

Confessions

by Aurelius Augustine

Before the first day of class, read *Confessions* by Aurelius Augustine (Oxford World's Classics Edition / Translated by Henry Chadwick / ISBN 978-0199537822) in its entirety. *Make sure you read the correct edition as it has been translated and different editions can vary greatly.* Read this handout, as well as the *Omnibus II* handout (attached separately), before starting the book. Read carefully and take notes as you go, completing each of the scripture readings and answering the questions as outlined below. These will be checked, we will briefly discuss the work in class, and you will be assessed on your understanding of *Confessions* once the school year begins.

Pay careful attention to the structure of the book. Augustine offers three distinct types of confessions:

1. A Confession of Praise - Augustine praises God for who He is and what He has done.
2. A Confession of Faith - Augustine praises God for His faithfulness as evidenced in his family life, friendships, and through the corporate church.
3. A Confession of Sin - Augustine confesses his sins to the Lord, seeking no excuses, but only the Lord's goodness and forgiveness.

Be sure, also, that you can articulate how the theme of Restlessness vs. Peace occurs throughout the book. Make note of other themes you see emerge, as well as the major sins with which Augustine struggles.

Themes:

Sins:

Should you have any questions or concerns, you may email me directly at astanley@greenvilleclassical.com. I look forward to seeing each of you in the classroom soon! Praying you enjoy the remainder of your summer break until then.

Assignments

➤ **Omnibus II Handout + *Confessions* Books I-III:**

Augustine displays an unabashed admittance of guilt and sin. Again and again we will see Augustine admit and repent of his sins without glorifying them: he takes no pride in his sins, grants no redemptive qualities to the sins he did not commit, or allow himself to be praised for the restraint he shows in his sin. Instead, he is 100% guilty in all things and only the Lord gets the glory.

Consider 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, and think about the ways in which the Lord could be glorified through your own weaknesses. How can God be glorified through our sin?

➤ Books III-IV:

According to James 4:1-3, why do we sin?

According to 1 John 5:1-5, how can we overcome sin?

➤ Books V-VI:

According to Proverbs 26:11, how does the Bible picture our slavery to sin?

According to John 8:34-36, who can free us from our slavery, and how has he done this?

➤ **Books VII-VIII:**

Read Romans 13:13-14, and think about a sin with which you struggle. Prayerfully ask the Lord to help you “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and no longer gratify this earthly desire.

Write a paragraph about a sin in your life that has not fulfilled you.

➤ **Books IX-X:**

Why does Augustine say he wrote this story? How does he say his story can be an example to his fellow Christians?

According to 1 Timothy 4:12, how can you be an example of Christ to your fellow classmates?

➤ **Books XI-XIII:**

What major concepts does Augustine wrestle with in these final books?
