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## The Real Reason We all Need Jesus As Our Savior

In his book, *Original Sin: A Cultural History*, Alan Jacobs provides a model of the kind of Christian apologetics that might actually reach non-Christians. We are all flawed by nature; this is an intractable problem that has vexed prominent observers from the ancient Greeks to the “New Atheists.” But explaining the reasons for this flawed nature has been trickier than observing it. In his book Jacobs does not assume that his readers are Christians, but he does suggest that the Christian explanation for humanity’s propensity to sin is the best explanation of all.

Learned observers, including some liberal theologians, have been trying to jettison the doctrine of original sin (our sin nature inherited from Adam) for millennia. But they haven’t come up with any more satisfactory explanations than the Christian one. That explanation was best advanced by Augustine and his theological descendants. You must hold five distinct beliefs in order to affirm the Augustinian anthropology, Jacobs writes:



You must believe that everyone behaves in ways that we usually describe as selfish, cruel, arrogant, and so on. You must believe that we are hard-wired to behave in those ways and do not do so simply because of the bad examples of others. You must believe that such behavior is properly called wrong or sinful, whether it’s evolutionarily adaptive or not. You must believe that it was not originally in our nature to behave in such a way, but that we have fallen from a primal innocence. And you must believe that only supernatural intervention, in the form of what Christians call grace, is sufficient to drag us up out of this pit we’ve dug for ourselves. (If we add to this list a sixth belief, that through the death of Jesus Christ God has provided this intervention, then we have the core of the theology that complements the anthropology. But that hasn’t been the concern of this book.)

Once the model is laid out in this way, with these five interlocking and necessary propositions, it may be surprising that anyone has ever affirmed it. Yet millions have, and millions more will. Perhaps that’s because each of these positions is well warranted by careful observation of human beings.

As Paul stated clearly regarding our greatest need: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (I Timothy 1:15).

## Dr. Aquila To Teach at New Geneva’s Egypt Extension – March 22-29

Dr. Aquila will be teaching at our New Geneva Seminary Extension in Egypt, March 22-29. The courses are taught at the conference center of the Presbyterian Church of Egypt in Alexandria. We expect seventy students to enroll for the three courses being offered.

## Spring Semester Courses Being Offered

The following courses will be offered during New Geneva’s Spring Semester. You are invited to audit any of these classes or to take them for credit: New Testament Survey II (Pauline Epistles); Systematic Theology: Doctrine of God; Systematic Theology: Revelation & Inspiration; Leadership; Church Growth and Development; and Introduction to Hebrew

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Thank you for your regular support to help us provide the highest quality Christ-centered education for our students. Because of the generosity of individuals like you, you are making a difference in the lives of students as they prepare to serve in vocational ministry and church leadership here and around the world. Contact us for more information at 719-573-5395.

## Repentance consists essentially in change of heart and mind and will.

“The change of heart and mind and will principally respects four things: it is a change of mind respecting God, respecting ourselves, respecting sin, and respecting righteousness. Apart from regeneration, our thought of God, of ourselves, of sin, and of righteousness is radically perverted. Regeneration changes our hearts and minds. It radically renews them. Hence, there is a radical change in our thinking and feeling. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. It is very important to observe that the faith that is unto salvation is the faith that is accompanied by that change of thought and attitude.... The emphasis upon repentance and upon the deep-seated change of thought and feeling that it involves is precisely what is necessary to correct this impoverished and soul-destroying conception of faith. The nature of repentance serves to accentuate the urgency of the issues at stake in the demand of the gospel, the cleavage with sin that the acceptance of the gospel entails, and the totally new outlook that the faith of the gospel imparts.” –John Murray