

## RESPONSE TO CLIVE BEED'S CRITIQUE OF "AUGUSTINE AND AQUINAS"

Richard C. Chewning  
CBFA Emeritus Scholar

Bless Dr. Beed's zeal for continuing the hard task of Biblical exegesis in search of the mind of Christ as it pertains to accounting, marketing, finance, management, and so forth. This pursuit has certainly been a core objective of mine, and the CBFA since its inauguration, and I, for one, trust it will remain a core focus.

Let me assume the responsibility for not having made my deep concern clear enough to have persuaded Dr. Beed and others who may have had his "take" on this essay, as attempting to redirect the basic thrust of CBFA. Beed states, "... the three reasons Chewning gives . . . on why his comparison of Augustine and Aquinas is necessary for CBFA members and the Business as Mission project does not strike me as compelling." Fair enough, but point three was, "... *CBFA members for the first time in history are coming face to face with the 'Business as Mission' (BAM) movement that rests atop a set of underlying theological beliefs that flow from one of the two principle theologians who are the focus of this treatise—Augustine and Aquinas.*" This was my attempt to give the next 20 pages meaning as the *big issue* was raised:

"If 'BAM' stood for 'Business As Ministry,' this treatise would never have been written. Every Christian ought to be 'ministering' to her or his neighbors. But because the movement has elected to refer to itself as 'Business As Mission' this places it in an entirely different theological category that deserves careful scrutiny as to just what it is endeavoring to accomplish."

[This statement was placed inside a "box" to emphasize it.]

"The word '*mission*' obviously does not need to be cast in so limited a manner in either its use or understanding, but it is being limited in this way here because the author perceives that BAM is, above all else, interested in promoting *discipleship* and *evangelism*."

The eight questions asked at the end of the article are essential to ask and answer, in my opinion, **if** BAM is drawing those who teach "applied business" in the direction of including under its umbrella the matters of "**discipleship**" and "**evangelism.**" I do not believe these are an appropriate focus for those who teach business.

Augustine and Thomas (Aquinas) were selected so that I could avoid speaking of Wesley, Luther, Arminius, Calvin, etc. and focus on the exegetical issues embedded in the answers to the eight questions.

And last, no one should consider Augustine and Thomas "philosophical theologians." They were full blown theologians who engaged in rigorous debate with the scholastic philosophers of their day. It is the world's philosophy that corrupts poorly articulated and adhered to theology. This is the genesis of why so many students come to us engulfed in *beliefs* that are seen through prisms of "*truth is only personal truth, relativism, feelings are my guide, situationalism,*" —the world's philosophies!