A Fourth-Century Story: The Life of Augustine Origins of Christianity

Terms

Thagaste Monica Carthage
Manichee Ambrose Hippo Regius
Theodosius pagan Donatist

Pelagius

Augustine, Confessions, Book 4.8

Who can show forth all thy praise for that which he has experienced in himself alone? What was it that thou didst do at that time, O my God; how unsearchable are the depths of thy judgments! For when, sore sick of a fever, he long lay unconscious in a death sweat and everyone despaired of his recovery, he was baptized without his knowledge. And I myself cared little, at the time, presuming that his soul would retain what it had taken from me rather than what was done to his unconscious body. It turned out, however, far differently, for he was revived and restored. Immediately, as soon as I could talk to him--and I did this as soon as he was able, for I never left him and we hung on each other overmuch--I tried to jest with him, supposing that he also would jest in return about that baptism which he had received when his mind and senses were inactive, but which he had since learned that he had received. But he recoiled from me, as if I were his enemy, and, with a remarkable and unexpected freedom, he admonished me that, if I desired to continue as his friend, I must cease to say such things. Confounded and confused, I concealed my feelings till he should get well and his health recover enough to allow me to deal with him as I wished. But he was snatched away from my madness, that with thee he might be preserved for my consolation. A few days after, during my absence, the fever returned and he died.

The Last Theological Controversy of Antiquity

	Augustine	Pelagius
Original Sin	Inherited in mankind's	Men choose to imitate
	nature	Adam
Sin	Expression of man's	A choice
	nature	
Infant Baptism	Necessary	Unnecessary
Human Will	Weak, incomplete	Strong, complete
Ordinary Christian	Lives normal life	Should strive for
		perfection
What makes an act	Motivation/intention	Objective conditions
"good"?		