


# The Expository Genius of John Calvin

*Steven J. Lawson*

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## **The Expository Genius of John Calvin** Steven J. Lawson

“The aim of this book is to raise the bar for a new generation of expositors.”

—Steven J. Lawson

Looking to the past for outstanding Bible-based, Christ-centered, and life-changing preaching, Dr. Steven J. Lawson focuses on sixteenth-century Geneva, Switzerland. It was there that John Calvin ministered for decades as a faithful shepherd to a flock of believers.

Here is an intimate portrait of Calvin the preacher—the core beliefs that determined his preaching style, the steps he took to prepare to preach, and the techniques he used in handling the Word of God, interpreting it, and applying it to his congregation. In the pulpit ministry of the great Reformer, Dr. Lawson finds inspiration and guidance for today’s church and calls on modern pastors to follow the Reformer’s example of strong expository preaching.

“I heartily recommend this book by Steven Lawson as an impetus to the recovery of expository preaching. It is an especially good gift for pastors and seminary students.”

—R.C. Sproul

## **The Expository Genius of John Calvin Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Expository Genius of John Calvin for online ebook**

### **Rodrigo D'Cristo says**

Mais um excelente livro da coleção Homens Piedosos. Nesta edição, Lawson aborda várias questões concernentes a forma de pregar de Calvino, e também o zelo que o mesmo teve pela pregação do evangelho, deixando para nós um legado enorme. Se você é um pregador do evangelho e deseja saber mais sobre a pregação expositiva, essa leitura é indispensável.

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### **Philip Mcduffie says**

Lawson reveals the preaching of Calvin in a way that is extremely applicable for any preacher. The Genevan reformer cannot be imitated on many things, but one can take some very helpful advice on Calvin's approach before and during his time in the pulpit exalting the majesty of the God of heaven and earth.

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### **Adam Packer says**

Interesting format that I was not expecting as I started the book. One of Reformation Trust's Long Line of Godly Men books, the focus on one characteristic of Calvin's ministry was rather eye opening. Seeing what went into just one message preached by this man was both encouraging and convicting.

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### **Mathew Nix says**

The beginning of the book was a biography of Calvin, and this was the part that interested me most. After this, the rest of the book is primarily geared towards preachers as it offers insights into the methods utilized by Calvin to preach the Word properly. Thus, this book is definitely best for that intended audience. For all others, like me, who do not preach, there are still some good insights for improving one's own Bible study techniques that can be drawn from this.

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### **Doug Newell says**

Good and brief study of the life and preaching theory of John Calvin. Blessed and encouraged.

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### **Douglas Wilson says**

This is a very fine, compact handling of John Calvin's attitude toward the Scriptures, and the duties of the faithful preacher in expositing the Scriptures. This is a good one, particularly recommended to preachers.

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## **Derek Brown says**

Steve Lawson, senior pastor at Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama, has started a project - a big project. The project, "A Long Line of Godly Men" is a book series that will survey the doctrines of grace as they have been taught and defended from the time of Moses, to the apostle John, to Augustine, to Luther and Calvin, to Warfield, to present day teachers such as A.W. Pink, Martyn Lloyd Jones, John Piper and John MacArthur. The first installment of this series entitled Foundations of Grace (1400 BC - AD 100) resides on my reading list and hopefully will soon be plundered!

Companion to this series are Lawson's "Long Line of Godly Men Profiles." The first book from this Profile series is "The Expository Genius of John Calvin." In this meaty little book, Lawson, after a short overview of Calvin's birth, early life and conversion, first examines his approach to the pulpit. Here we learn that Calvin's unwavering belief in Biblical authority profoundly shaped his preaching ministry. Calvin himself stated, "We own to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God because it proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it" (27). It was this foundational conviction that propelled and shaped Calvin's ministry. When Calvin went to the pulpit, it was to preach the actual words of God.

Lawson continues from here to outline a total of 32 distinctives of Calvin's preaching, examining everything from Calvin's preparation for the pulpit to the actual sermons themselves. Lawson looks at how Calvin introduced his messages, with what care Calvin took to ensure his message was truly and consistently from the text of Scripture, how he applied the truth to his hearers, and how he concluded his messages. At the end of each chapter, Lawson offers a short prayer to God to raise up men who will be characterized by the previous distinctives he had just laid out in that particular chapter, thus demonstrating that this is not, for Lawson, merely an interesting walk through church history - it is a longing for men of this generation to be found boldly, accurately, and passionately preaching the Word and only the Word.

Lawson is not seeking Calvin clones - Calvin was in his own league - but he is endeavoring to provide preachers with a glimpse of what made this man great, so that we might learn from him and thus become better preachers ourselves for the glory of God and the good of our people. This is an edifying and helpful little book and I recommend it to you.

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## **Kin Wei says**

This short book is easy to read as the author leads the reader through different aspects of the preaching methods of Calvin: What the famous preacher thought of the ministry of the pulpit (chapter 2), the preacher himself (ch. 3), beginning the sermon (ch. 4), how to handle the text (ch. 5), giving form to the content (ch. 6), the application of the truth (ch. 7) and how to conclude the sermon (ch. 8).

This book is a plea to preachers to prepare their sermons and preach in the style and disposition of Calvin.

I think the book gives good arguments why contemporary preachers should become "Calvins", because Calvin's heart was all about elevating the Word of God and the glory of God. His method of preparing sermons and preaching was an overflow of that conviction.

The only critique I might have on this book, is how Calvin is portrayed. It's like he's almost perfect. Of course the authors purpose in writing this book isn't to give the reader a complete biography of Calvin, but only to zoom into his preaching ministry. In that aspect, maybe Calvin was almost flawless and worthy of imitating.

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### **Peter N. says**

2009 Review: Whether or not you like this book probably depends on what you are looking for. If you are looking for a detailed look at Calvin's preaching you will need to go elsewhere. I might suggests T.H.L Parker's book on Calvin's Preaching. Lawson's book is great for a quick review of the main aspects of Calvin's preaching. When I need direction for my preaching, whether delivery or preparation or the conclusion, I can pull out Lawson's book and get some quick input. It is almost like a reference book for sermon preparation and delivery. I found very helpful and continue to enjoy it.

2016 Review: I read this again before recommending it to someone. My 2009 review is about right. Lawson lists 32 distinctive parts of Calvin's preaching from preparation to introduction to exposition to delivery to application and ending with conclusion. There are too many words like "soaring" and "majestic." He is too effusive. But the book is still excellent as a quick primer on preaching. I was particularly convicted on the matter of Biblical authority and simplicity in preaching.

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### **James Sturge says**

#### **Páginas con contenido profundo e inspirador**

Una lectura rápida de cómo Calvino manejaba Las Escrituras para su grey. La forma en que bosquejaba sus disertaciones de la Palabra de Dios, nos muestra que los pastores hoy en día no muestran tal compromiso con La Palabra de Dios, tal como lo hizo éste hombre de Dios, y que hoy en día es ejemplo para muchos que buscan poner Las Escrituras como prioridad en las congregaciones.

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### **Joel Gass says**

This book really encourages the reader to pour everything into sermon prep. Thank You Steve Lawson!

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### **Wesley Rea says**

A great follow-up to the Martin Luther book. Covered a great detail of Calvin's life and helped me learn some surprising facts about his personal life. This really helped to raise my respect for the great -yet often misunderstood - preacher even more.

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### **Jason Holt says**

Although I'm not a John Calvin fan, this book gave a very intriguing insight into his pulpit ministry. No doubt there is much that can be learned here for every preacher.

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### **Jónatas Lopes says**

Muito bom

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### **Brandon Zaffini says**

Very good

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