

Kenneth M. Wilson

Augustine's Conversion from Traditional Free Choice to "Non-free Free Will"

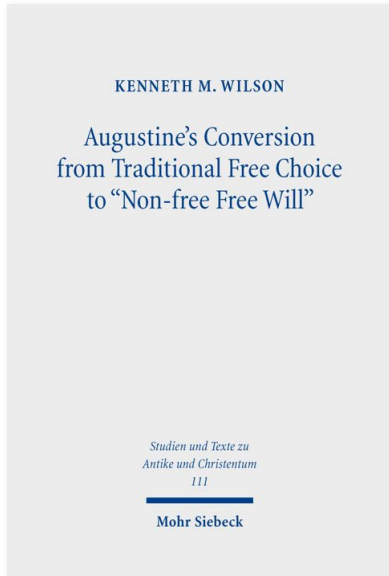
A Comprehensive Methodology

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The consensus view asserts Augustine developed his later doctrines ca. 396 CE while writing *Ad Simplicianum* as a result of studying scripture. His early *De libero arbitrio* argued for traditional free choice refuting Manichaeism, but his anti-Pelagian writings rejected any human ability to believe without God giving faith. Kenneth M. Wilson's study is the first work applying the comprehensive methodology of reading systematically and chronologically through Augustine's entire extant corpus (works, sermons, and letters 386-430 CE), and examining his doctrinal development. The author explores Augustine's later theology within the prior philosophical-religious context of free choice versus deterministic arguments. This analysis demonstrates Augustine persisted in traditional views until 412 CE and his theological transition was primarily due to his prior Stoic, Neoplatonic, and Manichaean influences.

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