

The First Principles of the Doctrine of Balaam

Revelation 2:14

Introduction:

- A. Balaam a prophet of Midian, hired by Balak, king of Moab, to curse Israel. (Numbers 22-24).
 - 1. Rebuked by his donkey.
 - 2. Held in dishonor by New Testament writers. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 11, Rev. 2:15).
- B. Balaam seemed to be governed by three basic principles.

Discussion:

II. Do It, If the Price Is Right.

- A. Balaam finally accepted to the “wages of unrighteousness”. (2 Pet. 2:15).
 - 1. Firstly, he was offered money to curse Israel. (Num. 22:7).
 - 2. Secondly, he was offered flattery to curse Israel. (Num. 22:15).
 - 3. Thirdly, he was offered honor and prestige to curse Israel. (Num. 22:17).
- B. Balaam was not the last to accept the “wages of unrighteousness”.
 - 1. Some of the best teachers and preachers that money can buy. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:1-3,12-16).
 - 2. Common wages of compromise: A sale, a job, a promotion, friendship, popularity.

III. Decide How You Want It, Then Call on God to Ratify It.

- A. Balaam was determined to go with Balak, but he also wanted God’s permission.
 - 1. At first, God told him not to go – Balaam apparently submitted. (Num. 22:14).
 - 2. He still wanted to rewards for going, so he seeks God’s permission again. (Num. 22:19).
 - 3. God finally lets him go, but showed His anger against him. (Num. 22:20-23).
- B. People often decide what they want to believe or do, then try to get God to rubber stamp it.
 - 1. Decide how they want to be saved – look for scriptural approval.
 - 2. Decide how they want to worship God – look for scriptural approval.
 - 3. Decide to marry unscripturally or unwisely – look for scriptures or preachers to confirm.
 - 4. Decide to engage in world practices – look for scriptural approval.
 - 5. May find approval as a judgement of God for not loving truth. (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

IV. If You Want to Defeat God’s People, Get Them to Defeat Themselves.

- A. Balaam finally found a way to get Israel to curse itself. (V. 14; Numbers 31:16; 25:1-3).
 - 1. Entice Israel to adopt the enemies’ (Moab’s) morals and religion.
 - 2. “It is not the water on the outside of boat that sinks it, but what get inside”.
- B. Church harms itself from within far more than any harm that comes without.
 - 1. Moral corruption of our society should concern us – only harms us if it becomes internal.
 - 2. Denominationalism is no great threat to the church, unless we compromise with it.

Conclusion:

- A. Do not sell out your convictions – for anything.
- B. Seek God’s will first, then decide to do what He wants at all cost.
- C. Keep your self pure, thus save church from internal corruption.