

2. AUGUSTINE V. PELAGIUS

INTRO: *autosoterism*

- Pelagius' key points of assertion:
 - 1 God's highest attributes are his righteousness and justice.
 - 2 Everything God creates is good.
 - 3 As created, nature cannot be changed essentially.
 - 4 Human nature is indestructibly good.
 - 5 Evil is an act that we can avoid.
 - 6 Sin comes via Satanic snares and sensuous lust.
 - 7 There can be sinless men.
 - 8 Adam was created with free will and...sinned through free will.
 - 10 Adam's progeny did not inherit from him natural death.
 - 11 Neither Adam's sin nor his guilt was transmitted.
 - 12 All men are created as Adam was before the fall.
 - 13 The habit of sinning weakens the will.
 - 14 The grace of God facilitates goodness but is not necessary to achieve it.
 - 15 The grace of creation yields perfect men.
 - 16 The grace of God's law illumines and instructs.
 - 17 Christ works chiefly by his example.
 - 18 Grace is given according to justice and merit.¹

- BB Warfield: "The real question at issue was whether there was any need for Christianity at all...whether the function of Christianity was to save, or only to render an eternity of happiness more easily attainable by man."²

- Augustine's response: "This grace is free because it is neither merited nor earned. It is indispensable because it is the necessary condition for recovery, the sine qua non of salvation. It is prevenient because it is effectual, accomplishing God's purpose in giving it. It is indefectible because this liberating grace is perfect, infallible, and unflawed. The gift of grace is linked to God's eternal purpose and is intimately tied to his predestinating purpose."³
 - key points of assertion (summarized by Philip Schaff)
 - 1 Made in God's image, man's fall into sin is incomprehensible.
 - 2 Sin is a loss of freedom. (bondage to evil)
 - 3 Sin is the obstruction of knowledge. (we do not lose the mind, but it is affected)
 - 4 Sin is the loss of God's grace. (given over to our sin)
 - 5 Sin is the loss of paradise. (heaven; earth: weeds and thorns)...
 - 7 Sin brings physical death. (physical death set in at sin; attends the whole of human race)
 - 8 Sin is hereditary guilt. (original sin: an action & transmission)⁴

- Mt. 5:48; Phil. 2:12

¹ R.C. Sproul, *Willing to Believe* (Baker, 1997), p. 41-42.

² B.B. Warfield, *Augustine & the Pelagian Controversy*, p. 1.

³ Sproul, *Willing*, p. 51.

⁴ From Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, iBooks, location 2523-2526 of 6795.