

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson 48

2/26/20

Last week we looked at the various councils from 325 AD to 860 AD.

Tonight we are going to shift gears and begin looking at various doctrines that developed or should I say digressed from what we see in the NT.

Let's begin on page 154 and begin reading the "Life, Worship, and Doctrine Under Romanism".

Life, Worship, and Doctrine Under Romanism

- The Establishment of Catholicity
 - The NT was the recognized authority, but they believed it needed an authoritarian interpretation.
 - The bishops became the spokesmen of orthodoxy.
 - By the 6th century there was a pattern designated as “Catholic”.
 - The word “Catholic” means universal.
 - The Lord’s church is universal, but the word took on a different meaning with strange doctrines.

(Read book).

(Read bullets).

Sacerdotalism

- In the NT Christ is man's only mediator (1Tim.2:5).
- A priestly class was formed that mirrored Judaism and paganism. The sacraments were originally presided over by a single bishop, then elders or presbyters became official priests.

Baptism

- NT baptism was an expression of one's faith and conviction of sin (Acts 2:38).
- Later it became a ceremony that could only be performed by an approved official.
- Various rituals occurred:
 - Devil was renounced, salt was poured on the head, the converted was given milk and honey.
 - The converted would wear a white robe and given a crown to symbolize victory.
 - Three baptism representing the Godhead.
- Sprinkling was approved and Novatian was the first known case in 251 A.D.
 - Infant baptism became common in 450 A.D.

The Lord's Supper

- What did Justin and Irenaeus speak of the Lord's Supper as?
- What would church members bring as an offering?
- Who said the Lord's Supper re-enacts the offering of Christ, as high priest?
- How does this continual offering of Christ for man's sins conflict with Hebrews 9:28?
- By the time of Gregory the Great (540-604) the mass was fully established.
- Who was the first to defend the elements of the Lord's Supper as representing the actual blood and body of Christ?

(Read all bullets).

We are left questioning ourselves how this actually happened. Any thoughts? Was anything else happening that fostered such speculation? What about image worship? They had big imaginations!

Increase of Sacraments

- When the practice of infant baptism became a common occurrence?
- When children became old enough to understand the meaning of worship, the sacrament of “conformation” originated.
- Another sacrament was “Penance”. The priesthood inserted itself as the one who would grant forgiveness of sins and required an act of mercy. Gregory the Great was the first to set forth penance.
- The priesthood gained a lot of power, even to the degree of anointing the sick with oil to gain God’s grace, and anointing the baptized with oil before death so sins would be removed.

Instrumental Music

- Early church leaders say nothing of instrumental music in worship; however, they do mention congregational singing.
- Basil, bishop of Caesarea (4th century) actually condemns the use of it.
- Congregational singing would give way to choirs, special singers, and yes, the use of instruments around the fourth and fifth century.

(Read bullets).

(Read church leaders opposed to it on pages 180-181 of “Why I’m a member of the church of Christ”).