

# Augustine of Hippo

## Brief Biography

### His Life

- Born in A.D. 345 in the Tagaste in North Africa
- Father was a pagan but Mother, Monica, was a fervent Christian
- Augustine was trained in rhetoric in both Carthage and Rome
- Through the writings of Cicero, the famous orator of Rome, Augustine began to see that speech separated from truth was unacceptable.
- Took a concubine in Africa who bore him a son name Adeodatus
- Followed Manicheism (a syncretistic religion founded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century)
- After teaching in Carthage and Rome, (and being disappointed by Manichaeism) he went to Milan where he became a Neoplatonist.
- In Milan Augustine meet Ambrose the Bishop of Milan
- Through the preaching of Ambrose Augustine's mind was conquered but he remained enslaved to sexual sin.
- His Conversion in the Garden (Book 8 of the Confessions)
- He and his son were baptized by Ambrose and they left for Tagaste.
- Augustine sold most of his inherited property and settled in Cassiciacum to live a monastic life. ("a life devoted entirely to devotions, study, and meditation")
- Traveled to Hippo to recruit others to join him in Cassiciacum, but was "drafted" into the ministry by Valerius and the church at Hippo
- Made Co-Bishop with Valerius
- Valerius died a short time later making Augustine the Bishop of Hippo

### His Legacy

- 3<sup>rd</sup> most influential person in Christian history
- His writings (which are prolific in quantity and quality!)
  - Against Heresy
    - Manichesim
    - Donatism
    - Pelagionism (Most Important)
  - Teaching Christianity
  - On the Trinity
  - The Confessions
  - City of God
- Father of both the Reformation and the Counter-reformation
  - Fueled the Reformation with His teachings on Grace
  - Fueled the Counter-reformation with his teachings on the Church
- Served the church at Hippo until his death on August 28, 430

**What We Can Learn**

1. The road to Christianity is rarely ever as simple as walking down an aisle.
2. The hand of our God is not too short to save.
3. Christian devotion should never be taken lightly.
4. Ideas have consequences.
5. We are standing on the shoulders of giants.

Resources for further study:

**Written by Augustine**

The Confessions of Saint Augustine

Teaching Christianity

City of God

On the Trinity

**Written About Augustine**

“The Legacy of Sovereign Joy” John Piper

“The Story of Christianity” vol. 1. Justo Gonzalez