

“PHARISEES & SADDUCEES”

(Acts 23:6-8)

This passage **defines** the doctrine of the Pharisees and the doctrine of the Sadducees. These two groups represented two different religious groups during the personal life of Jesus, here on the earth, and during the early growth of the New Testament Church. These two groups opposed the Lord and his teachings and were greatly responsible for his being crucified.

The Sadducees were those who did not believe in angels, the resurrection of the dead; and as said of the Pharisees, they denied both, Acts 23:8. This problem caused a great **denouncement of the Lord upon their doctrines**. The Pharisees had a doctrine of their own, called by the Lord as, *“teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.”* Matt. 15:9. A whole chapter is dedicated to the waywardness of the Pharisees, Matt. 23. Jesus stated that with the attitudes and doctrines of the Pharisees; they, the Pharisees would not be able to enter the kingdom of heaven, Matt. 5:20. Also, it is said of them, *“beware of the leaven of the Pharisees,”* Matt. 16:11. In the next verse he states: *“Beware of the teaching of the Pharisees,”* Matt. 16:12. The Scribes of the New Testament were with the Pharisees and believed what they believed. Paul states that, *“As touching the law, a Pharisee,”* Phil. 3:5.

The Sadducees were just as bad as the Pharisees and were given no slack by the Lord. The disciples were told: *“Beware of the leaven of the Sadducees,”* Matt. 16:11; and explained in the next verse that he had in mind *“the teachings of the Sadducees,”* Matt. 16:12. The Lord put to shame the Sadducees by telling them *“they knew not the scriptures nor the power of God,”* Matt. 22:29. In this it is stated the Lord, *“put the Sadducees to silence,”* Matt. 22:34. These individuals did not believe in life after death; nor in angels and the Lord opposed them for believing such teachings. You will remember, the encounter of the Apostles with the Sanhedrin, in Acts 3, 4, was because of the teaching of the resurrection of the dead! Acts 4:1-2. There were certain ones at Corinth that did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, I Cor. 15:12-19. It could rightfully be said of them - they were Sadducees!

There were two different religious groups during the days of the Lord and the Lord **condemned** them both. Contrary to the thinking of many in our time, the Lord did condemn religious people who conformed not to the teachings of the Law, under which he lived and worked. Under the eyes of the Lord, the only ones who were acceptable were the ones who accepted him and his teaching, Jno. 8:24. Be assured, as one reads through the New Testament there is not a friendly note extended to the Scribes, Pharisees or the Sadducees. Jesus publicly exposed them all.

If the Lord were present in our society, would he accept all of the different religious organizations? No more than he did when he came during the days of the first century. He did not accept any of the different religious organizations then, and he would not accept false religious organizations today. He would demand that one believe in him and follow his teachings, Jno. 14:23.

Our hope and happiness in the end, is to **follow** the Lord and his teachings. According to Jno. 14:6, Jesus is the **Way, Truth** and the **Life**. There is no one that can come to the Father except through him. Without Jesus and his resurrection from the dead, *“We are of all men most pitiable,”* I Cor. 15:19. Caa

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