

## The Spirit of Wicked Calvin

If men fond of recondite investigations, search for imaginary causes of plain effects afar off, when the real cause may be found nigh at hand, let them, in this case, rather say it was not the Church of Rome, nor the genius of Protestantism, nor the spirit of the age, that destroyed Servetus, but the spirit of one who procured a decree “to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish the people of God, and to take the spoil of them for a prey” - even the spirit of the wicked Haman in the Persian court, which, after a series of transmigrations, became incarnate in the person of John Calvin, of the city of Geneva. Or may it not more simply still be ascribed to “Satanic influences,” and the instigation of the devil?

If it was the spirit of Calvin's age to burn heretics, at what an immeasurable distance was Servetus in advance of his age when he maintained that no one should suffer persecution or death for his religious opinions?

His assertion and advocacy of the doctrine of the divine unity raises him, as a reformer, far above Calvin and all his crew.

This is the great truth which reason asserts and revelation proclaims, and which no twisting of texts, nor fictions of the Fathers, nor metaphysics of dreamers, nor persecution by fire and sword can ever invalidate or overthrow.

It is full time that preachers and divines should quit descanting about hypostases, and persons, and trinities, and discourse upon subjects which can be understood, which tend to improve the human mind, and work a moral regeneration among the children of men.

(The Life of Michael Servetus: Persecuted by both the Inquisition and Calvin's Reformation by W. H. Drummond, Edited by James Alexander Jack, Artisan Stardust, Matsue, Kindle, 2017 [First published in 1887 by John Chapman, London], Page 182 of 201)