

BALAAM'S STRANGE PRAYER

(Numbers 23:10)

- Introduction:
1. It is very possible that one's prayer life resembles very little of one's daily life.
 2. Such is the case with Balaam.
 3. Balaam's prayer is strange in the sense that it was so different from his life.
 4. Let's examine a couple points Balaam made in his prayer.

I. The Prayer Itself Was A Very Good Prayer

- A. It was a realistic prayer.
1. It acknowledged the reality of death.
 2. (Psalm 90:10).
- B. It was an informed prayer.
1. Many know death is coming, but fail to see the difference between the death of a righteous man and a sinner.
 2. (Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 10:28).
 3. Any informed person would want to die the death of the righteous (Revelation 14:13; Luke 16:19-31).
- C. It expressed the most important concern a person can have.
1. We often ask for many things, some not too important.
 2. (John 8:21).
 3. (Mark 8:36-37).

II. The Prayer Was Strange Because He Wanted To Die The Death, But Didn't Want To Live The Life

- 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 earth.
- D. He prayed for the reward of the righteous, but "love the wages of unrighteousness" (2 Peter 2:15).
- E. He prayed for riches in heaven, but his eyes were on the riches of the 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 might be counted with the righteous, but in life, he was willing to be numbered with the wicked.
- H. He prayed for himself to be saved, but caused others to be lost (Numbers 31:16).

- Conclusion:
1. Balaam's was a strange prayer, but a very common one.
 2. We can't live wrong and die right.
 3. We can't ignore Christ now and find him later.
 4. To die a Christian, we must live as a Christian.