

# TWO CAUSES FOR RELIGIOUS ERROR

**Text:** Matt. 22:23-29

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. HERE JESUS POINTS OUT TWO CAUSES FOR RELIGIOUS ERROR.
  - 1. What happens when the Scriptures are gone( **Jer. 10:23; Psa. 119:105** ).
  - 2. What happens if we forget God's power( **Phil. 4:13** ).
- B. SADDUCEES THOUGHT THEIR RELIGION WAS SO PRACTICAL & COMMON-SENSE. THEY HAD CLEARED JUDAISM OF ALL SUPERNATURAL - IT WAS FOOLISH TO THEM.
- C. JESUS CONTRADICTED MUCH OF THEIR TEACHING - HE WAS THEIR ENEMY.
- D. WHY WERE THEY SO DEEP IN ERROR?

## I. BECAUSE THEY KNEW NOT THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. SADDUCEES CLAIMED TO KNOW THE SCRIPTURES.
  - 1. Many of the scribes, rabbis, priests were Sadducees!
  - 2. Most of the council was Sadducee.
  - 3. They could readily quote Scripture.
  - 4. They rejected those Scriptures which taught an after life ( **Dan. 12:2; Ecc. 12:7,13-14; Hos. 13:14** ).
- B. MOST RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY IS DUE TO IGNORANCE
  - 1. Faith only( **Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Heb. 5:8-9; Jas. 2:24** )
  - 2. Baptism is a non-essential( **Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21 Rom. 6:3-5** ).
  - 3. No importance to the name( **1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:15-16** ).
  - 4. One Church is as good as another( **Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 4:4** ).
  - 5. Divorce for any cause( **Matt. 19:9** ).
  - 6. Once saved( **Gal. 5:4** ).

## II. BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOT THE POWER OF GOD.

- A. THE RESURRECTION WAS BEYOND THEIR POWER TO UNDERSTAND.
  - 1. Everything defined by the realm of their experience.
  - 2. Seeing wasn't always believing.
- B. THIS ATTITUDE IS PREVALENT TODAY.
  - 1. Many who teach the gospel deny God's power to save deny the basics:
    - a. Virgin birth. b. divinity. c. miracles. e. Vicarious death
  - 2. They deny the core of the gospel - the death burial & resurrection ( **1 Cor. 15: 1-4** ).
    - a. They admit he died - but not for our sins.
    - b. Admit his burial - deny the resurrection.
  - 3. Such were common in Paul's day.
  - 4. Some Christians denied the resurrection( **2 Tim. 2:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:12** ).
- C. HOW DO THESE PEOPLE GET IN THE PULPIT?
- D. WHO ARE WE THAT WE SHOULD LIMIT HIS POWER?( **Rom. 11:33-35** ).
- E. GOD'S POWER WORKS IN US( **Eph. 3:20; Phil. 2:13; 4:13** ).
- F. IT IS BY GOD'S POWER THAT WE ARE:
  - 1. Saved from our sins( **Rom. 1:16** ).
  - 2. To be raised from the grave( **2 Cor. 4:14** ).
  - 3. To be saved in heaven at last( **1 Pet. 1:3-5** ).
- G. BUT WHAT IF THE SADDUCEES WERE RIGHT( **1 Cor. 15:12-19** ).

## CONCLUSION:

- A. MANY MODERN DAY SADDUCEES
- B. ACCEPT HIS SALVATION TODAY
  - 1. Examine that which is able to save( **Jas. 1:21** ).
  - 2. Trust the demonstrated power of God!