

work in progress

# Calvin's *Institutes*, Book Four

John Calvin, *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. from the 1559 Latin ed. by Ford Lewis Battles, 2 vols., in *Library of Christian Classics*, ed. John T. McNeill (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960), cited by book, chapter, section, and, in parentheses, volume and page.

Book One. The Knowledge of God the Creator

Book Two. The Knowledge of God the Redeemer in Christ, First Disclosed to the Fathers Under the Law, and Then to Us in the Gospel

Book Three. The Way in Which We Receive the Grace of Christ: What Benefits Come to Us from It, and What Effects Follow

Book Four. The External Means or Aids by Which God Invites Us Into the Society of Christ and Holds Us Therein

## **BOOK FOUR. THE EXTERNAL MEANS OR AIDS BY WHICH GOD INVITES US INTO THE SOCIETY OF CHRIST AND HOLDS US THEREIN**

### **Chapter I.**

### **Chapter XIII. Vows; and How Everyone Rashly Taking Them Has Miserably Entangled Himself**

*(The nature of vows, and prevalent errors concerning them, 1-7)*

1. *Degeneration and dangers* (2:1254)

2. *God as the One to whom we make our vows* (2:1255)

“[I]t is God with whom we have to deal, who is so pleased by our obedience that he declares all self-made religion, however splendid and beautiful it may be in men’s eyes, accursed.” (2:1255)

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*  
**Foundation for Reformed Theology**  
1627 Monument Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23230

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