

May 17, 2009

Dear Friends of the Foundation:

Last week, we began to look Calvin's understanding of faith as knowledge, which he sets forth in Book III, chapter 2 of the *Institutes*.

Before he leaves the topic of faith, Calvin also writes of hope as faith directed toward the future:

Hope is nothing else than the expectation of those things which faith has believed to have been truly promised by God. Thus, faith believes God to be true, hope awaits the time when his truth shall be manifested; faith believes that he is our Father; hope anticipates that he will ever show himself to be a Father toward us; faith believes that eternal life has been given to us, hope anticipates that it will some time be revealed; faith is the foundation upon which hope rests, hope nourishes and sustains faith.

Since hope is faith directed to the future, hope is also knowledge based on the promises of Christ, so it is not merely ignorance or feeling.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

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