

INTRODUCTION: 1) The Way of Balaam last Sunday. 2:15
2) The doctrine of Balaam next Sunday. Rev. 2:14

1. WHAT BALAAM WAS:

1. Balaam is described as a typical hireling anxiously looking for a market for his gift.
2. Reward sought:
 1. The reward may not always be money.
 2. It may be popularity with some.
 1. Without money and a popular message a (a message people want to hear) a man is not likely to be very popular.
 3. The reward may some times be the APPLAUSE men may give for a moment.
3. Balaam was a religious man.
 1. Evidenced in his consulting with God.
 2. Balaam believed in God but after his own will and his own way. Num. 22:19
4. So the Error of Balaam in Jude 11 must be distinguished from the Way of Balaam of 2 Peter 2:15 and the doctrine of Balaam in Revelation 2:14. This morning we consider:

2. THE ERROR OF BALAAM. Jude 11

1. In error Balaam rejected God's "Thou shalt not go with them" command and sought for "what the Lord will say unto me more." Num. 22:12, 19
2. God permitted Balaam to go with the express command that he would do nothing or say anything other than what God commanded him.
 1. He went all inflamed with the love of the promise of hire.
 2. He went all puffed up with the promise of being promoted to great honor.
 3. He went thinking no doubt that through him God would curse Israel.

3. THE ERROR OF BALAAM...LESSONS FOR US TODAY.

1. We do not wish to make the same mistake that Balaam made... WE MUST NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE.
2. I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God to do less or more. Num. 22:18. EXACTLY
3. Measured in the light of his conduct his speech is revealing:
 1. He did not like what God had said.
 2. He wanted God to change his word.
 3. If he would not change it he would ignore it

4. BALAAM'S DISSATISFACTION WITH THE WORD OF THE LORD.

1. The Lord had told him once that he should not go.
 1. The answer did not suit Balaam for his heart was set on going.
 2. The first answer of God to Balaam would have forever settled the matter of going had:
 1. A simple, clear expression of the divine will been, with Balaam, the end of the law.

5. BALAAMISM AMONG MANY TODAY: EXAMPLES;

1. A man desires to know what to do to be saved.
 1. He correctly seeks to know what the Lord says about it.
 2. He determines to read his book through from side to side.
2. In the very first interview the Lord tells him in Mark 16:16; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned."
 1. This is the plain, simple, unmistakable answer of the Lord on that point.
3. That does not suit me; that is not in harmony with my inclinations.
 1. But Jesus either told the truth or he did not. If he did not then all he said elsewhere is worthless.
4. I will go again and see what more the Lord will say to me. So he reads Matt. 5:8; "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
 1. That is just what I want: Not a word about faith, repentance, confession, or baptism.
 2. If we are justified in eliminating one condition of salvation elsewhere expressed, because it is not repeated in a given text, we are compelled to eliminate every other condition of salvation not thus repeated.

