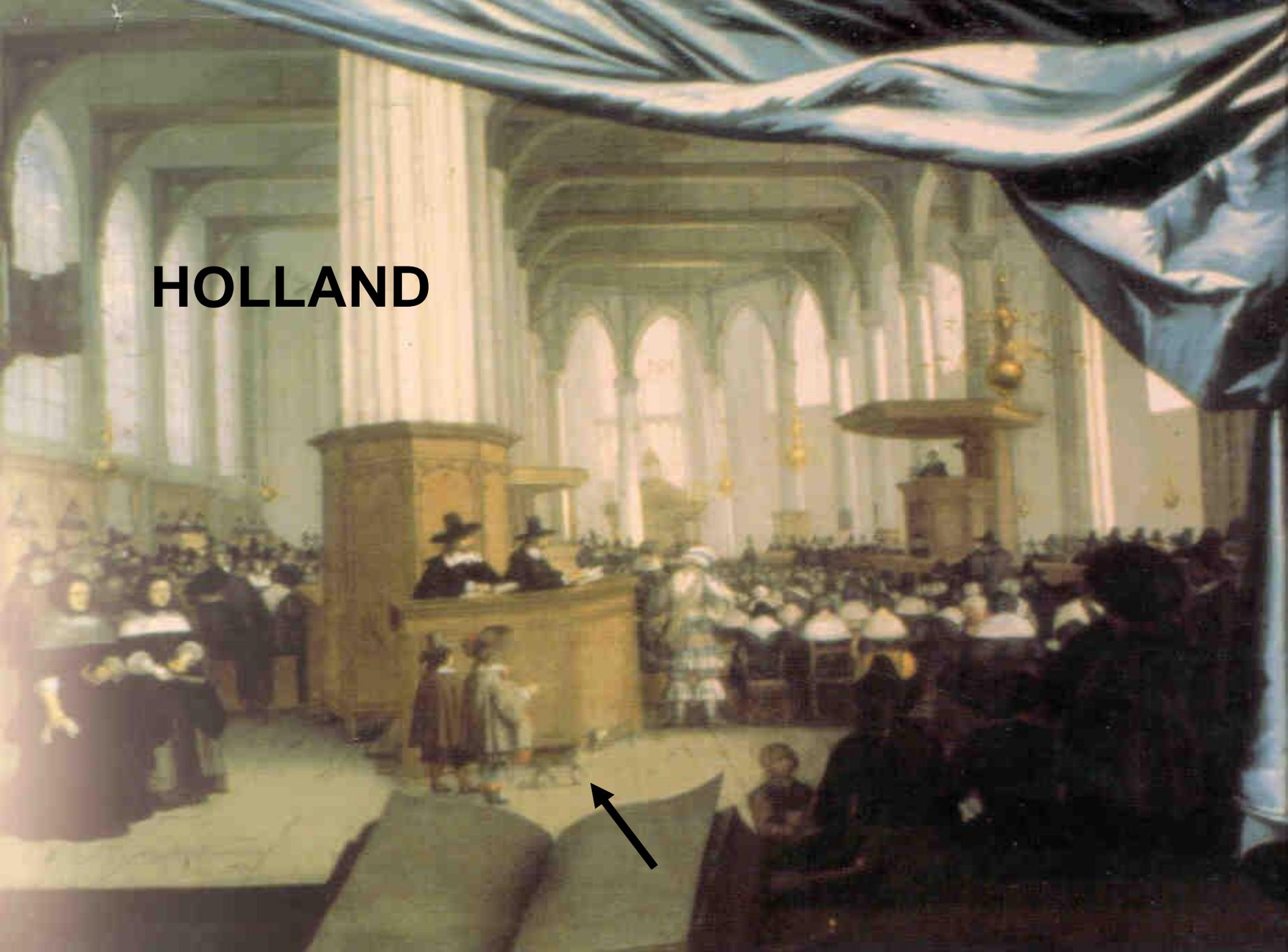
*A stark contrast to the baroque style, this seventeenth-century Calvinist church in the Palatinate has no interior decoration to distract the worshiper from the Word of God. The intent was to create an atmosphere of quiet introspection and reflection on one's spiritual life and God's Word. [German National Museum, Nuremburg]*



## GERMANY

- Worship followed an established schedule and acquired an educational character. The faithful sat quietly in pews (a recent introduction) and listened attentively.

**HOLLAND**



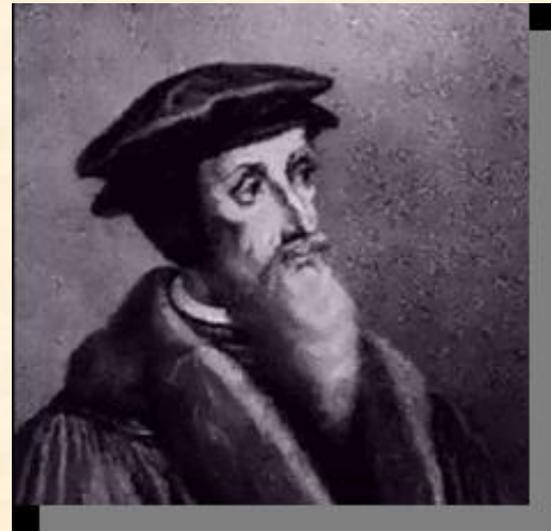
# How Did It Spread So Fast?

- God's outpouring of the Spirit of course! But from human point of view, how did it spread so fast and so far?
  1. **Daily** Teaching and Preaching, saturation in the Word of God changed people!
  2. **Missionaries, lots and lots of them!**
    - Geneva's Academy for Pastors and Missionaries
      - Established 1559
      - 450 students in first year
      - 1,500 students in 1564!
      - 100+ missionaries commissioned per year!
    - Lausanne, Berne, Heidelberg.
  3. **A Self Supporting Financial Policy**

# “Total Depravity”?

- ***Calvin's understanding of Christianity is thus in many ways gentler than has been commonly supposed.*** This is also shown in his understanding of original sin.
- Although he insisted on the “total depravity” of human nature after the Fall, he did not mean by this that there is nothing good left in human beings but rather that there is no agency within the personality left untouched by the Fall on which to depend for salvation.
- *Encyclopedia Britannica*

“It is always necessary to come back to this, that God never created a man on whom he did not imprint his image.”



# Effects of Sin

- Human beings thus experience the effects of sin as drowsiness when they should be alert, as apathy when they should feel concern, as sloth when they should be diligent, as coldness when they should be warm, as weakness when they need strength.
- Thus also, since the Devil, who seeks to drain human beings of their God-given spirituality, tries to lull them to sleep, God must employ various stratagems to awaken them.
- *Encyclopedia Britannica*

# Calvin On the Bondage of the Will

•“Because of the **bondage of sin by which the will is held bound, it cannot move toward the good**, much less apply itself thereto; for a movement of this sort is the beginning of conversion to God, which in Scripture is ascribed entirely to God’s grace.” *Institutes*, 2.3.5



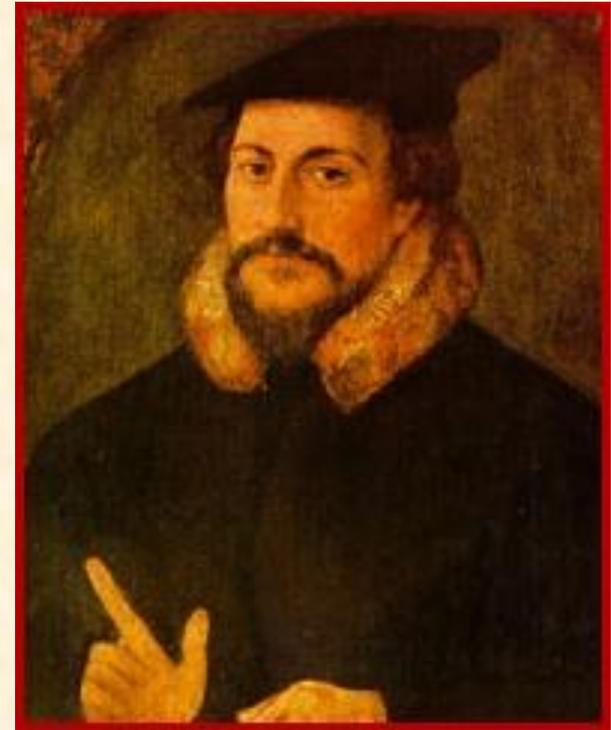
# Calvin On *Quickening Grace*

- Faith is gift by which human beings are enabled to accept the central elements of the Gospel—the Incarnation and Atonement, the grace available through them.
- sanctification results
- human beings are enabled, step by step, to recover their original relationship with God and regain the energy coming from it.
- Calvin described this as a “quickenings” that, in effect, brings the believer back from death to life and makes possible the most strenuous exertion in God's service.
- *Encyclopedia Britannica*



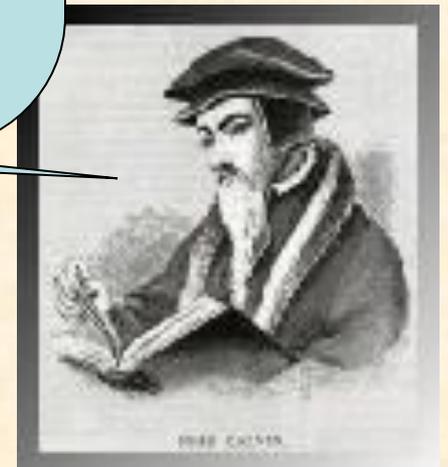
# Is the Essence of Calvinism the Doctrine of Predestination?

- NO!
- He wasn't alone, e.g. Luther and Zwingli!
- He wasn't the first, e.g. Aquinas and Augustine!
- This concept of "Calvinism" came later.
- "Contrary to a general impression, Calvin's understanding of predestination was also virtually identical with Luther's (and indeed is close to that of Thomas Aquinas); and, although Calvin may have stated it more emphatically, *the issue itself is not of central importance to his theology*. He considered it a great mystery, to be approached with fear and trembling and only in the context of faith. Seen in this way, *predestination seemed to him a comforting doctrine; it meant that salvation would be taken care of by a loving and utterly reliable God.*"
- *Encyclopedia Britannica*



# The *Active* Sovereignty of God

•“He is accounted omnipotent, not because he is able to act, yet sits down in idleness, or continues by a general instinct the order of nature originally appointed by him; but because he regulates all things in such a manner that nothing happens but according to his counsel.”



# Conclusions and Questions



# Where was God on 9/11?

## 9/11 Facts

- 9/11 happened
- 9/11 was intentional
- 9/11 was evil



# God's Existence and 9/11

## **God Conclusions**

1. God exists but he didn't see it coming.
2. God exists but he couldn't stop it.
3. God exists but he allowed it.
4. God does not exist

# How Could God Let 9/11 Happen?

## God Facts

- God Exists
- God is Omniscient– he saw it coming
- God is Omnipotent– he could have stopped it.
- God is Loving
- God is Just
- God is Sovereign
- Free will does not answer the question

# The Bible's Answers

- God never promises life without death.
- God never promises no pain or suffering.
- Death, pain and suffering afflict us all and the whole creation.
- God created the earth and it was good.
- Pain, suffering and death are the result of sin, not God.
- God does promise an eternity without pain or death to all who believe.
- All mankind will be resurrected and have victory over death, but will be judged according to their works.