

Bereans Bible Institute

Module VII – The Apostolic Mission

Lesson 32 – The Ministry of the 12th Apostle – Paul (Part 19)

I. The FOUR SECTS of Judaism

A. Sadducees: NO resurrection, no afterlife

1. Result: all blessings & rewards for serving God are in this life. Prosperity, wealth, power, prestige = God's favor and reward.
2. Effect: Became self-indulgent, despised the poor & disadvantaged as cursed by God.
3. View of Scripture: Accepted the Torah, rejected the prophets.

B. Essenes: NO resurrection, immortality of the soul (ghost – Platonic philosophy)

1. Result: blessings and rewards received after death.
2. Effect: Asceticism, monasticism, mistreatment of the body (prison of soul)
3. View of Scripture: Allegorical, mystical interpretations.

C. Pharisees: RESURRECTION of the body (no conscious death)

1. Result: blessings and rewards (or punishment) received only in the resurrection.
2. Effect: Obey God's law even in present difficulties with the hope of resurrection.
 - a. became largely external rather than internal (circumcised flesh but not hearts)
 - b. wrongly supposed that God would judge them as men did – by appearance
3. View of Scripture: Understood the Covenants and promises literally.
 - a. Denied that the 'New Covenant' (Jer. 31:31-34) had come because of the rejection of the new Lawgiver (Jesus).
 1. Denied Gentile participation in the Abrahamic Covenant because they did not accept the arrival of the New Covenant.

D. THE WAY (Christianity – Reformed Pharisee): RESURRECTION (no conscious death) & resurrection of Jesus as PROOF that He was the Messiah, inaugurator of the 'New Covenant.'

1. Result: blessings and rewards (or punishment) received only in the resurrection.
2. Effect: Obey Christ as 'Master' (greater than Moses), endure present trials.
 - a. Honored the body, disciplined the body, considered death temporary.
 - b. Stressed Jesus' teaching concerning (inner cleanliness, pure motives), God will not judge as man does (externally); resurrection to immortality for those who walk in the footsteps of Abraham.
3. View of Scripture: Understood the Covenants and promises literally.
 - a. Accepted the 'New Covenant' as superseding the Law of Moses (Jer. 31:31-34)
 - b. Accepted the many prophecies about Gentile participation in the covenants apart from the Law of Moses (ex. Mal. 1:11 *"For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; **In every place** incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.*")

II. Jesus' encounter with the Sadducees & Pharisees

- A. Reality of the 'resurrection' as the hope of the Patriarchs (Luke 20:27-40)
- B. Repayment at the resurrection of the just, not NOW, not at DEATH (Luke 14:7-14).
- C. Inclusion of the Gentiles in the blessing of Abraham (Luke 14:15-24)

III. Critical points of the Apostles' Message:

- A. The resurrection of Jesus as the PROOF of 'resurrection' (Acts 3:12-18 & 4:1-2,33)

IV. Paul's testimony

- A. Paul's claim concerning the CRUX of his message – the HOPE and resurrection (Acts 23:6-9)
 1. "I **AM** a Pharisee" (Acts 23:6) εἶμι – present active indicative verb