

## **Just Thinking Apologetics**

Last week we looked at Gnosticism. Gnostics believed they had the accurate view of the person of Jesus. The Gnostics, however, held a radically different view of Jesus and his teachings. Today some claim that the form of Christianity that exists is a foggy glimpse of the real Jesus. They claim the Gnostic Jesus represents another view that should be considered as opposed to the New Testament Jesus that the vast majority believes today.

From what group did Gnosticism originate? No one knows exactly where Gnosticism came from. Some say it was an offshoot of Judaism, Christianity, or even from Paganism. The epistles of John and 2 Peter seemed to counter some early Gnostic teachings that were starting to infiltrate the Church. It should be noted that these epistles were some of the latest of the 27 New Testament books to be written. Early church fathers such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement and Tertullian also countered the Gnostic teachings. Some of these early church fathers point to Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8) as being the first Gnostic. Who were some of the other early players of Gnosticism and what exactly did they teach? Does the form of Christianity today misrepresent the Jesus of history? We will consider these questions next in order to unravel the true Jesus.