

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #37

12/4/19

Last week we began looking at sects that developed during the second and third centuries. Last week we looked at...

Second and Third Century Sects

- Neoplatonism: Very mystical. Attempted to harmonize pagan philosophy with Christianity.
- Manichaesim: It mixed the teaching of Zoroaster with Christianity.
- Ebionites: A body of Judaizing Christians who attempted to harmonize portions of the O.T. with N.T. teachings.

(Read bullets).

Tonight we are going to continue to look at various sects that emerged during the second and third centuries. We are also going to look at doctrines that departed from the inspired Word of God.

Growth in Sects (Monarchianism)

- In this section we begin to observe the confusion surrounding the Godhead.
- According to the Ebionites God adopted Jesus. When did this happen? What did it become known as?
- Who led the church at Antioch astray by this doctrine of Monarchianism?
- What conflict did these views create for Christians?

Bullet #2

They believed that God adopted Jesus after he kept the Law of Moses perfectly. It became known as Monarchianism or Unitarianism.

Bullet #3

Paul of Samosata.

Bullet #4

They began to use philosophical language that was foreign to the scriptures in trying to defend their position.

Growth in Sects (Donatists)

- According to Donatus, which Roman emperor was responsible for Christians to commit the “unpardonable sin”? What did that Roman emperor demand of the Christians (hint: pg. 95 new books)?
- Who was a powerful religious figure who initially embraced Donatus’ position, but would later reverse it?

Bullet #1:

Diocletian and he demanded that Christians stop worshipping God.

Bullet #2

Novatian of Rome. He was a theologian and a writer. He declared himself bishop of Rome at one point, but didn’t gain total support.

Departure in Doctrine (Millennialism)

- “Millennium” comes from two Latin words “thousand years”.
- Revelation 20:3-5 mentions a thousand years in which the Devil is completely bound and the saints reign with Christ.
- Premillennialist believe that the second coming is to occur before the thousand years.
- Postmillennialist believe the second coming of Christ after the thousand years.
- Amillennialist hold to the view that the second coming has nothing to do with the thousand years.

(Read bullets).

Millennialism

- Who did Eusebius accuse as being the first one to introduce “Millennialism”?
- How do early writers depict the views of the Millenniums founder?
- What humorous story does Polycarp tell regarding John’s interaction with Cerinthus?
- Who was another key figure that believed in the coming the millennium in material form?

Bullet #1
Cerinthus.

Bullet #2
Of carnal nature in the coming age.

Bullet #3
John tells of a bathhouse going to collapse because Cerinthus was in it.

Bullet #4
Papias. He was a mid second century bishop of Hierapolis.

Departure in Doctrine (Original Sin and Baptism)

- Who was the first to formulate the doctrine of original sin?
- Who was the first bishop to approve infant baptism and why?
- When did infant baptism become a general practice?
- What was there an agreement on between Apostolic Fathers and Apologists?
- About when did baptism become a ritualistic ceremony?
- What outside forces influenced the church to unscriptural views of acts like baptism and the Lord's Supper?

Bullet 1:

Tertullian. He was an early Christian apologist from the region of Africa.

Bullet 2:

Cyprian of Carthage.

Bullet 3:

In the 5th century.

Bullet 4:

They taught that baptism was necessary for salvation and it was to be done by immersion.

Bullet 5:

Baptism became ritualistic during the 3rd century. It was done twice a year.

Bullet 6:

Pagan or mystery religions influenced the church.

Departure in Manner of Life (Asceticism and Celibacy)

- What sect encourage Christians to practice asceticism and celibacy?
- Which bishop from Alexandria defended marriage as being proper, and who did he reference as an example of marriage?
- What kind of communities came into existence as a result of this belief?

Bullet 1:
Gnostics.

Bullet 2:
Clement of Alexandria. He referenced the Apostle Peter as being a married man, he also said Paul was married based upon (Php. 4:3).

Bullet 3:
Monastic communities. "Be safe, Be celibate" would have been their mantra.