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His 114s

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Response Paper 8

During the Protestant Reformation, French theologian and pastor John Calvin published his work the *Institutes*. The piece published in 1536, marked the beginning of Calvin's successful career as a religious reformist, through which he created the Christian theology called Calvinism. While Calvin's theology appealed to individuals and generated an interest in him, it was his background as a lawyer that enabled him to persuade them to follow him. His book the *Institutes*, illustrated how Calvin employed tactics used by lawyers to defend and propagate his viewpoint.

As is typical of lawyers, Calvin referred to accepted sources to validate his arguments. In his case, he made regular references throughout *Institute* to scripture as evidence that his position was unerring. In the *Institutes*, Calvin sought to validate his arguments by citing the book of Exodus, the book of Deuteronomy, as well as others . In reference to the glory of God as written in the book of Exodus, He wrote, "By these words he curbs any licentious attempt we might make to represent him by a visible shape, and briefly enumerates all the forms by which superstition had begun, even long before, to turn his truth into a lie." In addition, his use of the terminology licentious gives his statement the perception of legality, hence should be widely accepted as truth. He discusses truth and lie, two points that are normally addressed in law.

Calvin's legal training impressed upon him how important it was to produce evidence that would persuade an audience that his doctrine was irrefutable. Thus, it would be unlikely that anyone would question the validity and truth of scripture.

Calvin cleverly made a connection between religion and law. In his writings he makes reference to law when he describes his theological convictions. In *Institutes*, he wrote, "In the Law, accordingly, after God had claimed the glory of divinity for himself alone, when he comes to show what kind of worship he approves and rejects..." He further wrote, "But as sculpture and painting are gifts of God, what I insist for is, that both shall be used purely and lawfully..." Calvin uses nomenclature such as law, and lawfully, which have the effect of presenting his views as legal and thus, infallible. By appearing to equate religion with law he eludes to the legitimacy of his ideals.

French theologian and pastor John Calvin, published his work the *Institutes* in 1536, during the Protestant Reformation. This publication heralded the emergence of an eminent profession as a religious reformist, in which he initiated the Christian theology called Calvinism. Calvin's doctrine enticed many followers, but it was his legal training that facilitated his ability to convince people to follow him. Calvin's book the *Institutes*, exemplified how Calvin judiciously used stratagem practiced by lawyers to support and promulgate his theological philosophy.