

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #34

November 13, 2019

We have been studying the history of the Lord's church from it's inception up to the third century thus far.

Last week we were looking at just how we got the Bible. Perhaps you remember there was a series of questions that was ask to determine the inspiration of a letter. Those questions can be found in your book on page #103.

Not all books were deemed inspired by God. Some books were considered to Apocryphal. Meaning what? Doubtful!

If that was not enough to bring about confusion in the camp, men began to express their opinions as doctrine; hence, we then have a formal departure from the revelation of God's Word.

Departure in Organization

- What is the meaning of “monarchal episcopate”?
- According to our author, who was a champion of a “one bishop” rule?
- Didache referenced Ignatius’ letters to prove a diversity of organization in the first century church. However, where is the real evidence of organization of the church?
- What scenario existed in the church that prompted one single bishop (pg.108 top paragraph)?
- By the year 150 a monarchal bishop was in full bloom. Suddenly there was a difference between elders and bishops
- What examples do we have how the bishops power increased (pg.108, 109)?

Bullet #1

Congregation ruled by one man.

Bullet #2

Ignatius

Bullet #3

In the scriptures.

Bullet #4

A chairman elder would preside over meetings then became the chief elder.

Bullet #5

Read outline

Bullet #6

Big city elders began to rule for county congregations.

Development of a Priesthood

- What time period do we see a distinction between ministers and the congregation?
- What did the hierarchy in the church begin to resemble?
- How did this view of the hierarchy affect the worship and how does it differ from (1Pt.2:9-10)

Bullet #1
150 AD

Bullet #2
The Old Testament priesthood.

Bullet #3
Only sanctioned priest or people in authority could preside over the worship services. How does this differ from 1Pt.2:9-10? We are all priests. Does this mean that even the woman can preside over the worship services? If not why not? Obviously we know based upon Paul's remarks in (1Cor.14:34-35; 1Tim.2:11-14) that woman are not to preside over the worship service. Just trying to get you to think folks!

The Growth of Sects (Gnostics)

- Basilides taught that there were 365 angelic orders.
- He taught there were seven “lesser gods”.
- Christ came to help man, but one of the lesser gods in the OT used the Jews to have Christ killed.
- Saturnilus believed matter was evil. He also believe in seven lesser gods. The god of the O.T. made man but didn’t give him a soul, so the great God had to intervene and provide a soul.
- What does our author say that they believed “in general” (pg.12, last paragraph)?

Bullet #1

Any one see 365 angelic orders in the Bible? How do you suppose they came up with the number “365”? How many days are there in a year? 365, yeah that will work.

Bullet #2

Anyone see seven lesser gods in the Bible? NO!

Bullet #3

Do you begin to see how some folks say that the God of the OT is different from the God of the NT?

Bullet #4

Anyone see how man was made without a soul and God had to come along and give man one? No!

Bullet #5

Read comment from author on page 12, last paragraph.