

Beware of the Teaching of Balaam!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **Rev. 2:14** “the teaching (doctrine) of Balaam” - one way the Lord described false religious doctrines
- **this lesson:** Beware of the Teaching of Balaam!

➤ The “teaching of Balaam” is symbolic of false teaching? – metaphor, symbolic

- **Rev. 2:14** teaching that puts a stumbling block before people, whereby they fall into sin

- Balaam and Balak (king of Moab)

- Balaam was a prophet of God
- Balak (king) tried to get Balaam to curse Israel, so they couldn't defeat the Moabites, but God didn't allow Him to curse His people
- so Balaam taught Balak how to put a stumbling block before Israel, whereby they sinned, and God punished them for their sins

➤ - the teachings of Balaam are false teachings that are stumbling blocks to people, resulting in sin, and punishment

- **Rev. 2:14** anyone who puts a stumbling block before another, religious doctrine (eat. . .) or immorality
- **Jude 1:4, 10-11** false teachers, for pay rush headlong into the error of Balaam

➤ - What are some present-day teachings of Balaam? – stumbling blocks placed before people, resulting in sin

- any false religion or religious teaching
 - **Gnosticism** entices people through deceitful philosophy, promising a special relationship with God that cannot be obtained except through that religion
 - **Rev. 2:15** Nicolaitans

➤ - pagan religions entice people with fulfillment of lustful desires, that whatever you believe is ok

➤ - enlightenment religions entice people with enlightenment, usually through an ascetic lifestyle

➤ - Pentecostal religions entice people with the promise of supernatural power, using magic and tricks to deceive them

➤ - Catholic religions entice people with the promise of eternal life, obey the priest and saved, punishment will only be for a short time in purgatory, can always be forgiven even if die before confession

- Protestant religions entice people with once saved always saved, no matter what you do you'll be saved anyway

➤ - anything promoting immorality

- **Rev. 2:20** Jezebel, metaphor, eat. . . , and immorality, anyone who calls themselves a prophet and leads Christians away

➤ - **2 Pet. 2:1, 13b-15** false prophets and teachers, entice people to sin with lust, following the way of Balaam, loving the wages of unrighteousness

- sexual sins: condoned by society (commercials, pornography, etc.) and religion (homosexuality, adultery, etc.)

- teaching of Balaam is any false teaching – stumble, sin, punishment

➤ **How do we avoid falling prey to the teachings of Balaam?** – stumbling blocks placed before people be false teachers

- test everyone and everything – religions, teachers, ourselves

- 1 Th. 5:21-22 principle: examine everything carefully, hold fast good, abstain from every form of evil

➤ - 1 Jn. 4:1; Rev. 2:2 test religious teachers, prophets

- illus.: study, members of church with prophet, test the prophet (Matt. 7:15-16; Deut. 18:21-22)

➤ - 2 Cor. 13:5 test ourselves

- illus.: rf - 1 Tim. 3:1-13 test elders and deacons to see if they meet qualifications

- illus.: rf - Phil. 2:15 prove ourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God

- illus.: rf - Ja. 1:22 prove ourselves to be doers of the word, and not hearers who delude themselves

➤ - Work as a member of this congregation – teach, learn, study, get the word out

- preaching, teaching – everyone is teaching someone something, general sense

- 2 Tim. 4:2, 3-4 preaching: reprove, rebuke, exhort

- illus.: high school class, questions from kids can teach the teacher, Justin asked, when studying Jesus tempted in the wilderness to sin by turning stones into bread: if it wasn't a sin to eat bread, why would it have been a sin to turn stones into bread

➤ - remind, charge, instruct – teaching and learning

- 2 Tim. 2:14 remind and charge brethren regarding what they are to do and teach, and what they are to avoid

- illus.: Mason, 3, Amen after both prayers last night, reminded me about saying Amen

- 1 Tim. 1:3-4 instruct brethren not to teach strange doctrines, not pay attention to false teaching

➤ - false doctrines identified – learning

- 1 Tim. 4:1-5, 6 pointing out false doctrine to brethren

➤ - guarding the truth – getting the message out, pillar and foundation of the truth

- 1 Tim. 6:20-21 guard the truth of the word (1 Tim. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2 word intrusted)

➤ - elders refuting – correcting, others learning as observe

- Tit. 1:9 elders who refute those who contradict

- to avoid falling prey to false doctrine (teachings of Balaam), test everyone and everything, and be a faithful member of this congregation, learning, and helping to get the message out to others

- welcome testing from others – personally and as church – may save some

➤ **What do you do, if you find yourself following a false doctrine (teaching of Balaam)?** – stumbled, believed and adhering to false doctrine

- Rev. 2:16a repent, change of heart resulting in a change of action - Rev. 2:14-15

- illus.: visiting church in Sinton Tx, elder told me about Roy Cogdill preaching there many years before when they had a kitchen, after they learned the truth, they closed down the kitchen and never used it again

- repented of false religion doctrine they had believed, practiced

- when we find ourselves doing the wrong thing, no matter the reason, we repent, changing our mind and changing our actions to conform to God's word

- **What awaits those who repent – the faithful?** – those not stumble, those repent when stumble
 - **Lk. 13:3, 5; 2 Pet. 3:9** everyone has to repent to be saved, go to heaven
 - for those who do. . . (below)
 - **Rev. 2:17** eternal life - **Rev. 2:14-16**
 - “give the hidden manna” signifies the bread from heaven that gives eternal life
 - Jesus is the bread from heaven that gives life
 - “give him a white stone” signifies acquittal
 - a white stone was used in courts to signify acquittal, and a black stone to signify condemnation
 - “and a new name written on the stone” signifies participation with God in the new Jerusalem, heaven
 - Jesus writes on the saved “the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem
(Rev. 3:12)
 - those who repent of the things they’re doing wrong, and live faithful to God, will spend eternity in heaven with Him
 - **Rev. 2:10b-11** faithful until death, not hurt by the second death – not cast into the lake of fire
 - **inv.:** Are you faithful to God?
 - rejecting and exposing the teachings of Balaam