

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

39- The God of the Living Mark 12:18-27

Paul stated, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15:19. So where does our hope lie? What did Jesus teach us about hope beyond this life?

I- The Sadducees Doctrine:

Mark 12:18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection... There were two main sects of the day mentioned in the Bible, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. One major difference between the two was the Sadducees did not believe in any resurrection or life past death. During the Apostle Paul's ministry we see this division recorded in **Acts 23:7-8** *And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.*

By the denial of any hope of resurrection they denied by implication of this doctrine that there was any future reward or punishment.

II- The Sadducees Question:

Mark 12:18b ...and they asked him, saying, **19** Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. **20** Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. **21** And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. **22** And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. **23** In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.

This teaching has its roots in the Old Testament. **Deuteronomy 25:5-6** *If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6 And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.*

The purpose was to make sure that the families land stated in the possession of the family. A daughter could not inherit the property so a son needed to be born. This was also a practice of the Greeks as well. We see this come alive with the story of Ruth. Ruth's husband and sons had died leaving her and her two daughters in laws widows. Ruth say in **Ruth 1:11** *And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*

III- The Answer Concerning the Resurrection:

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? Jesus says to them that they did not know what the Scriptures taught. The Bible teaches us in the time of the end that this will happen. **2 Timothy 4:3-4** *NASB For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

The Bible says, **Romans 13:11-12** *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

Jesus told them that their question was not based on the Word of God but that they also did not understand the power of God. **Mark 12:25** *For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

IV- God of the Living:

Mark 12:26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? **27** He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

He took them to the time of the call of Moses in the burning bush in **Exodus 3:16** *Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:*

He is the God of the living; there is hope. The psalmist could not even image being separated from God said in **Psalms 73:23-25** *NASB Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. 24 With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.*

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior? Can you say in your heart today the words of **Romans 8:35-39** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Beloved He is the God of the living and don't you think we should be living like we are made for eternity?