

Calvin the Persecutor

Calvin has had multitudes of admirers; poor Servetus has been held in general disrepute. Even in the present enlightened age, there are those to be found who will not believe that the former was a persecutor, though no historic fact is more unquestionable, or that the latter was a virtuous and good character.

That Calvin persecuted Servetus to prison and to death, merely for his opinions, cannot be denied by any person who is acquainted with the ecclesiastical history of those times...

There are those who contend that the infamous conduct of Calvin and his coadjutors, in pleading for and practising persecution, ought to be buried in oblivion; because they cannot be insensible that it is highly disreputable for the world to know that the founder of their party, the champion of their peculiar dogmas, was an unrelenting persecutor; yet they themselves cease not to make known, from age to age, the persecuting conduct of catholics, in former times; nor does their uncharitableness at the present time entitle them to expect that the unchristian temper and cruel deeds of their great leader should be forgotten.

Apprehending that the case of Servetus is not sufficiently known to the generality of christians, and that many have not so much as heard of it, I have been led to compose the following work, which I hope will excite a greater and more general abhorrence of bigotry and persecution. Though many accounts of Servetus have been published, I know not that any thing has appeared as an avowed apology for him, at least in our own language: hence it is presumed this volume will not be unacceptable to the candid and impartial reader.

(An Apology for Dr. Michael Servetus... by Richard Wright, Wisbech: Sold by F. B. Wright, n.d., Kindle, Miami, Florida: HardPress, 2017, Location 33 & 47 of 4815, Text Modified)