50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman

cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

Cell: 914.844.2355

Influential Leaders in Church History

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
Summer 2020

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Influential Leaders in Church History

Class Schedule – Summer 2020

New Series – *Influential Leaders in Church History*

- May 31 – 1: *Athanasius*
- June 7 – 2: *Augustine*
- **June 14 – 3: Thomas Aquinas**
- June 21 – 4: *Martin Luther*
- June 28 – 5: *John Calvin*

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 354 – 430 AD – Augustine
    < almost 800 years >
  - 1225 – 1274 AD – Aquinas

  - 430-460 AD – Patrick introduces Christianity to Ireland

  - 440 AD – **Leo the Great** became Bishop of Rome
    - Roman Papacy

  - 451 AD – **Council of Chalcedon** (4th ecumenical)
    - "Chalcedonian Definition" Christology—
      - The Incarnation resulted in 2 natures (deity & humanity) in 1 person (Jesus Christ).
      - God is 3 "whos" (persons) & 1 "what" (nature).
      - Jesus Christ is 1 "who" (person) & 2 "whats" (nature).

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 476 – "**Fall of Rome**" begins
    [1453 – "Fall of Rome" ends; Constantinople falls to Islam]

  - 450 – 1000 AD – The "**Dark Ages**"

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 476 – "Fall of Rome" begins
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  - 450 – 1000 AD – The "Dark Ages"

  - 480-543 – **Benedict** of Nursia, father of Monasticism

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 529 – **Synod or Orange**
    - Rejected John <u>Cassian</u>'s "**Semi-Pelagianism**"
    - Declined to affirmed Augustine's Monergism
    - Affirmed "Semi-Augustinianism" to explain salvation

  - 540-604 – **Gregory the Great** (Gregory I)
    - 590 – named "Pope" above all other Bishops
    - End of the Federation of Bishops
    - Singular Leader over all the Church (West & East)
    - Stepped into the power void left by the "Fall of Rome" to also become the effective civil, political and military leader in the West
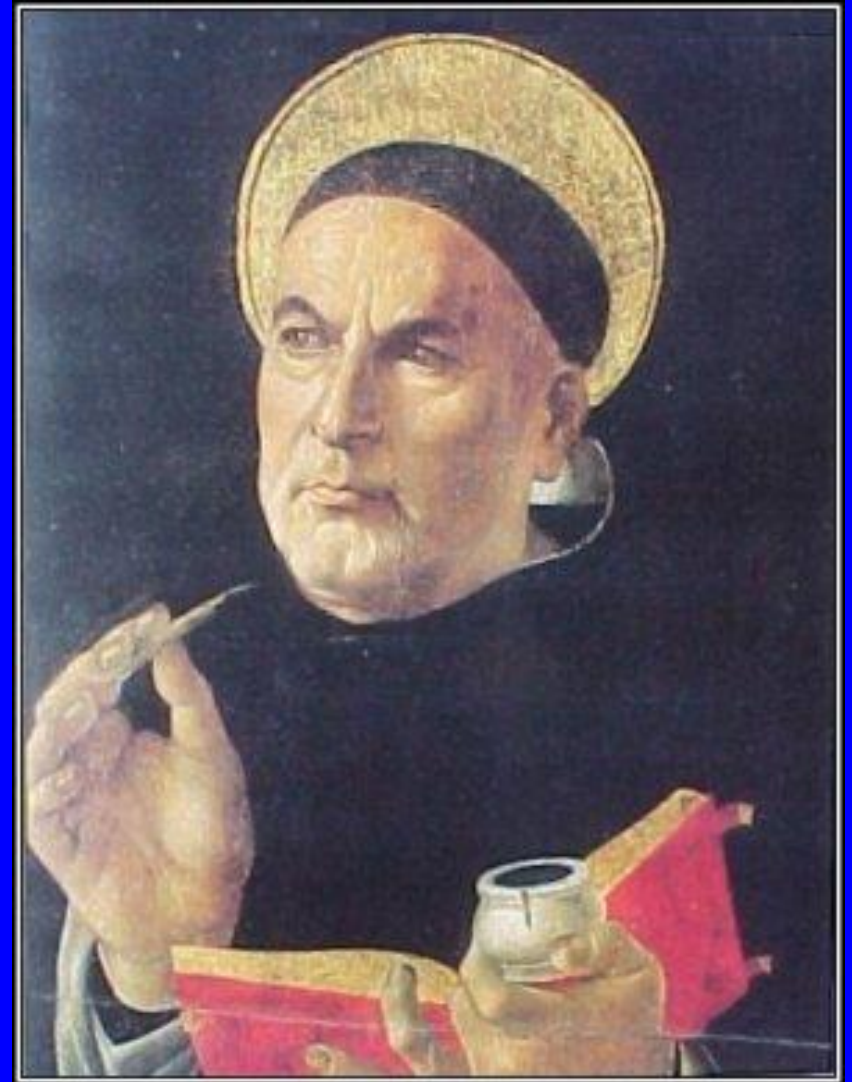
- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 610 – **Muhammad** (d. 632) starts receiving "revelations" [~ 8th – 14th C. - "Islamic Golden Age"]

  - **Monotheletism**
    - Christ did not have 1 nature, but 1 *will*, which was divine
  - 680-681 – <u>Council of Constantinople</u> (6th ecumenical)
    - Condemned Monotheletism
    - Affirmed Christ had a human will & nature and a divine will & nature.

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - **Iconoclasm Controversy**
    - Emperor Leo III ordered icons destroyed
  - 675-749 – **John of Damascus** (Eastern Orthodox Church)
    - "… I make an image of the God whom I see. I do <u>not worship</u> matter; I worship the God of matter …. I <u>venerate</u> it, though not as God."
    - *Icons* are *venerated* (honored, respected) because of whom they represent, but they are *not worshipped*—only God is worshipped. Just as we create pictures of humans to represent them, we create pictures of Jesus to represent him. Denying icons denies the Incarnation.
    - <u>787</u> – **Council of Nicea** (7th ecumenical)
      - Exonerated the proper use of icons
      - Condemned the *Iconoclasts* ("icon-smashers")

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 800 – Pope Leo III crowned the French King, Charles
    - a/k/a *Charlemagne* (Charles the Great)
    - Began the *Holy Roman Empire*—a close association between church and state in the Middle Ages of Europe
  - 1000 – Europe was "Christianized" and stabilized politically
  - 1123 – 1st Lateran Council – Priests forbidden to marry
  - 1054 – **Great Schism** – Christ's Church splits (east & west) due to theological and cultural differences

- Augustine to Aquinas

  - 1093 – **Anselm** becomes Archbishop of Canturbury

    - Launched *Scholastic Theology* —adding the evidence of reason to Scripture
    - "I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order that I may understand."

    - *Ontological Argument* for God's Existence

    - *Satisfaction View* for Christ's Atonement

- **<u>Thomas Aquinas</u>** (1225-1274 AD)

- Italian aristocrat family ... early Benedictine education

- After Dominican vows, was imprisoned by family

- Ordained a priest in 1250

- Began teaching at University of Paris in 1256

- Scholastic Theologian

- Died at 49

- **Contributions**

  - *Summa Against the Gentiles*

  - *Summa Theologica*

    - Natural Theology

    - Relationship between General & Special Revelation

- **Contributions**

  - Reasoning to God's *Existence*

    - Unmoved Mover

    - Design of the Universe

    - Cosmological Argument

  - Reasoning to Some of God's *Attributes*

- **Contributions**

  - Reasoning to God's *Existence*

    - Unmoved Mover

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    - Cosmological Argument

  - Reasoning to Some of God's *Attributes*

  - Knowing All of God's Attributes

  - Knowing God *Analogically*

- **Contributions**

  - Aquinas & Augustine

    - Monergism

    - Divine Providence

    - Predestination

- **Contributions**

  - Aquinas (versus Augustine)

    - Justification & Sanctification Equated
    - Immaculate Conception
    - Salvation's Provider & Mediator
    - Sacraments (7)
    - Transubstantiation
    - Purgatory

  - 1879 – Pope Leo XIII

- Question:
  What difference should this make on Monday?

Prayer Requests

Next Week

- June 21 – Martin Luther