

## V. Imitate Their Faith

1. Marvel at the Miracle of God's Sovereign Saving Grace.
  - "With Your Word You pierced my heart, and I loved You." (*Confessions*, 10.6.8)
  - "You called, You cried, You shattered my deafness, You sparkled, You blazed, You drove away my blindness, You shed Your fragrance, and I drew in my breath, and I pant for You." (*Confessions*, 10.27.38)
2. Faithfully Pray for Sinners and Faithfully Love Sinners.
  - "Your omnipotence is never far from us, even when we are far from You." (*Confessions*, 2.2.3)

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### Next Class:

02/19 Martin Luther

### Resources:



TolleLege.net



Slides and Handouts

### Questions or Comments?

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## Equipping Class:

Remembering the Faithful:

February 12, 2023

### Lesson 3: Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

#### I. Introduction

#### II. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:11-14)

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### III. Remember Your Leaders

- Augustine of Hippo is one the most influential figures in the history of Christianity. He is *the* theologian in the West, and one of the central pillars on which Western civilization is built.
- Augustine wrote over 5 million words in his published works. (113 books, 200 letters, 500 sermons have survived)
- "The study of Augustine is endless."<sup>1</sup> *Confessions, On the Trinity, and The City of God* are his most notable works.
- "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in Thee." (*Confessions, 1.1.1*)
- "In every page of the Scriptures, while I pursue my search as a son of Adam by the sweat of my brow, Christ either openly or covertly meets and refreshes me. Where the discovery is laborious my ardor is increased, and the spoil obtained is eagerly devoured, and is hidden in my heart for my nourishment."<sup>2</sup>
- "The Word of the Father, by Whom all time was created, was made flesh and was born in time for us. The Maker of man became Man that He, Ruler of the stars, might be nourished at His mother's breast; that He, the Bread, might hunger; that He, the Fountain, might thirst; that He, the Light, might sleep; that He, the Way, might be wearied by the journey; that He, the Truth, might be accused by false witnesses; that He, the Judge of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by a mortal judge; that He, Justice, might be condemned by the unjust; that He, the Foundation, might be suspended upon a cross; that Healer might be wounded; that Life might die."<sup>3</sup>

### IV. Consider the Outcome of Their Way of Life

Aurelius Augustine was born in Thagaste in North Africa in 354, the son of a pagan father and a Christian mother, Monica. At age 16, he went to Carthage to study law but became deeply interested in philosophy and rhetoric. He converted to the Manichean religion and founded a school of rhetoric in 383. He moved to Milan to be a professor and came under the influence of Neoplatonism and the preaching ministry of Ambrose. After an agonizing intellectual, philosophical, and spiritual struggle, he repented and believed in Jesus ("*Tolle lege! Tolle lege!*"). He was baptized as a believer in 387. He was ordained in 391 and, in 396, he was chosen as bishop of Hippo, where he served as pastor for the next 34 years. His writings against Pelagius in his final years were hugely influential. He died in 430 as invading Vandals were besieging Hippo.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1967/2000), x.

<sup>2</sup> Augustine of Hippo, *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. IV, Ed. Philip Schaff (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 400/1887), 192.

<sup>3</sup> Augustine of Hippo, *Sermons 184-229: Sermons on Liturgical Seasons* (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 1993), 191.1.