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The *Tractoria* of Prudentius of Troyes (d. 861)

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Introduction: Prudentius and the Ninth-Century Predestination Controversy

When the doctrine of predestination, the relationship of grace to free will, and the extent of Christ's atonement became topics of debate in the mid-ninth century, Gottschalk of Orbais was not alone in asserting the inability of the human will to choose good apart from special enabling grace, God's predestination of the elect to salvation and the reprobate to merited punishment, and the shedding of Christ's blood for all believers.¹ Remigius of Lyons, Florus of Lyons, Lupus of Ferrières, and Prudentius of Troyes similarly promoted such strict Augustinian tenets as the faith of the Church. This article briefly introduces the life and writings of Prudentius, and provides a translation of his *Tractoria*, which contains four chapters that succinctly illustrate his doctrine of grace.

The Life and Writings of Prudentius Related to Predestination

¹ For an argument against the notion that Gottschalk stood virtually alone in a world gone Semi-Pelagian, see Francis X. Gumerlock, "Predestination in the Century Before Gottschalk, Part 1," *Evangelical Quarterly* 81:3 (July 2009):195-209. Part 2 of the same article is scheduled for publication in the following issue 81:4 (Dec 2009) of *Evangelical Quarterly*.