

KENNETH M. WILSON

Augustine's Conversion  
from Traditional Free Choice  
to "Non-free Free Will"

*Studien und Texte zu  
Antike und Christentum*  
111

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Mohr Siebeck

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111





Kenneth M. Wilson

# Augustine's Conversion from Traditional Free Choice to "Non-free Free Will"

A Comprehensive Methodology

Mohr Siebeck

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For My Wife and Children

Lynn, Rachael, Brent, Lisa, and Stephen



## Preface

The title of this work is the same as my doctoral thesis at The University of Oxford. My supervisor, Professor Mark Edwards of Christ Church, deserves accolades for his patience as I inundated him with a small book's worth of data and ideas in chapter form each term for years (over 300,000 words), as I was reading through ancient philosophies and religions, the early church fathers, and all of Augustine's extant works, sermons, and letters chronologically. My thesis examiners encouraged me with their recommendations and advice on publishing this doctoral thesis. These are the late Dom Bernard Green, OSB of St. Benet's Hall, Oxford, and the Very Reverend Dr. John Behr of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York.

I have identified and corrected many errors in my doctoral thesis, as well as adding a minimal amount of supporting material. The most recent scholarship has rarely been included because more would lengthen this work without affecting the conclusions, since these results are based on research in the primary sources. I have referenced numerous eminent scholars who I highly esteem, yet with whom I disagree in their conclusions. This does not mean I regard myself as more competent or intelligent.

Prior to my training as a theologian, I was trained as a scientist, medical doctor, and taught on the faculty of a medical school. Researching with the scientific method, formulas, and rules all come naturally to me. In designing this project, I merely followed Augustine's own instructions on how to discover the timeline for his progression in his thinking. "For whoever reads my works in the order in which they were written will perhaps discover out how I have made progress over the course of my writing." ("inveniet enim fortasse, quomodo scribendo profecerim, quisquis opuscula mea ordine, quo scripta sunt, legerit." *Retract.*, Prol.3). Few scholars have read all of Augustine's extant works, letters, and sermons. Has anyone read them all in the order in which they were written? In his probity, Augustine left clues like a treasure map for persons to decipher his explanations and rhetoric, and thereby discover his progressive changes in doctrine. In my opinion, sacrosanct academic assumptions have obfuscated Augustine's own clues revealing his journey. Even competent scholars can be lulled into academic slumber through the pervasive power of the accepted paradigm. Certain individuals and groups will vociferously challenge this newer understanding of Augustine and his contributions to Christianity. In an age where some persons have rejected the

very concept of truth while others cling to the comfort of tradition, it seems all the more essential for scholars to examine facts openly and critically.

This project would not have been possible without the encouragement, faithful support, patience, and sacrifices of my beloved wife, Lynn. I owe her everything for her love. My wonderful children – Rachael, Brent, Lisa, and especially Stephen – also sacrificed and assisted in bringing this work to completion.

Montgomery, Texas, January 2018

Kenneth M. Wilson

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# Abbreviations

## General Abbreviations

<i>1 Apol. and 2 Apol.</i>	<i>Apology 1 and Apology 2</i> , Justin Martyr
<i>Abr.</i>	<i>De Abrahamo</i> , Philo
<i>AcT</i>	<i>Acta Theologica</i>
<i>'Abot. R. Nat</i>	<i>'Abot de Rabbi Nathan</i>
<i>Ad Marc</i>	<i>Ad Marcellam</i> , Porphyry
<i>Adv. Ar.</i>	<i>Adversus Arium</i> , Victorinus
<i>Adv. def. orig. pecc.</i>	<i>Adversus defendendum originale peccatum</i> , Theodore
<i>Adv. haer. / AH</i>	<i>Adversus haeresis</i> , Irenaeus
<i>Adv. Mac. spir. sancto</i>	<i>Adversus Macedonianos de spiritu sancto</i> , Gregory
<i>An.</i>	<i>De anima</i> , Tertullian
<i>A.J.</i>	<i>Antiquitates Judaicae</i> , Josephus
<i>Apoc. Ab.</i>	<i>Apocalypse of Abraham</i>
<i>Apoc. Adam</i>	<i>Apocalypse of Adam</i>
<i>Apoc. Ezra</i>	<i>Apocalypse of Ezra (4 Esdras or 4 Ezra)</i>
<i>Apol.</i>	<i>Apologeticus adversus Gentes</i> , Tertullian
<i>Apol. Dav.</i>	<i>Apologia prophetae David</i> , Ambrose
<i>Apol. Hier.</i>	<i>Apologia adversus Hieronymum</i> , Rufinus
<i>AugStud</i>	<i>Augustinian Studies</i>
<i>Autol.</i>	<i>Ad Autolycum</i> , Theophilus
<i>b.Ber.</i>	<i>Babylonian Berakot</i>
<i>b.Qiddušin</i>	<i>Babylonian Qiddušin</i>
<i>b.Sukkah.</i>	<i>Babylonian Sukkah</i>
<i>2 Bar.</i>	<i>2 Baruch (Apocalypse of Baruch)</i>
<i>B.J.</i>	<i>Bellum Judaicum</i> , Josephus
<i>Bar.</i>	<i>Baruch</i>
<i>Barn.</i>	<i>Epistle of Barnabas</i>
<i>Ber.</i>	<i>Berakot</i>
<i>Cat.</i>	<i>Catecheses</i> , Cyril of Jerusalem
<i>Cat. mag.</i>	<i>Oratio catechetica magna</i> , Gregory
<i>CCL</i>	<i>Corpus christianorum series latina</i>
<i>Cher.</i>	<i>De cherubim</i> , Philo
<i>CMC</i>	<i>Cologne Mani-Codex</i>
<i>Comm. 1 Tim.</i>	<i>Commentariorum in Epistulam i ad Timotheum</i> , Ambrosiaster
<i>Comm. Categ.</i>	<i>Commentary on Aristotle's Categories</i> , Simplicius
<i>Comm. Eph.</i>	<i>Commentariorum in Epistulam ad Ephesios</i> , Jerome
<i>Comm. Ev. Jo.</i>	<i>Commentarii in evangelium Iohannis</i> , Origen
<i>Comm. Gal.</i>	<i>Commentariorum in Epistulam ad Galatas</i> , Jerome
<i>Com. Job</i>	<i>Commentarii in librum Job</i> , abridged from Philippus

<i>Comm. Ioh.</i>	<i>Commentarium Iohannan, Theodore</i>
<i>Comm. Matt.</i>	<i>Commentarium in evangelium Matthei, Origen</i>
<i>Com. Mat.</i>	<i>Commentariorum Matheum, Hilary</i>
<i>Comm. Phil.</i>	<i>Commentariorum in Philippenses, Ambrosiaster</i>
<i>Comm. Romanos</i>	<i>Commentariorum in Romanos, Ambrosiaster</i>
<i>Comm. Rom.</i>	<i>Commentarii Romanos, Origen</i>
<i>Com. Rom.</i>	<i>Commentarii Romanos, Pelagius</i>
<i>Congr.</i>	<i>De congressu eruditio[n]is gratia, Philo</i>
<i>Conl.</i>	<i>Conlationes, Cassian</i>
<i>C. Ar.</i>	<i>Contra Arianos, Athanasius</i>
<i>C. Eun.</i>	<i>Contra Eunomium, Gregory</i>
<i>Cels.</i>	<i>Contra Celsus, Origen</i>
<i>Corp. Herm.</i>	<i>Corpus Hermeticum (Gnostic)</i>
<i>Cult. fem.</i>	<i>De cultu feminarum, Tertullian</i>
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum</i>
<i>DH</i>	<i>Definitions of Hermes Trismegistus to Asclepius (Gnostic)</i>
<i>De Abrah.</i>	<i>De Abraham, Ambrose</i>
<i>De an.</i>	<i>De anima, Aristotle</i>
<i>De bapt.</i>	<i>De baptismo, Tertullian</i>
<i>Decal.</i>	<i>De decalogo, Philo [Laporte uses Dec.]</i>
<i>De cib. Jud.</i>	<i>De cibis Judaicis, Novatian</i>
<i>Decr.</i>	<i>De decretis Nicaenae synodi, Athanasius</i>
<i>Dub. prov.</i>	<i>De decem dubitationibus circa providentiam, Proclus</i>
<i>De infant. praem.</i>	<i>De infantibus qui praemature abripiuntur, Gregory</i>
<i>De inst. christ.</i>	<i>De instituto christiano, Gregory</i>
<i>De prov.</i>	<i>De providentia, Alexander of Aphrodisias</i>
<i>De provid.</i>	<i>De providentia, Proclus</i>
<i>De resurr.</i>	<i>De resurrectione, Athenagoras</i>
<i>De sacr.</i>	<i>De sacramentis, Ambrose</i>
<i>De trin.</i>	<i>De trinitate, Hilary</i>
<i>De trin. lib.</i>	<i>De trinitate liber, Novatian</i>
<i>Deus immut.</i>	<i>Quod deus sit immutabilis, Philo [Winston uses immut.]</i>
<i>De virg.</i>	<i>De virginitate, Gregory</i>
<i>Dial.</i>	<i>Dialogue with Trypho, Justin Martyr</i>
<i>Dial. de anima et res.</i>	<i>De anima et resurrectione dialogus, Gregory</i>
<i>Diogn.</i>	<i>Epistle of Diognetus</i>
<i>Disc.</i>	<i>Discourses, Epictetus</i>
<i>Div.</i>	<i>De divinatione, Cicero</i>
<i>Div. Caec.</i>	<i>Divinatio in Caecilium, Cicero</i>
<i>DUPIED</i>	<i>Divine Unilateral Predetermination of Individuals's Eternal Destines</i>
<i>Ecl.</i>	<i>Eclogues, Publius Vergilius Maro (Virgil)</i>
<i>EngHistRev</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>Ench.</i>	<i>Enchiridion, Epictetus</i>
<i>Enar. in Ps.</i>	<i>Enarrationes in XII Psalmos davidicos, Ambrose</i>
<i>Enn.</i>	<i>Enneads, Plotinus</i>
<i>Ep. (ep.)</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
<i>Epid.</i>	<i>Epilexis tou apostolikou kērygmatos, Irenaeus</i>
<i>Ep. P. Eph.</i>	<i>In Epistulam Pauli ad Ephesios, Victorinus</i>

<i>Ep. P. Gal.</i>	<i>In Epistulam Pauli ad Galatas</i> , Victorinus
<i>Ep. P. Phil.</i>	<i>In Epistulam Pauli ad Philippenses</i> , Victorinus
<i>Eth.nic.</i>	<i>Ethica nichomachea</i> , Aristotle
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanientes</i>
<i>Eth.eud.</i>	<i>Ethica eudemica</i> , Aristotle
<i>Exc. Satyri</i>	<i>De excessu fratris sui Satyri</i> , Ambrose
<i>Exhort.</i>	<i>Exhortatio ad martyrium</i> , Origen
<i>Exh. cast.</i>	<i>De exhortatione castitatis</i> , Tertullian
<i>Exc. Theod.</i>	<i>Excerpta ex Theodoto</i> , Theodosius the Valentinian
<i>Exod. Rab.</i>	<i>Exodus Rabbah</i>
<i>Exp. fid.</i>	<i>Expositio fidei</i> , John of Damascus
<i>Exp. Luc.</i>	<i>Expositio Evangelii secundum Lucam</i> , Ambrose
<i>Fat.</i>	<i>De fato</i> , Cicero
<i>Fug.</i>	<i>De fuga in persecutione</i> , Tertullian
<i>Gos. Truth</i>	<i>Gospel of Truth</i> , <i>Evangelium Veritatis</i> (Gnostic)
<i>Haer.</i>	<i>Refutatio omnium haeresium</i> , Hippolytus
<i>H.E.</i>	<i>Historia ecclesiastica</i> , Eusebius
<i>Her.</i>	<i>Quis rerum divinarum heres sit</i> , Philo
<i>Herm. Mand.</i>	<i>Mandates in Shepherd of Hermas</i>
<i>Herm. Sim.</i>	<i>Similitudes in Shepherd of Hermas</i>
<i>Herm. Vis.</i>	<i>Visions in Shepherd of Hermas</i>
<i>Hist. Job com.</i>	<i>In historiam Job commentariorum</i> , Presb. Philippus
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>Hist. adv. pag.</i>	<i>Historiarum adversum paganos</i> , Orosius
<i>Hist.eccl.</i>	<i>Historia ecclesiastica</i> , Sozomen
<i>Hom. Ex.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Exodum</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Gal.</i>	<i>Homiliae in epistulam ad Galatas</i> , Chrysostom
<i>Hom. Heb.</i>	<i>Homiliae in epistolam ad Hebraeos</i> , Chrysostom
<i>Hom. Thess.</i>	<i>Homiliae in epistolam ad Thessalonicenses</i> , Chrysostom
<i>Hom. Hex.</i>	<i>Homiliae Hexaēmeros</i> , Basil
<i>Hom. Jos.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Iesu nave</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Lev.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Leviticum</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Luc.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Lucam</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Num.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Numero</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Phil.</i>	<i>Homiliae in epistulam ad Philipenses</i> , Chrysostom
<i>Hom. Ps.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Psalmos</i> , Origen
<i>Hom. Psa.</i>	<i>Tractatus super Psalmos</i> , Hilary
<i>Ign. Eph</i>	<i>Ad Ephesios</i> , Ignatius
<i>Ign. Magn.</i>	<i>Ad Magnesios</i> , Ignatius
<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Divinarum institutionum</i> , Lactantius
<i>Inst. coen.</i>	<i>De institutes coenobiorum</i> , Cassian
<i>Invent.</i>	<i>De inventione rhetorica</i> , Cicero
<i>Is. et Os.</i>	<i>De Iside et Osiride</i>
<i>JECS</i>	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
<i>JAAR</i>	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>Jo. Hier.</i>	<i>Adversus Joannem Hierosolymitanum</i> , Jerome
<i>Jov.</i>	<i>Adversus Iovinianum</i> , Jerome
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>

<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>L. Fid.</i>	<i>Liber de fide</i> , Rufinus of Syria
<i>Leg.</i>	<i>Legum allegoriae</i> , Philo
<i>Lib. leg. reg.</i>	<i>De legibus libri ex regiones</i> , Bar Daišān
<i>Lucif.</i>	<i>Altercatio Luciferiani et orthodoxi seu dialogus contra Luciferianos</i> , Jerome
<i>M.</i>	<i>Mani, Cologne Mani Codex</i>
<i>Marc.</i>	<i>Adversus Marcion</i> , Tertullian
<i>Metaph. A</i>	<i>Metaphysics A</i> , Aristotle
<i>Mir. M.</i>	<i>Mitteliranische Manichaica</i>
<i>Myst.</i>	<i>De mysteriis</i> , Ambrose
<i>NHL</i>	<i>Nag Hammadi Library</i>
<i>Nat. hom.</i>	<i>De natura hominis</i> , Nemesius
<i>Non auct. mal.</i>	<i>Quod deus non est auctor malorum</i> , Basil
<i>Num. Rab.</i>	<i>Numbers Rabbah</i>
<i>Ob. Val.</i>	<i>De obitu Valentiani consolatio</i> , Ambrose
<i>Off.</i>	<i>De officiis ministrorum</i> , Ambrose
<i>Opif. Dei</i>	<i>De opificio Dei</i> , Lactantius
<i>Opif. hom.</i>	<i>De opificio hominis</i> , Gregory
<i>Opif.</i>	<i>De opificio mundi</i> , Philo
<i>Orat.</i>	<i>Orations / Orationes</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Patrologia graeca</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologia latina</i>
<i>PLS</i>	<i>Patrologia Latina Supplementum</i>
<i>P. Arch.</i>	<i>Peri Archon</i> , Origen
<i>P.P.</i>	<i>Peri pascha</i> , Melito
<i>Paen.</i>	<i>De paenitentia</i> , Ambrose
<i>Pan.</i>	<i>Panarion</i> , Epiphanius
<i>Pel.</i>	<i>Dialogus adversus Pelagianos</i> , Jerome
<i>Phdr.</i>	<i>Phaedra</i> , Plato
<i>Philoc.</i>	<i>Philocalia</i>
<i>Phld.</i>	<i>Ad Filadelfios</i> , Ignatius
<i>Praem.</i>	<i>De praemiis et poenis</i> , Philo
<i>Praep. ev.</i>	<i>Praeparatio evangelica</i> , Eusebius
<i>Princ.</i>	<i>De principiis</i> , Origen
<i>Protr.</i>	<i>Protrepticus</i> , Clement
<i>Pss. Solom.</i>	<i>Psalms of Solomon</i>
<i>Quaes. Gen./Q.G.</i>	<i>Quaestiones et solutiones in Genesim</i> , Philo
<i>Quis div.</i>	<i>Quis dives salvetur</i> , Clement
<i>RBén</i>	<i>Revue bénédictine</i>
<i>Ref. conf. Eun.</i>	<i>Refutatio confessionis Eunomii</i> , Gregory
<i>Reg.</i>	<i>Liber regularum</i> , Tichonius
<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Republic</i> , Plato
<i>RelS</i>	<i>Religious Studies</i>
<i>REAug</i>	<i>Revue des études augustinianes</i>
<i>Ruf.</i>	<i>Adversus Rufinum</i> , Jerome
<i>Sacr.</i>	<i>De sacrificiis Abelis et Caini</i> , Philo
<i>Scorp.</i>	<i>Adversus Gnosticos Scorpiae</i> , Tertullian
<i>Sent.</i>	<i>Sententiae ad intelligibilia ducentes</i> , Porphyry

<i>S. Q. Hoarti Flacci</i>	<i>Sermomum Quinti Horatii Flacci poëmata</i> , Horace
<i>Sir.</i>	<i>Sirach</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Jounal of Theology</i>
<i>Spec. / Sp. Leg.</i>	<i>De specialibus legibus</i> , Philo
<i>ST</i>	<i>Summa theologica</i> , Thomas Aquinas
<i>StPatr</i>	<i>Studia patristica</i>
<i>Strom.</i>	<i>Stromata</i> , Clement
<i>SVF</i>	<i>Stoicorum veterum fragmenta</i>
<i>Symp.</i>	<i>Symposium decem virginum</i> , Methodius
<i>Tim.</i>	<i>Timaeus</i> , Plato
<i>Teubner</i>	<i>Bibliotheca scriptorum graecorum et romanorum Teubneriana</i>
<i>Treat.</i>	<i>Treatise</i> , Cyprian
<i>Treat. Res.</i>	<i>Treatise on the Resurrection</i> (Gnostic)
<i>TS</i>	<i>Theological Studies</i>
<i>Tusc.</i>	<i>Tusculanae disputationes</i> , Cicero
<i>Val.</i>	<i>Adversus Valentinianos</i> , Tertullian
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vigiliae christiana</i> e
<i>Viris ill.</i>	<i>De viris illustribus</i> , Jerome

The previously listed works have their authors listed beside their works since many authors have works with the same or similar names. Likewise, standard abbreviations for some of these works have been modified for easier identification in association with their respective authors in this book.

## Tanakh

Gen	Genesis	Ps	Psalms
Exod	Exodus	Prov	Proverbs
Lev	Leviticus	Eccl	Ecclesiastes
Deut	Deuteronomy	Isa	Isaiah
Josh	Joshua	Jer	Jeremiah
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Ezek	Ezekiel
1 Kgs	1 Kings		

## New Testament

Matt	Matthew	1 Tim	1 Timothy
Rom	Romans	2 Tim	2 Timothy
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	Phlm	Philemon
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	Heb	Hebrews
Gal	Galatians	Jas	James
Eph	Ephesians	1 Pet	1 Peter
Phil	Philippians	2 Pet	2 Peter
1 Thess	1 Thessalonians		

## Works by Augustine of Hippo

<i>Acad.</i>	<i>Contra Academicos</i>
<i>Adim.</i>	<i>Contra Adimantum</i>
<i>Adnot. Job</i>	<i>Adnotationes in Iob</i>
<i>Agon.</i>	<i>De agone christiano</i>
<i>Arian.</i>	<i>Contra sermonem Arrianorum</i>
<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>De baptismo contra Donatistas</i>
<i>Beat.</i>	<i>De beata vita</i>
<i>Bon. conj.</i>	<i>De bono coniugali</i>
<i>Brev. coll.</i>	<i>Breviliculus collationis cum Donatistis</i>
<i>Caes.</i>	<i>Ad Caesarienses</i>
<i>Catech. rud.</i>	<i>De catechizandis rudibus</i>
<i>Civ.</i>	<i>De civitate dei</i>
<i>Conf.</i>	<i>Confessiones</i>
<i>Cons.</i>	<i>De consensu evangelistarum</i>
<i>C. du. ep. Pel.</i>	<i>Contra duas epistulas Pelagianorum</i>
<i>C. Jul.</i>	<i>Contra Julianum</i>
<i>C. Jul. imp.</i>	<i>Contra secundam Iuliani responsonem opus imperfectum</i>
<i>C. litt. Petil.</i>	<i>Contra litteras Petiliani</i>
<i>C. mend.</i>	<i>Contra mendacium</i>
<i>Corrept.</i>	<i>De correptione et gratia</i>
<i>Cresc.</i>	<i>Ad Cresconium grammaticum parti Donati</i>
<i>Cur.</i>	<i>De cura pro mortuis gerenda</i>
<i>De mag.</i>	<i>De magistro</i>
<i>De mend.</i>	<i>De mendacio</i>
<i>Div. quaest.</i>	<i>De diversis quaestionibus octoginta tribus</i>
<i>Divin.</i>	<i>De divinatione daemonum</i>
<i>Doctr. chr.</i>	<i>De doctrina christiana</i>
<i>Don.</i>	<i>Post conlationem contra Donatistas</i>
<i>Duab. an.</i>	<i>De duabus animabus contra Manichaeos</i>
<i>Dulc. qu.</i>	<i>De octo Dulcitii quaestionibus</i>
<i>Emer.</i>	<i>Gesta cum Emerito</i>
<i>Enar. Ps.</i>	<i>Ennarationes in Psalms</i>
<i>Enchir.</i>	<i>Enchiridion ad Laurentium de fide spe et caritate</i>
<i>Exp. Gal.</i>	<i>Epistulae ad Galatas expositio</i>
<i>Exp. quaest. Rom.</i>	<i>Expositio quarumdam quaestionum in epistula ad Romanos</i>
<i>Exp. Rom. inch.</i>	<i>Epistulae ad Romanos inchoata expositio</i>
<i>Faust.</i>	<i>Contra Faustum</i>
<i>Fel.</i>	<i>Contra Felicem Manichaeum</i>
<i>Fid.</i>	<i>De fide rerum quae non videntur</i>
<i>Fid. op.</i>	<i>De fide et operibus</i>
<i>Fid. symb.</i>	<i>De fide et symbol</i>
<i>Fort.</i>	<i>Contra Fortunatum Manichaeum</i>
<i>Fund.</i>	<i>Contra epistolam Manichaei quam vacant fundamenti</i>
<i>Gen. litt.</i>	<i>De Genesi ad litteram</i>
<i>Gen. Man.</i>	<i>De Genesi adversus Manichaeos</i>
<i>Gen. imp.</i>	<i>De Genesi ad litteram liber imperfectus</i>

<i>Gest. Pelag.</i>	<i>De gestis Pelagii</i>
<i>Grat. Chr.</i>	<i>De gratia Christi et de peccato originali</i>
<i>Grat.</i>	<i>De gratia et libero arbitrio</i>
<i>Immort. an.</i>	<i>De immortalitate animae</i>
<i>Incomp. nupt.</i>	<i>De incompetentibus nuptiis (De coniugis adulterinis)</i>
<i>Leg. adv.</i>	<i>Contra adversarium legis et prophetarum</i>
<i>Lib. arb.</i>	<i>De libero arbitrio voluntatis</i>
<i>Locut. Hept.</i>	<i>Locutiones in Heptateuchum</i>
<i>Maxim.</i>	<i>Contra Maximinum Arianum</i>
<i>Mor. eccl.</i>	<i>De moribus ecclesiae catholicae</i>
<i>Mor. Man.</i>	<i>De moribus Manichaeorum</i>
<i>Mus.</i>	<i>De musica</i>
<i>Nat. bon.</i>	<i>De natura boni contra Manichaeos</i>
<i>Nat. grat.</i>	<i>De natura et gratia</i>
<i>Nat. orig.</i>	<i>De natura et origine anima / De anima et eius origine</i>
<i>Nupt. et conc.</i>	<i>De nuptiis et concupiscentia ad Valerium comitem</i>
<i>Oct. quaest. Vet. Test.</i>	<i>De octo quaestionibus ex Veteri Testamento</i>
<i>Op. mon.</i>	<i>De opere monachorum</i>
<i>Ord.</i>	<i>De ordine</i>
<i>Parm.</i>	<i>Contra epistolam Parmeniani</i>
<i>Pat.</i>	<i>De patientia</i>
<i>Pecc. merit.</i>	<i>De peccatorum meritis et remissione et de baptismo parvulorum</i>
<i>Perf.</i>	<i>De perfectione iustitiae hominis</i>
<i>Persev.</i>	<i>De dono perseverantiae</i>
<i>Praed.</i>	<i>De praedestinatione sanctorum</i>
<i>Priscill.</i>	<i>Ad Orosium contra Priscillianistas et Origenistas</i>
<i>Psal. Don.</i>	<i>PSalmus contra partem Donati</i>
<i>Quaest. c. pag.</i>	<i>Quaestiones expositae contra paganos VI [ep. 102]</i>
<i>Quaest. ev.</i>	<i>Quaestiones Evangelicarum</i>
<i>Quaest. Matt.</i>	<i>Quaestiones XVII in Matthaeum</i>
<i>Quant. an.</i>	<i>De animae quantitate</i>
<i>Retract.</i>	<i>Retractiones</i>
<i>Secund.</i>	<i>Contra Secundinum Manichaeum</i>
<i>S.</i>	<i>Sermones</i>
<i>S. Dom. m.</i>	<i>De sermone Domini in monte secundum Matthaeum</i>
<i>Simpl.</i>	<i>Diversis quaestionibus ad Simplicianum</i>
<i>Solil.</i>	<i>Soliloquia</i>
<i>Spir. et litt.</i>	<i>De spiritu et littera</i>
<i>Symb.</i>	<i>De symbolo ad catechumenos</i>
<i>Tract. ep. Jo.</i>	<i>In epistolam Iohannis ad Parthos tractatus</i>
<i>Tract. Ev. Jo.</i>	<i>In Iohannis evangelium tractatus</i>
<i>Trin.</i>	<i>De trinitate</i>
<i>Unic. bapt.</i>	<i>De unico baptismo contra Petilianum</i>
<i>Unit. eccl.</i>	<i>Ad Catholicos epistola contra Donatistas vulgo de unitate ecclesiae</i>
<i>Util. cred.</i>	<i>De utilitate credenda</i>
<i>Ver. rel.</i>	<i>De vera religione</i>
<i>Vid.</i>	<i>De bono viduitatis</i>
<i>Virginit.</i>	<i>De sancta virginitate</i>

## Translations and Citations

The primary sources for quotations in Greek and Latin are *Patrologia Graeca*, *Patrologia Latina*, *Corpus Christianorum Series Latina*, and *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*. The Latin letter *u* has been changed to *v*, and *i* has been retained for *j*, providing consistency among manuscript letter differences. Unless otherwise indicated, all English translations of Augustine's works are derived from *The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* from the Augustinian Heritage Institute, Inc. and published by New City Press, Hyde Park, New York. Scriptural citations in English are from the Revised Standard Version.

# Introduction

## A. The Chronological Problem

The consensus view asserts that Augustine developed his famous doctrines about 396 CE while writing *Ad Simplicianum* as a result of studying scripture (Romans 7, 9–11, and 1 Corinthians), by enriching earlier Christian ideas. This research will question these four assumptions. Did Augustine of Hippo alter his theological views? If he did, when and why did it occur?

While Augustine's early *De libero arbitrio* argued for traditional free choice in a refutation of Manichaean determinism, his later anti-Pelagian writings rejected any human ability to believe until God first infuses grace creating belief as his gift. Scholars have debated whether a homogeneous continuity (e.g., Harrison)<sup>1</sup> or an eruptive discontinuity (e.g., Brown)<sup>2</sup> exists in his forty-five-year Christian career. Typically, only individual works or samplings have been analyzed, often with assumptions about chronology.<sup>3</sup>

Four commonplace assertions within Augustinian studies<sup>4</sup> are questioned in this treatise:

- 1.) Augustine changed his theology in 396 CE,
- 2.) while he was writing the letter to Bishop Simplicianus (*Simpl.*),
- 3.) with his transition occurring through reading scripture (Romans 7 and 9–11, and 1 Corinthians 15),
- 4.) which he developed through merely modifying prevalent doctrines.

No scholarly work has researched Augustine's entire corpus from 386–430 CE specifically analyzing his five final doctrines of: 1.) God giving initial

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<sup>1</sup> Harrison, C. (2006).

<sup>2</sup> Brown P. (2000).

<sup>3</sup> E.g., Gorday (1983), 137. Gorday attributed a “constant position” following Augustine’s revised interpretation of Romans 9 in *Simpl.* but only proved continuity after 411. Cf. Roach (2008). All but three of his citations date after 411 CE with two of those merely repeating scripture, while the final passage he cites (*Faust.21.2*) must be compared with *Faust.16.32* and *22.22* to clarify Augustine’s meaning as his pre-412 theology.

<sup>4</sup> Wetzel (1999), 798–799; Brown, P. (2000), 147–148; Evans, E. (1964), 101; Rigby (1999), 607–614; Harrison, C. (2006); Pacioni (1999), 686–688, Warren (2002), Chapter 4: “Historic Perspectives Regarding Original Sin.”

faith as a gift, 2.) inherited damnable *reatus* from Adam, 3.) the gift of perseverance, 4.) divine unilateral predetermination of persons's eternal destinies independent of God's foreknowledge, and 5.) God's neither desiring nor providing for the salvation of all persons. Only a comprehensive methodological approach – reading systematically, chronologically, and comprehensively through his entire corpus – can legitimately demonstrate changes. Furthermore, conflicting literature exists from neglecting to consider the evolving use of his unique technical terms as he assimilates traditional terminology. Finally, no comprehensive analysis exists concerning the doctrines of free choice and determinism in the authors for the more than three-hundred years preceding Augustine.

This chronology will follow Augustine's own list in *Retractationes*<sup>5</sup> supplemented by the more recent work of Hombert<sup>6</sup> and Drobner<sup>7</sup> for sermons and epistles. This method should minimize one source of error – Augustine's unannounced evolution of unique technical terms he develops by redefining traditional terminology. Furthermore, antecedent philosophies and prior Christian writings often have not been simultaneously analyzed in corroboration with Augustine's doctrines, artificially limiting his process of theological development. Therefore, a meta-narrative approach combined with a rigorous detailed investigation becomes necessary.

## B. Doctrinal Changes

Multiple studies have documented the development of original sin within early church history, unfortunately, with some neglecting important aspects (e.g., omitting the first three centuries).<sup>8</sup> However, no comprehensive analysis exists concerning the doctrines of free choice and determinism in the authors for the more than three-hundred years preceding Augustine. Of the eighty-six extant authors evaluated from 95–430 CE, every author who discussed initial faith or human responsibility advocated free choice (50/86; see Appendix III). The remaining authors did not address the topic. Perhaps the only true *regula fidei* from Irenaeus's introduction of the term to Augustine's application,

<sup>5</sup> Madec (1996), 149–157, recognizing Augustine's own chronology contains some problematic dates.

<sup>6</sup> Hombert (2000).

<sup>7</sup> Drobner (2000).

<sup>8</sup> E.g., Warren (2002), 10–11. In his “Contents,” he lists “Patristic Period (A.D. 100–451),” but his discussion begins in 418 CE with Augustine, thus bypassing 300 years of early church history; Tennant (1903), 318, overemphasizes diversity to the neglect of consensus concepts, and without warrant claims Gregory of Nazianzus taught Original Guilt; Williams, N. (1927), overemphasizes the evolutionary development. See also Wiley (2002), MacFarland (2010), Fiorenza and Galvin (2011).

consists in this unanimous voice on free choice, a unanimity which cannot even be found in the Christology in this era. This magnifies the critical evaluation of Augustine's works as possibly departing from this unanimous anti-pagan doctrine.

Did Augustine's 'predestination' evolve as an elaboration upon previous theologians's interpretations and scripture, or arise *de novo*? The terms predestination, fate, and determinism can entice either affirmative or hostile connotations. TeSelle defines and Wetzel defends Augustine's interpretation as biblical 'predestination,' while Weaver writes of Cassian's "antipredestinarian sentiments."<sup>9</sup> Augustine's opponents, while still embracing 'biblical predestination,' pejoratively refer to Augustine's 'predestinarian' doctrine as 'determinism' or 'fate.' Therefore, the neutral term Divine Unilateral Predetermination of Individuals's Eternal Destinies (DUPIED) will be preferred.<sup>10</sup> This DUPIED is God's unilateral decision (unconditional election) – it is not based upon foreknowledge of human faith or responses in relational interaction. God's election is of specific individuals instead of nations (or foreordination of specific world events). Finally, God's predetermination unilaterally decides persons's *eternal* destinies, not merely earthly circumstances. This term will preclude privileging Augustine's doctrines as biblical 'predestination' while avoiding the pejorative term *fate*, allowing comparisons with other philosophies and religions adhering to Divine Unilateral Predetermination of Individuals's Eternal Destinies. Although authors have detailed the individual influences of Stoicism, Neoplatonism, and Manichaeism upon Augustine (with differing conclusions),<sup>11</sup> to what degree did their *combination* contribute to his *liberum arbitrium captivatum*?

## C. Overview

The first chapter overviews free choice versus determinism perspectives from the most ancient civilizations and philosophers, then Stoicism, Jewish interpretations, "Gnostics," Manichaeism, and Neoplatonism. The second and third chapters explore the works of the earliest Christian authors from 95–430 CE, particularly analyzing God's sovereignty and original sin in relationship with free choice versus determinism. This continues through the theology found within Augustine's treatises (Chapters 4–8), asking, "Did he transition from a traditional to a non-traditional Christian theology?" Chapter 9 reviews all of his extant sermons and letters asking the same question.

<sup>9</sup> Wetzel (2000), 126; TeSelle (2006), 81; Weaver, R. (1996), 277, 231.

<sup>10</sup> DUPIED is an acronym coined specifically for this investigation on divine providence comparing relational free choice with unilateral predetermination.

<sup>11</sup> Rist (1996); Djuth (1990); O'Daly (2001); van Oort (2006).

His works prior to 412 CE consistently demonstrate a traditional view of election based upon foreknowledge, personal initial faith without God giving it as a gift, traditional original sin without damnable inherited *reatus*, and no gift of perseverance. The sole exception appears in the theology of *Simpl.2*, which contradicts *Simpl.1*,<sup>12</sup> does not reappear for another fifteen years, and then only reappears in embryonic form. How can this *Simpl.2* anomaly be reconciled with Augustine's struggling evolutionary progress developing his later doctrines in 412 CE, appearing simultaneously throughout his formal works, sermons, and letters? Has Augustinian scholarship recognized and explained this enormous lacuna?

The tenth chapter evaluates Augustine's exegesis of scripture to determine what influence scripture pressed upon his theology. How much did Latin mistranslations and philosophical presuppositions contribute? Why did his opponents accuse Augustine of altering his theology?

The conclusion will propose that Augustine deviated from the traditional free choice view he held for twenty-five years prior to 412 CE. While he consistently taught grace without merit (as aptly demonstrated by Harrison),<sup>13</sup> some scholars remain unaware that Augustine learned this from predecessors like Tichonius.<sup>14</sup> A grace emphasis was commonplace in that era. Augustine retains this grace emphasis while converting to initial faith as God's gift and Divine Unilateral Predetermination of Individuals's Eternal Destinies. A multi-factorial amalgamation drawing from diverse sectors may be credited with spawning his novel systematic theology. In fact, Augustine's divergent experiences may have uniquely qualified him as an innovator. But Augustine did not view himself as the innovator of new doctrine, defending himself as being within what he termed the *regula fidei*: "My instructor is Cyprian, ... my instructor is Ambrose, whose books I have read and whose words I have heard from his own lips" (*C. Jul.6.21*).

This methodological approach permits Augustine's contributions to be understood within the preceding three-hundred-year discussion of free choice versus determinism in prior Christian authors, as well as the influence of philosophies upon both earlier authors and Augustine. The priority of examining these earlier authors's argumentation systematically cannot be over-emphasized given its relative neglect in Augustinian studies, and its importance in defining the Bishop of Hippo. By comparing Augustine's early views with those of his predecessors, an objective analysis of modifications in traditional views versus his original contributions may be developed.

<sup>12</sup> Wetzel (1999), 798–799.

<sup>13</sup> Harrison, C. (2006), 6.

<sup>14</sup> This work will respect Augustine's spelling of "Tichonius," thirteen times (*Parm. [9x]; Doctr. chr. [4x]*) versus the other spellings as Tyconius or Tychonius.

## D. *Ad SimPLICianum*

The literature almost unanimously places Augustine's theological epiphany to *Ad SimPLICianum* in 396/7 CE, with a rare dissenting voice.<sup>15</sup> *Ad SimPLICianum* stands as the critical demarcation in Augustine's development as a theologian. As Augustine's probable first work as the new co-bishop of Hippo, it has been ubiquitously recognized as his theological divide between his earlier traditional views and his later concepts of grace, original sin, free will, and predestination. Wetzel emphasized, "In striking contrast to the rest of the work, the second part of book 1, on Romans 9:19–20, sets off a veritable revolution in his theology."<sup>16</sup> Fredriksen, as one example of the virtually unanimous scholarly consensus, dates Augustine's rejection of God's election via foreknowledge to 396 CE, because of *Simpl.*2.5 where his older theology is "definitely rejected."<sup>17</sup> More recently, de Boer has asserted that, "The origin of Augustine's doctrine of predestination lies in his early years, the first year as an *episkopos*."<sup>18</sup>

Numerous similar assertions may be compiled, crediting the young Augustine's re-examination of scripture to questions posed by Bishop SimPLICianus of Milan.<sup>19</sup> Competent scholars 'unanimously' date Augustine's revelation of his new scriptural theology to 396 CE in *Ad SimPLICianum*. Bonner declared, "Augustine's key to understanding the Bible was accordingly found by 396" and continued in "remarkable doctrinal continuity."<sup>20</sup> Duffy asserts, "The decisive indication that the Pelagian polemic was not the origin of Augustine's view is that in the *Ad SimPLICianum* of 397, 15 years before the first anti-Pelagian broadside, his definitive formulation of grace and original sin is already in place."<sup>21</sup> But a comprehensive systematic evaluation of his works from 386–411 CE will demonstrate a plethora of serious difficulties in maintaining this majority opinion. The claim that Augustine's reading of Romans 7, Romans 9–11, and 1 Corinthians 15 – not Rom 5.12 – stimulated his paradigm shift will be analyzed against primary source evidence.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>15</sup> For the majority opinion see e.g., Duffy (1988): 602, fnt.7; Wetzel (1999); and Harrison, C. (2006), 6. The rare voice is TeSelle (2002), 265–266, 316, positing 405–408 CE.

<sup>16</sup> Wetzel (1999), 798–799.

<sup>17</sup> Fredriksen (2002), 213.

<sup>18</sup> de Boer (2012): 54–73.

<sup>19</sup> E.g., Gross, von (1960), 268–269; Bonner (1984), 506; Chadwick (1989), 40; Rist (1994), 183; Rigby (1999): 798–799; Pacioni (1999): 686–688; Brown, P. (2000), 147–148; TeSelle (2002), 177–178; Warren (2002); Karfíková (2012), 71–87.

<sup>20</sup> Bonner (1999), 231, 237.

<sup>21</sup> Duffy (1988): 597–622; 602, fnt.7.

<sup>22</sup> Rigby (1999), 11; following Lyonett, contra Gross.

## E. Grace

These references to a decisive alteration in his theology do not contradict the work of Harrison, who has defended Augustine's perpetual emphasis upon grace.<sup>23</sup> Indeed, the famous bishop maintained a homogeneous continuity from 395 CE after reading commentaries by Jerome and Victorinus. Jerome had written his commentary on Galatians in 386 CE, which was over two decades after Victorinus had written his own Latin commentary on the epistle (which Jerome criticized for Victorinus's lack of biblical references).<sup>24</sup> However, Augustine was most interested in Origen's commentary via Jerome.

When he wrote his first letter in 394 or 395 he was able to imply some detailed knowledge of particular works. ... It seems, however, that Augustine was most interested in Jerome's series of biblical commentaries ... and his most significant query took up a passage in Jerome's commentary on Galatians (Ep. 28.3–4).<sup>25</sup>

Plumer indicates that Victorinus's commentary on Galatians was also influential when Augustine wrote on Galatians.<sup>26</sup> However, the question appears not to be whether Augustine learned about God's grace from these prior works, but what different *types* of grace Augustine discovered during his later philosophical-theological journey. Brown has reconsidered his view of eruptive discontinuity in a revised edition of *Augustine of Hippo*, agreeing that such a radical departure may not have occurred.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Harrison, C. (2006), 280: "We have seen that in various ways scholars have been all too keen to make the Augustine of the early works appear more Pelagian than Pelagius himself."

<sup>24</sup> Cooper, S. (2005), 136–139; Cain (2010), 16–33.

<sup>25</sup> Williams, M. S. (2012), 227.

<sup>26</sup> Plumer (2003), 5–33. Plumer cites previous authors asserting this dependence, compares Augustine's dependence on Victorinus in *Confessiones* and in scriptural interpretation, then notes the similar phrases, treatment of Gal 2.19, and especially Augustine's understanding of 2.11–14 on Paul's rebuke of Peter in contrast to Jerome and other authors. See also, p. viii: "After examining all the evidence that seemed relevant I concluded that the likelihood [of dependence] was very great." Vessey similarly finds Jerome's works directly influencing the theology of Augustine; Vessey (2012), 249; Although Edwards does not find much influence, this occurs specifically within the limited context of Trinitarian theology; Edwards (2012), 218–219.

<sup>27</sup> Brown, P. (2000), 490; "In the same manner, the latter decades of Augustine's thought on grace, free will, and predestination cannot be lightly dismissed as the departure of a tired old man from the views of an earlier, 'better' self." Brown's reassessment does not correspond to an endorsement of Augustine's later theology.

## F. Weaknesses in the consensus opinion

One may question whether positing an opinion contrary to these superb scholars on the priority of *Ad Simplicianum* and perpetual grace would seem like instigating a fool-hearty conflict against insuperable obstacles. How could anyone be so presumptuous as to question a foundational pillar of Augustinian scholarship? Why pursue it? – Because there are numerous hints of structural weaknesses in the foundation of this imposing bulwark of scholarly consensus. Burns astutely identified a decades-long lacuna in Augustine's novel theology, which he discussed in several manuscripts. "In the two decades following his response to Simplicianus, Augustine generally avoided all discussion of divine control over the will."<sup>28</sup> "He then used that reading [Romans on predestination in *Ad Simplicianum*] to shape the narrative of conversion in the *Confessions* but otherwise said almost nothing about it for the next twenty years."<sup>29</sup> Similarly, Wetzel admits,

As late as the first part of *Ad Simplicianum*, Augustine rests secure in his belief that it remains to a person's free choice to seek the aid of the divine liberator, regardless of how debilitating addiction to sin has become (1.1.14). ... The key elements of Augustine's eventual doctrine of original sin – inheritance of sin (*tradux peccati*) and original guilt (*originalis reatus*) – are already at work here (1.2.20), but it is hard to determine to what extent they dictate his later position.<sup>30</sup>

Indeed, one encounters serious difficulty discovering these numerous innovative theologies in his subsequent works, doctrines that Augustine had so resolutely delineated in *Ad Simplicianum*. His works, letters, and sermons for another fifteen years are not only silent in explicating these novel doctrines, but actually persist in teaching his prior traditional theology. Because scholars assume that Augustine transitioned in 396 CE while writing *Ad Simplicianum*, a diligent analysis of his works, sermons, and letters between 396 and 412 CE has not been researched for possible transitions.<sup>31</sup> This may have resulted in scholars reading Augustine's later theologies back into his use of similar words and terms in that period, particularly in *Confessiones* and *De Genesi ad litteram*. Grace, original sin, dependence upon God instead of being prideful, predestination, and similar concepts appear ubiquitously in copies of his extant manuscripts. If Augustine altered the connotations of stock terms within the Christian literature, exposing Augustine's alterations would require a meticulous examination of concepts rather than merely locating his use of similar words or phrases.

<sup>28</sup> Burns (2002), 307.

<sup>29</sup> Burns (1994): 326–327.

<sup>30</sup> Wetzel (1999).

<sup>31</sup> One exception of note is Dupont (2014). This excellent work will be addressed subsequently.

The inadvertent attribution of these later doctrines to a formational date of 396 CE in *Ad Simplicianum* exposes another weakness. When these later doctrines do finally begin to surface in 412 CE, Augustine labors strenuously in the process of birthing these same inchoate doctrines, demonstrated in the gradual construction of his later theology from 412 through 413. This theological parturition occurs simultaneously in his works, sermons, and letters. How does one explain this gradual birthing in 412 CE in contrast to the plethora of novel doctrines purportedly erupting ‘fully grown’ in the middle of a single letter in 396 CE? How probable might it be that a comprehensive systematic theology with a dozen novel concepts is erected while dictating a single letter? Might even the brilliant Augustine have difficulty constructing his impressive edifice within a few days or weeks? It is these admitted subtle conundrums that this work proposes to probe, thereby exposing numerous unrecognized and serious flaws in this entrenched edifice of Augustinian studies. Despite the extensive research, some highly significant but unanswered questions remain regarding *Ad Simplicianum*. This critical work of Augustine persists as a perplexing problem.

## G. Explaining Augustine’s Rhetoric

This approach will also require a critical re-evaluation of Augustine’s comments in *Retractationes*, *Praedestinatione sanctorum*, and *De dono perseverantiae*. When did Augustine begin to understand faith as God’s gift? His guarded phraseology in *Praed.7*, as “I began [*coepi*] to understand” could be interpreted variously. Did he unequivocally convey the establishment of his later systematic theology, or did he generalize an incipient change in emphasis during that period?<sup>32</sup> Is there another explanation for his cautious wording, perhaps one that reflects the incorporation of his first profession as a rhetorician? Possibly, the academic community has misinterpreted Augustine’s carefully crafted claims. An alternative interpretation of his rhetoric could reveal crucial insights into Augustine’s defensive tactics in his later years, exposing a more cohesive progressive development of his theology rather than a less probable instantaneous divine revelation in 396 CE. Similarly, the recent work by Karfiková exposes, “‘technical’ problems (for example, the question of how the personal guilt related to the soul is actually inherited), which will come to light in his polemic against the Pelagians. However, fifteen years will still have to pass before the dispute breaks out.”<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Cf. *Persev.52*: “Quod plenius sapere coepi in ea disputatione, quam scripsi ad beatae memoriae Simplicianum episcopum Mediolanensis Ecclesiae, in mei episcopatus exordio, quando et initium fidei donum Dei esse cognovi, et asserui.” (*Persev.52*). *PL 45: 1026*.

<sup>33</sup> Karfiková (2012), 87.

In contrast, this current examination of *Ad Simplicianum* proposes these numerous ubiquitously accepted assumptions may be more accurately explicated through an alternative understanding of the circumstances surrounding the writing of *Ad Simplicianum*, and by investigating Augustine's usual literary and rhetorical methodologies, combined with his self-admitted pattern of emending his works. Consequently, this approach will require a significant paradigm shift in comprehending the circumstances surrounding the Bishop of Hippo's conversion to his later doctrines of grace, original sin, free will, and predestination. Yet, this shift is not one that has been completely neglected. Decades ago, Bonner explained Augustine's later theological transition as a mere deferral of specificity awaiting the Pelagian conflict.<sup>34</sup>

## H. Tracing the Innovator's Progress

While accepting Chadwick's assessment of the Pelagian contribution to Augustine's reversal,<sup>35</sup> a refinement and its relationship to numerous additional factors will result. By tracing Augustine's conversion in its historical context, alongside its historical antecedents, a significant contribution will be advanced in understanding both Augustine's comprehension of his own work and his reasons for deviating from prior anthropology, philosophy, and theology. This will particularly concern his teachings on predestination, unconditional election, grace, original sin, total depravity/total inability, paedobaptism, and perseverance of the saints.

His insistence upon both a scriptural and logical systematic theology functioned as a mathematician solving an algebraic equation: any alteration in a variable on one side necessitated a corresponding alteration in the contralateral side. Through the use of this multi-faceted methodological approach – systematically, chronologically, and comprehensively examining Augustine's corpus from 386–430 CE – his own works, sermons, and letters provide alternative evidence that challenges the consensus opinions.

In 412 CE, Augustine becomes the first Christian theologian whose extant writings place damnable *reatus* upon all mankind as a result of Adam's sin, partially as a result of his inferior Latin translation.<sup>36</sup> Prior authors limited original sin's consequences to mortality, ignorance with weakness in resisting sin, and the sin propensity. The word *reatus* appears in the context of damnable original sin only after 411 CE. His theological developments occur within the polemical context of the paedobaptismal tradition in North Africa. Utilizing Stoic Providence, he argues logically from infant baptism to unilateral

<sup>34</sup> Bonner (1999), 227–243.

<sup>35</sup> Chadwick (1983), 8–13.

<sup>36</sup> van Oort (1989): 382–386.

predetermination in *Pecc. merit.*, but only in *Spir. et litt.* does he boldly assert that God gives initial faith as a gift. The gift of perseverance does not appear until over a decade later.

Finally, why did his opponents accuse Augustine of altering his theology? Jerome omitted Augustine in his *De viris illustribus* while including other contemporary authors like Amphilochius (ca.340–d.ca.400) and John of Antioch (d.441). Jerome never admitted damnable inherited *reatus* to be true, preferring creationism for the origin of souls. Numerous Christian authors refuted both the “autosoterism” of the Pelagians and the “predestinarianism” of Augustine, which they viewed as a pagan concept of fate that vitiated free choice. Were these charges accurate?

Therefore, a comprehensive methodological approach to Augustine and his writings unveils important data and perspectives previously overlooked or prematurely assumed. This comprehensive methodology provides an alternative interpretation of the same information. A systematic, chronological, and comprehensive reading through Augustine’s entire corpus illuminates the darker recesses of critical presuppositions, exposing a sharper portrait of the Bishop of Hippo and his innovations.

In order to demonstrate Augustine’s later theology as an innovation within Christianity, the preceding context of religious and philosophical thought must be comprehended. This requires investigating both non-Christian religions and philosophies and the writings of prior Christian authors. As will become evident, Augustine received considerable influence on his early and final theologies from these sources.

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