

Dear Members and Friends of College United Methodist Church,

In late [July 1546](#), John Calvin completed his Commentary on 2 Corinthians. He sent the manuscript--the only copy of the manuscript--by way of a courier to Strasbourg. It was handwritten. No backup--he stated later that he was in too much of a hurry.

Not long after the only copy left with the courier, it went missing. For an entire month, it disappeared. Calvin was disappointed, frustrated, anxious, and he made the following comment: "If I find that my commentary is lost, I have decided to never touch Paul again."

A "friend" of Calvin's wrote to him, "Given that mothers do not neglect their children, you too, should have sent out this fruit of the Lord with greater care." Ouch! this person (William Farel) apparently mistakenly thought the behavior of Job's friends was a command for us.

On [September 15](#), 1546, word reached Calvin that the manuscript was found safely at Strasburg and was being set to print!

I find this little story from church history interesting because it shows John Calvin, the great Reformer and person of giant intellect with unusual dedication to sharing the Christian Gospel, to be a human who frets, worries, gets anxious, and says desperate things like "I'll never touch Paul again."

I connect with this story because I quite often lose things! After [Tuesday's](#) Community Meal some kind friends made certain that I didn't forget my phone (I had carefully placed it somewhere safe and then completely forgot about it!).

I don't always fully agree with Calvin's theology, but one of the things he's most known for is reminding the church that we can have a bedrock faith in the truth that God is sovereign over the Universe. He just forgot for a month or so that God is even sovereign over so-called "lost documents!"

As we accelerate into the New Year, let's remember that we are commanded to "*be anxious for nothing...instead pray about everything.*" Our human tendency is to fret, worry, and get anxious and even to say desperate things. All the while, WE NEED TO REST IN GOD.

As Paul says in the opening lines of 2 Corinthians, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*" (1:3).

With much love to you,

Pastor Duff