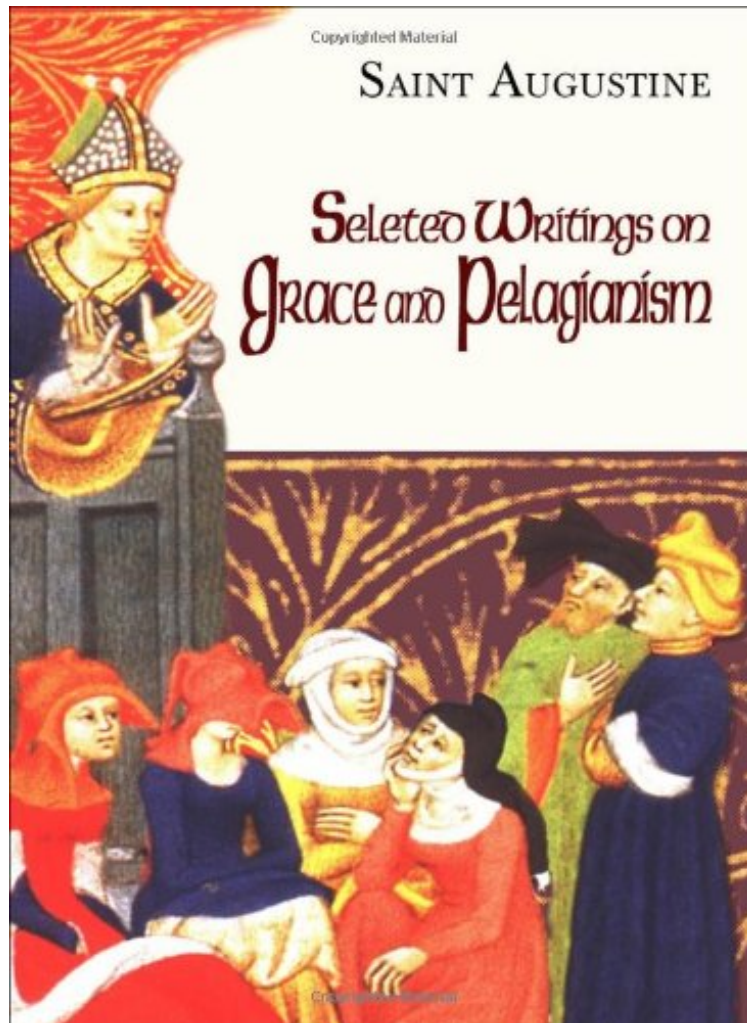


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Saint Augustine

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Saint Augustine : Selected Writings on Grace and Pelagianism (The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century) (Works of Saint Augustine (Paperback Unnumbered)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Selected Writings on Grace and Pelagianism (The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century) (Works of Saint Augustine (Paperback Unnumbered)):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important Theological WorksBy StFellowsSt. Augustine had a

profound influence on the development of Christian theology and, in particular, on the doctrines of original sin, grace, and predestination. This volume includes English translations of six of Augustine's more important works on these doctrines: Miscellany of Questions in Response to Simplician, The Punishment and Forgiveness of Sins and the Baptism of Little Ones, The Spirit and the Letter, Nature and Grace, The Predestination of the Saints, and The Gift of Perseverance. On the bright-side, I found the translation to be modern and accessible; the reader is left to wrestle with St. Augustine's difficult--and (to the modern mind) sometimes shocking--assertions of doctrine rather than a turgid translation. There are also helpful introductions to each work. The book, however, does not purport to be a scholarly reference. As such, it does not contain a bibliography and has few citations for the reader who might be looking for scholarly commentary. The book also does not contain an index, which I found to hinder my efforts to return to a key concept at a later time. Further, although titled Selected Writings on Grace and Pelagianism, the introduction does not include a discussion of Pelagianism. As such, if you are not familiar with the Pelagian heresy, you might wish to do a little research before delving into this book. I also found it disappointing that the selections did not include any of St. Augustine's responses to Julian of Eclanum, who arguably was the more articulate and persuasive advocate of the Pelagian position. Finally, I must agree with the other review concerning the quality of the binding. Although the volume is sturdy (the spine withstood my habit of laying the book flat), the cover is unattractive, the font appears fuzzy, and the pages have a yellowish hue that was sometimes distracting. Nevertheless, these minor problems were more than offset by the readability of the translation. This is a fine volume for readers who wish to have a fuller understanding of St. Augustine's thought without struggling with the translation (or the Latin).

0 of 11 people found the following review helpful. beautiful book coverBy nearlyimperfecti am not a designer but, think the cover alone makes the book great. "Why are women so much more interesting to men than men are to women ? St. Augustine.The saint was an interesting man and look forward to reading this book which i am judging by its cover.)

7 of 11 people found the following review helpful. poor printing jobBy MadisonThe content of this book is fine, but the text appears to have been printed with an ink jet printer. The type face is also stretched out on the page, as if the document was meant to be printed on a smaller page but was sloppily stretched out to fit an odd size. Shame on New City press for selling a book for \$30 that was so poorly printed!

Of the different controversies that preoccupied Augustine during his lifetime, Pelagianism was indisputably the most important for the subsequent history and theology of the western Church. It touched on any number of issues central to Christianity, most notably grace, predestination, original sin and baptism, all of which in turn could be reduced to the fundamental question of the exact nature of the relationship between God and his human creation. The six major treatises presented in this volume amply illustrate Augustine's struggle with the theological problems that Pelagianism raised. They begin with the Miscellany of Questions in Response to Simplician. Although written in 396, before Pelagianism even appeared on the scene, this work shows in a few pages the remarkable evolution of Augustine's thought on the matter of grace and the position at which he arrived and to which he clung for the rest of his life. The two final treatises, The Predestination of the Saints and The Gift of Perseverance, written in 428/429 shortly before Augustine's death, indicate where the position that he had elaborated more than thirty years before was fatefully destined to take him. The three middle treatises show Augustine in the process of refining -- but not altering -- his thinking in the face of what he rightly saw as Pelagianism's terrible threat to orthodox Christianity's central tenets.

About the AuthorAugustine of Hippo is one of the greatest thinkers and writers in the Western world. After becoming a Christian he was made bishop of Hippo in Africa, where he was influential in civil and church affairs. His more than 100 books, 200 letters and 500 sermons have left a lasting impact on Western philosophy and culture. His classic and best-selling works include the Confessions, The Trinity, The City of God, and Teaching Christianity.