

The Story Of Christianity

1. The Fall of Jerusalem – The Church Moves Out
2. Council of Nicaea – The Trinity Affirmed

3. Augustine – Father of the West

4. Council of Chalcedon – Who and What is Jesus
5. Eastern Orthodoxy -- a Visceral Approach
6. Charlemagne -- Latin Christianity
7. Protestant Reformation -- Faith Alone
8. Protestant Reformation – Theological Genius

What's in this Session?

You will learn...

- Biographical Information on St. Augustine
- St. Augustine's contribution to Latin Theology

St Augustine: Biographical Information

354-430 AD

Birthday: November 13, 354 AD

381 council of Constantinople

431 Council of Ephesus

Death: August 28, 430 AD





St Augustine: Biographical Information



St Augustine: Biographical Information

364 AD - *10 years old*
- **Thagaste**

In his writings, Augustine accuses himself of often studying by constraint, not obeying his parents and masters, not writing, reading, or minding his lessons so much as was required of him.

And this he did not for lack of intelligence or memory, but out of love of play.

St Augustine: Biographical Information

366: **12** years old - Augustine goes to study Rhetoric in Madaura, 20 miles South.

Patricius (Father) makes sacrifices for Augustine to have a classical education. Augustine loves Latin literature and detests rote learning of Greek and Arithmetic

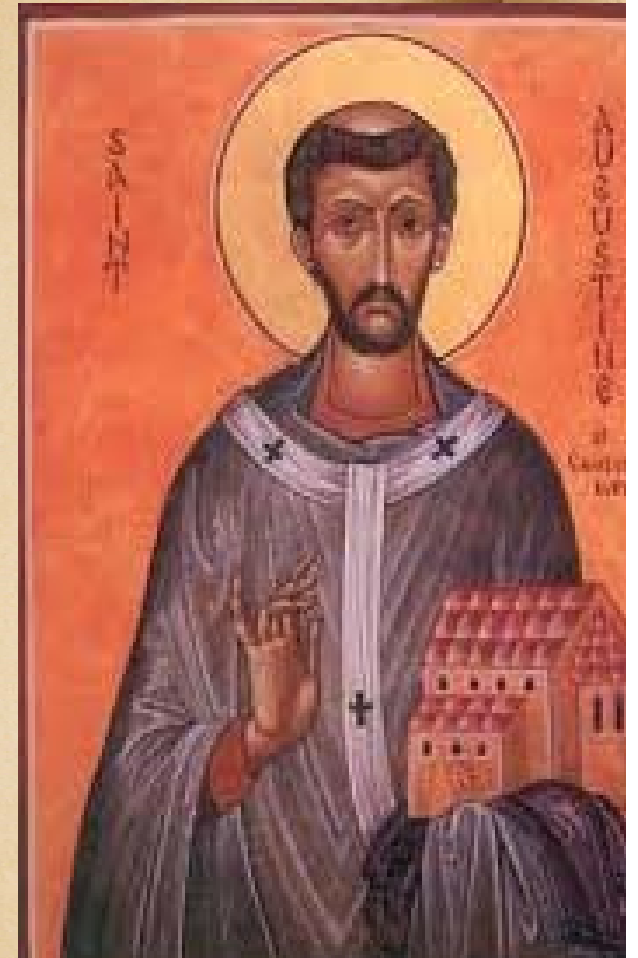


St Augustine: Biographical Information

What is Rhetoric?

Rhetoric is the art of discourse, an art that aims to improve the capability of writers or speakers to inform, most likely to persuade, or motivate particular audiences in specific situations. The five canons of rhetoric, which trace the traditional tasks in designing a persuasive speech, were first codified in classical Rome: [invention](#), [arrangement](#), [style](#), [memory](#), and [delivery](#).

Why is not learning Greek Significant?



St Augustine: Biographical Information

- 370 AD
- **16** years old
 - returned to Thagaste
 - year of idleness

- 371 AD
- **17** years old - Carthage
 - Capital of Africa - 500,000
 - concubine relationship with a woman (no name)
 - They lived together 13 years

St Augustine: Biographical Information

372 AD

- **18** y/o

- Adeodatus (God-Given) was born.
- His father died and was baptized to Christianity at his deathbed.
- He became a “Manichaeian”.
- Manichaeism, which is a pseudo-Christian sect formed by Mani. Followers believe on the God of good and the God of evil.

St Augustine: Biographical Information

373 AD - 19 y/o

-He read **Hortensius** of Cicero.

-It is a philosophical book, which moved him to abandon his career as a lawyer in the imperial service.

-“Intellectual conversion”

The Hortensius convinced him intellectually that he should make truth his life's search. The old temptations, however, still assailed him. In his conflicts he turned to the Bible, but it had no appeal to him. Its style seemed crude and barbarous to him.

St Augustine: Biographical Information

374 AD

-**20** y/o

-Returned to Thagaste to teach grammar (needed for the study of Rhetoric).

376 Ad

-**22** y/o

-Returned to Carthage after his best friend died in Thagaste.

-Opened a school of Rhetoric and became a teacher for 8 years.

St Augustine: Biographical Information

383 AD

- **29** years old

-Went to Rome w/ Alypius (former student) to open a school.

-Spotted by Symmachus (city prefect) and chosen for a post in Milan as “rhetor” (speech-writer for the Emperor)

-384: Privately he becomes a catechumen of the Catholic church (a seeker), impressed by the Sermons of Bishop Ambrose. Learns how to read the Bible spiritually.

St. Ambrose



“Orthodox”

Great Preacher

Great Interpreter

Great Administrator

Great Evangelist

*“one of four DOCTORS of
the Roman Catholic
Church”*

St. Ambrose



“Let your door stand open to receive him, unlock your soul to him, offer him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace.”

Conversion

386. Augustine and Alypius welcome a friend Ponticianus who describes St Anthony and his desert monks. Augustine feels called to renounce pleasures of the flesh but wrestles in the garden with the impossibility of this call. He hears a child's voice singing "*tolle lege, tolle lege!*" So he picks up the copy of St Paul's letters and reads, "**Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in its lust.**"

Alypius and Monica share in Augustine's sudden sense of joy and clarity.

Baptism - Easter 387 AD



On the eve of the following Easter, 387, Augustine, with his son, Adeodatus, and his friend, Alypius, was baptized by Ambrose in Milan. "The unrest of our past life," he said, "receded from us."



388 AD

- Founded a monastery in Thagaste

390 AD

- Adeodatus died at 18 y/o

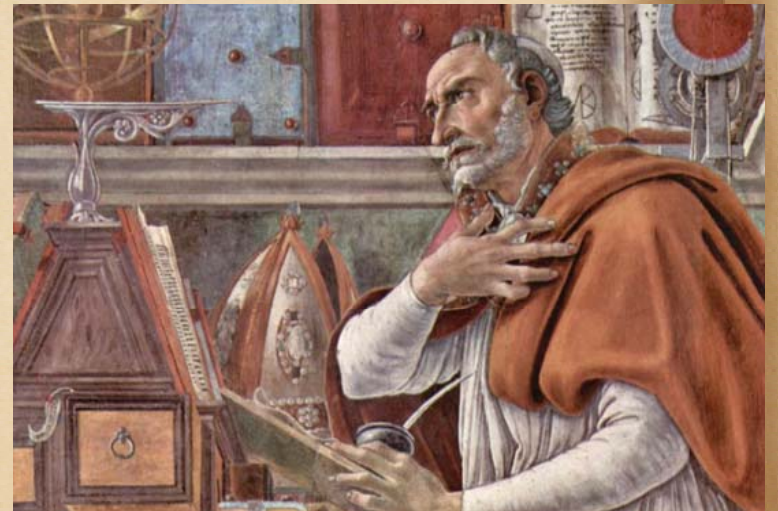
- Nebridius, his friend, also died

391 AD

- He was made a priest on the spot while looking to build another community in Hippo.

395 AD

- He was made coadjutor (assistant) bishop of Hippo.





Ruins of the
Cathedral of
Hippo

Death and legacy

- **429: Vandals (Arian Christians) invade Africa and Catholic churches are banned. Refugees pour into Hippo.**
- **28th August 430. Augustine dies even as Hippo is under siege.**
- **His library is saved: 100 books; 240 letters and over 500 sermons**



Pope Benedict XVI before the bones of St. Augustine in Pavia

Contribution to Latin Theology

- 100 books
- 240 letters
- 500+ sermons

Kindle
\$1.99



The Complete Works of
Saint Augustine

Contribution to Latin Theology

- ***Confessions*** (begun 397) is a blazingly honest account of personal sin and the need for grace, as well as a testament of faith: *You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*
- 399: ***On the Trinity***
- 413: Starts ***City of God***, motivated by the sack of Rome (410)
- Also writes **against the Donatists** and **against Pelagius**

Contribution to Latin Theology

- **Against the Donatists**

- Augustine rejected the Donatist's view of a pure church
- Augustine rejected the Donatists argument that the validity of the sacrament depends upon the moral standing of the presbyter
- Augustine argued that the sacraments are valid even if the minister is unholy. They are Christ's sacraments.

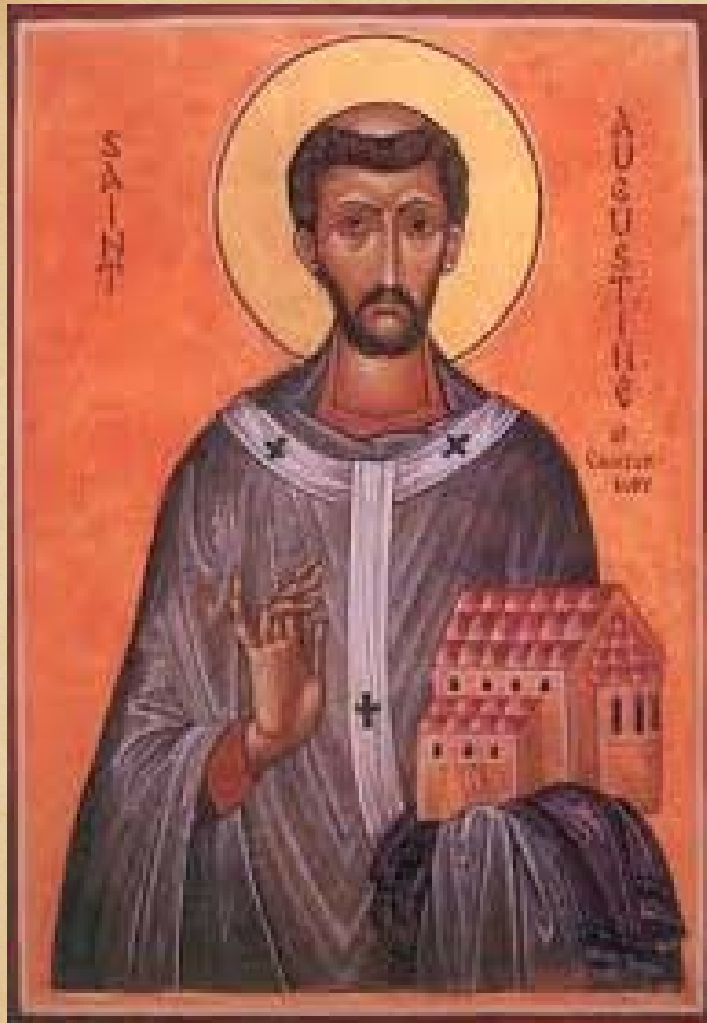
Contribution to Latin Theology

- **Against Pelagius**
- Augustine develops the doctrine of sin
- Augustine develops the doctrine of grace
- Augustine develops the doctrine of predestination

St. Augustine

vs.

Pelagius



Contribution to Latin Theology

Pelagian	Semi-Pelagian	Semi-Augustinian	Augustinian
Rational			Scriptural
Weak on Sin			Strong on Sin
Weak on Grace			Strong on Grace
Humanistic			Theistic

POSITION ON FREE WILL