

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #21

August 7, 2019

Last week we looked at the state of the church pages 66-67 in your books. I think we agree that the state of the church was in a very vulital condition. There was persecution without and heresy within.

Last week we looked at Marcion (ns).

Marcion

- Pronunciation: [mahr-shuh n, -shee-uh n, -see-uh n]
- Born 85 A.D. and the son of an elder in Pontus
- A wealthy ship owner
- Arrived in Rome 138 A.D.
- He was very generous and influential man
- His Biblical Views:
 - Thought the church was too legalistic
 - He rejected the value of the O.T. and viewed God differently in the O.T.
 - He only respected the Apostle Paul
- The church at Rome withdrew from him in 144 A.D.
- He wrote “Antithesis” or “Contradictions”
- He believed Paul’s and Luke’s writings as being credible
- He created the Marcionite church
- He created his own Canon (The Marcion Bible), 11 books

If you were here last week or you happened to read the information surrounding him, we learned that he was liberal in his views. He eventually created or established his own church and he would have what is called the Marcion Bible.

Our minds probably harken back to the apostle Paul’s remarks to the elders of Ephesus (Acts 20:28-29 read). Sadly, Marcion fits Paul’s description.

The next group of interest are the Gnostics.

Gnosticism

- Gnostic means “to know” [**nos-tuh-siz-uh** m]
- They relied on human wisdom rather than revelation from God
- Salvation was obtained via intellectual means
- Examples of their error:
 - The material world was evil and the spiritual was good which led to the worship of spirits like angels (Col.2:1-4, 18)
 - They combined various religious teachings (Jn.10:1-5; 1Cor.1:10)
 - They divided men into three classes 1. Material or animal, 2. Psychic, and 3. Spiritual
 - The O.T. was perverted and God was really the devil and the serpent was the true God
 - They believed in fulfilling fleshly desires in order to destroy their desires (Col.2:12; 3:1-10)

(Read book).

(Show and discuss bullets).

Docetism

- Pronunciation: [dō'sē,tizəm, 'dōsi-]
- Means “to seem”
- Christ seemed to suffer
- Jesus’ incarnation and crucifixion were not actual facts
- What was Ignatius’ response?

(Read book).

(Read bullets).

Why do you suppose the adherents of this sect didn’t believe in the incarnation and crucifixion?

Ignatius response was to create a watch dog against error. He was “over correcting” and “over reaching”! What do we have elders for? (Acts 20:28)

Montanism

- Pronunciation: /'män(t)ə,nizəm/
- Montanus, the founder of Montanism, minimized leadership in the church but in exchange for direct revelation of the Holy Spirit
- Montanism relied on spiritual gifts and would resemble charismatic churches of today
- They believed in an earthly reign of Christ for 1,000 years
- They set a date for Christ's return
- Marriage was permissible but discouraged
- They were excommunicated in Asia Minor

(Read book).

(Read content on power point).

There way of bucking authoring was playing the "God said I could do it" card. This reminds me a lady who started living with her boyfriend. She said God would want her to be happy and she sees nothing wrong with it. It also reminds me of the person is who keeps making bad choices, they say their just going have to pray for God to show them an answer. My response is He has, it's called the Bible.

They believed that spiritual gifts still existed even when Paul said they would come to an end (1Cor.13:8-12). The last apostle to write inspired words died about sixty years before Montanism came into existence.

They were by all accounts prost-millinnialist. They believed Chris would set up his kingdom for a thousand years and then take the church home. They set dates for Christ's return (Mt.24:36).

Marriage was discouraged. They looked down on couplse for marrying. Perhaps this goes back to Paul's writings to the saints in Corinth. (1Cor.7:7-8; 32-33). In response (1Cor.7:26; 28).

Their teachings were so radical, they were banned from the region of Asia Minor.

Latter Apologists

- Irenaeus (130-200)
- Clement of Alexandria (150-215)
- Tertullian (155-223)
- Hippolytus (170-236)
- Origen (185-254)

(Read bullets).

Irenaeus (130-200)

- Pronunciation: Ai-rehn-EE-uhs
- Born in Asia Minor 130 A.D.
- He heard Poycarp preach and became a Christian
- He was an elder at Lyons in Gaul 177 A.D.
- He wrote five books Against Heresies
- He valued the scriptures e.g. of Isa.7:14
- Irenaeus
- However he was caught up in the cultural confusion of his day e.g. pg.74, third paragraph
- What are your thoughts on “The Acts of Peter” (pages 74-75)?
- How does our author clear up the confusion?

(Read and discuss bullets).