

Balaam: Could He Ever Pray!

(Numbers 23:10)

- Introduction:
1. Balaam was an Old Testament prophet who was torn by his allegiances.
 2. On the one hand, Balaam wanted to serve God, but on the other he wanted to enjoy the pleasures of this life that could be bought with riches.
 3. This conflict resulted in Balaam praying a very good, but strange prayer.

I. The Prayer Itself Was Very Good

- A. It was a realistic prayer.
 1. It recognized that death will come.
 2. (Ecclesiastes 8:8).
- B. It was an informed prayer.
 1. All know that death will come, but some fail to see the difference between the death of the righteous and the sinner.
 2. (Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29).
- C. It expressed the most important concern that a person can have.
 1. Nothing is more important than dying right.
 2. (John 8:21,24; Mark 8:36-37).

II. The Prayer Was Strange Because Of His Divided Loyalty

- A. He had the wish but not the will (James 2:14-17).
- B. He had the desire but not the determination (Matthew 19:16-26).
- C. He wanted to be a saint in heaven, but didn't want to live as a saint on the earth.
- D. He prayed for the reward of the righteous, but he loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:15).
- E. He prayed for the riches of heaven, but had his eyes on the riches of this world (Jude 11; Matthew 6:19-21).
- F. He prayed for what God could give him, but wanted what Balak had to offer more (Matthew 6:24).
- G. He prayed that in death he would be numbered with the righteous, but in life, he was willing to be numbered with the wicked (2 Corinthians 6:14; John 18:18).
- H. He prayed for himself to be saved, but caused others to be lost (Numbers 31:16).

- Conclusion:
1. How did Balaam die? (Numbers 31:8).
 2. Friends, we can't live wrong and die right.
 3. We can't ignore Christ now and find him then.
 4. To die as a Christian, we must live as a Christian.