



THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

Lesson #38

12/11/19

Intro: We've been looking at the history of the Lord's church. This book, "The Eternal Kingdom" has been our primary source of information, along with the inspired Word of God.

The last time we were together, we discussed the departure of doctrine that occurred in church history.

Last week we ended our discussion looking at the topic of millennialism.

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).

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. I'm reminded of Paul's words in 1Tim.4:1-3 (read).

EASTER CELEBRATION

- **The church felt like it was in competition with their Jewish and pagan neighbors, and this gave way the establishment of religious holidays as a way to appeal to others. Easter came into existence.**
- **Who did the church in Asia Minor claim that Easter was to coincide with the Passover?**
- **Who supposedly taught the church in Rome that Easter occurred on a Sunday?**
- **Who can find in the Bible a formal Easter celebration promoted by any apostle?**

(Read bullet 1).

Bullet 2: Philip and the apostle John.

Bullet 3: Peter and Paul.

Bullet 4: There are no passages that support the fact that Easter was preached, promoted, or practiced by any of the apostles.