

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #22

August 14, 2019

Intro: We have been looking at this book plus the bible. This book being “The Eternal Kingdom” authored by F.W. Mattox and John McRay.

In our last class we were looking at the apologists. For the record, what is an apologist? Someone who writes a defense of their beliefs and actions. They aren’t apologizing for them, but rather defending them.

In our last class, we looked at various religious groups that sprang up in the 2nd century.

Second Century Religious Sects

- Marcionites
- Gnosticism
- Decetism
- Inspired men warned of such (Acts 20:29-30; 1Tim.4:1; 2Tim.4:1-4)

(Review sects and read passages).

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).

Their way of bucking authority was playing the "God said I could do it" card. This reminds me of 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 who keeps making bad choices, they say they 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 post-millennialist. They believed Christ 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 couples 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.

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).

Clement of Alexandria (150-215)

- Titus Flavius Clement was a native of Athens
- What prominent event happened in Athens during Paul's third missionary journey?
 - Review events from Acts 14-34
- How did Clement earn his name "Clement of Alexandria"?
- Who was a well respected teacher that Clement adored?
- What works did he author?
- What was his view of the Greek language and Greek philosophy as it relates to Christianity?
- What common view did Clement have with Philo?

(Read book then discuss bullets).