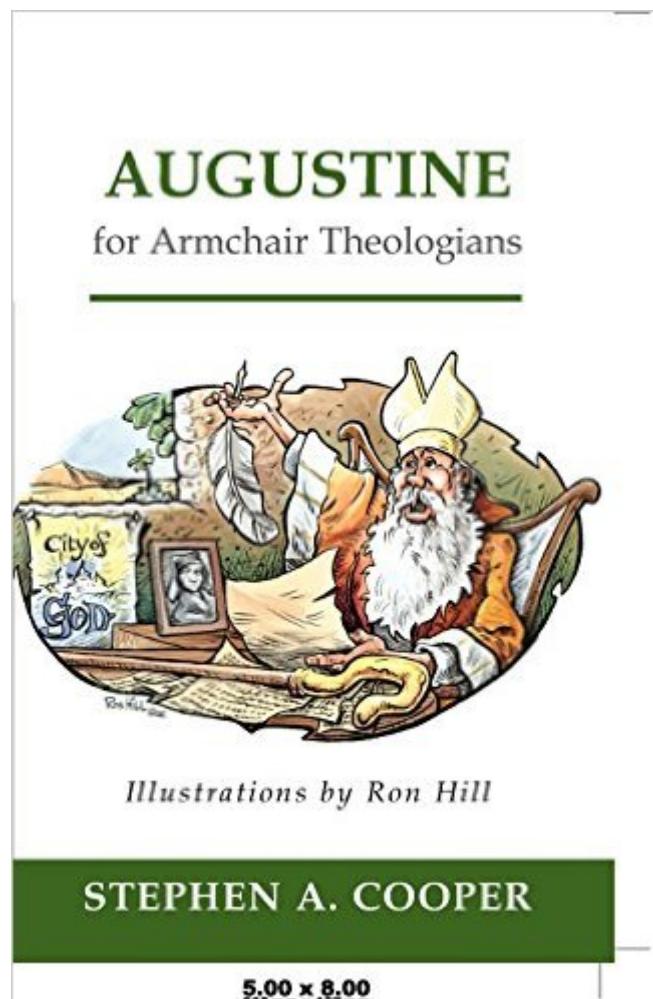


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Augustine For Armchair Theologians



Synopsis

In this book, Stephen Cooper provides an overview of the greatest theologian of the early church: Augustine of Hippo. Augustine has had a towering influence in the history of Christianity and his *Confessions* has long been regarded as one of Christianity's classic texts. Cooper introduces the life and thought of Augustine through discussing the *Confessions* and shows how many of Augustine's human struggles are still with us today. He also examines the theological views of Augustine that emerged through the important controversies of his times. Written by experts but designed for the novice, the *Armchair* series provides accurate, concise, and witty overviews of some of the most profound moments and theologians in Christian history. These books are essential supplements for first-time encounters with primary texts, lucid refreshers for scholars and clergy, and enjoyable reads for the theologically curious.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I doubt anybody needs an introduction to Saint Augustine, the 4th century Bishop of Hippo. Augustine preached for perhaps 30 years and authored over 100 titles. But if you want a quick overview of his life and spiritual growth, without getting bogged down in theological discussion, this is a friendly little book. This is my first *Armchair Theologians* book, and I'm impressed. Cooper follows the lead of Augustine's most famous work, *Confessions*, most of which is autobiographical, to tell the story of his life. Augustine's other most famous work, his massive *City of God*, gets a brief nod in the final chapter. I found that Cooper provided a proper balance to

the influences and motivations of Augustineâ™s life: his closeness with his mother, his relationships and later determined abstinence, his foray into Manicheism, and his resultant theology of grace. A proper perspective helps overcome the shallow perception that Augustine was wracked with guilt over what he considered a terribly sinful life. Augustine did indeed condemn his youthful actions, but they hardly ranked very high on the sin scale, and he comes across in this book as much more reasonable, merely cognizant of his shortcomings. This is not to say his denunciation of Manicheism and acceptance of Christianity was an easy one. He quickly grasped the untruths of astrology and other competing life views, and saw Christianity as the one true way, but was unwilling.

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