



CHWNE Module 2 Lesson 2

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Louis de Berquin

(1490 – 1529)

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BERQUIN RELEASED BY JOHN DE LA BARRE. — Page 198.

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Louis de Berquin was a French lawyer, civil servant, linguist, and Protestant reformer. He was a nobleman of Artois and a friend and councillor of the **King Francis 1**.

He was exposed to the work of **Erasmus and Jacques Lefevre D'Etapes**.

That influenced him to study the Scriptures privately, coming to the conclusion that the church was in apostasy under the power of the Pope.



He wrote many books expressing his strong opinions about France having freedom from the pope.

He advocated the need for reform from within the church.

This garnered strong opposition from other scholars, resulting in Francis I and his sister Marguerite intervening on his behalf.



After one arrest and release from prison, Marguerite wrote to the constable, **Anne de Montmorency**,

"I thank you for the pleasure you have afforded me in the matter of poor Berquin whom I esteem as much as if he were myself; and so you may say you have delivered me from prison, since I consider in that light the favor done me."



In 1525-1526 and in 1529 - Francis was away at war and the in captivity. **Louise of Savoy** and the Catholic nobles were ruling.

In 1529, he was burnt at the stake as a heretic when he refused to recant his beliefs.



In April 1529, he was tried, found guilty of heresy by the French Parliament, and was sentenced to watch as his books burnt, to have his tongue pierced, and lifetime imprisonment without the privilege of reading another book.



He refused that sentence and would not agree to silencing the truth of God's word. He was imprisoned and the following day he was burnt at the stake.

At this, the followers of **Jacques Lefevre (in Meaux)** fled Paris. **William Farel** rejoined Zwingli in Switzerland.

Most of Louis de Berquin's written works have been lost.

Still reformation teachings continued to be spread by students and German professors.