



# LEGENDS



# Augustine



“Love the sinner, hate the sin”

“The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself.”

# Augustine



“Pray as though everything depends on God. Work as though everything depended on you.”

# Augustine



- 354 – 430 AD
- Born in Thagaste, Africa
- Father – Patricus  
[Pagan]
- Mother – Monica  
[Christian]
- Never married



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# Augustine



## Before Conversion

- Rhetoric
- Philosophy
- Astrology
- Law
- Poetry
- Public Debate

# Augustine



## Before Conversion

**Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV)**  
In the multitude of words  
sin is not lacking,  
But he who restrains his  
lips *is* wise.



# Augustine



## After Conversion

- Theologian
- Prolific Writer
  - 100 books
  - 300 letters
  - 500 sermons
- His Opinions Valued

# Augustine



## Two most popular Books

- Confessions
- City of God

# Augustine's Conversion



## Matthew 19:23(NKJV)

Then Jesus said to His disciples,  
“Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for  
a rich man to enter the kingdom of  
heaven.

# 1 Corinthians 8:1b (NKJV)

“Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”

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Meaning –a deeper more perfect knowledge.

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“Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”

Meaning – Self-inflated, arrogant, proud

# Augustine's Conversion

- School in Madaura
- Back in Thagaste
- School in Carthage
- Meets the "Wreckers"
- His father dies
- A son is born
- Starts a long-term relationship





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# “The Hortensius” by Cicero



## **Colossians 2:8-10 (NKJV)**

**8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through **philosophy** and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; **10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

A Manichaean mural painting on a dark blue background. The central figure is seated in a meditative pose, wearing a red and white robe, enclosed in a large, ornate golden mandorla. To the left and right of the center are two rows of three figures each, seated in various poses. The figures are depicted with reddish-brown skin and are wearing simple robes. Some figures have white, branching structures resembling trees or plants behind them. In the upper right corner, there is a white cross symbol. The overall composition is symmetrical and highly decorative.

# Manicheism

# Augustine's Conversion

- Manichean 9-10 years
- Meets Manichean bishop
- Moves to Rome
- Moves to Milan
- He tells Monica he is no longer a Manichaeism

# Augustine's Conversion

- Monica arranges a marriage
- Bishop Ambrose
- Contemplates Christianity
- While under a fig tree He hears “take up and read”

## Romans 13:13-14(NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.



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## Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV)

“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.”

# Call to Ministry

- Returns to Thagaste
- Tranquil life of prayer and study
- Establishes a Monastery
- Son dies
- Visits Hippo [60 miles north]
- Ordained a priest
- Ordained an assistant bishop
- Becomes Bishop of Hippo

# **Pelagius Controversy**

- Origin of Sin
  - Wickedness of Man
  - Predestination
  - Man Choice



## Biblical Answer: Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

# Donatists Controversy

- Donatists demanded morally correct behavior
- Absolute holiness is required to serve God
- Augustine understood grace and fought against this heresy

# **Biblical Answer: Romans 3:23**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

# Why do these Controversy Matter?

# Augustine's Writings...

- His works strongly affected the ideologies of several church figures
- Reformation leaders such as Martin Luther and John Calvin looked to Augustine for inspiration

# Augustine's Writings...

- Many modern Reformed theologians **still look to him** as a key source for their own writings.

# Augustine's Writings...

- Much of Reformed doctrine
  - Predestination
  - original sin
  - Free will
  - Grace
- Has been **attributed to the work of Augustine.**

# Augustine's Writings...

- Roman Catholicism **gleaned much from Augustine's writings**
  - Infant baptism
  - Perpetual virginity of Mary
  - Real presence of Christ in the Eucharist
  - Purgatory
  - No millennial reign of Christ



# **Biblical Answer: Colossians 2:8-10**

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## Psalm 119:10-12

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You;  
Oh, let me not wander from Your  
commandments!

<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *are* You, O Lord!  
Teach me Your statutes.

## Psalm 119:15-16

I will meditate on Your precepts,  
And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight  
myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your  
word.

# Augustine's Last Book

## *Retractions*

- The Older vs. Younger Augustine
  - Younger more outspoken
  - Younger more confident
  - Older more reflective
  - Older more humble

# Lessons Learned

- Study the Bible
- Study all Scriptures
- We have limited knowledge
- Beware of Worldly Philosophy
- Beware of Traditions of Men

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