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.
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”.
   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).
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 is 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.