

# Unexpected Life Lesson

Ok I had to share what I learned after just a few weeks of owning a pet lamb. This is funny because I'm clueless but also sobering and humbling.

By Richie Ambrose

They don't complain they just peacefully sit down in shade and rest despite bleeding badly.

1. The lamb is sweet, gentle and loving. Not a mean bone in it at all.
2. It can't defend its self. Learned this after finding my father in law's dog chewed both sides of his ears (1/2 gone) - minutes before they were playing.
3. I'm not worthy to own a lamb because it needs someone that will constantly love it and protect it. When you see one harmed it likes someone hurting your own child.

4. They follow you wherever you go.
5. Couldn't help think what it must have been like for David to be a shepherd and protect his sheep out in the open.
6. Lastly reminded that Christ was silent as a lamb when He was mistreated. Lamb is so precious but I'm not worthy!!!
7. Unexpected life lesson.



**Classes This Week**

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Sunday PM</b><br>College Devo at Norman's, Josh Hartsell teaching! | <b>Monday 7:00 PM</b><br>Men's Study at Walker Davis' "How to Change Yourself" | <b>Tuesday 10:00 AM</b><br>Ladies' Class, Paula Davis' house "Seasoning Your Words" | <b>Tuesday 8:00 PM</b><br>Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center |
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|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>September Birthdays</b>                              |  |  |   | <b>News and Notes</b>   |  |  |  |
| Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)                             | Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather) | Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt) | Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)      | ☒ - Ryan is preaching at Wilsonville Sun-Wed. See flyer in foyer!<br>☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens and Cristin Chavez.<br>☒ - Please pray for Tim Morton, Greg Lanier's son-in-law as he is deployed to Afghanistan.<br>☒ - Nakia's father-in-law, Billy Strickland, will have surgery this Tuesday to remove cancer.<br>☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson, Craig and Paula Davis<br>☒ - Be sure to have your picture taken (or updated) for the directory in the foyer on Sunday mornings.<br>☒ - Please continue to park in the grass when possible at all services.<br>☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com. |  |  |  |
| Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters) | Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)                 | David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)           | Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)                              |   |  |  |  |
| Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)              | Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)          | Betty Bradford                                     | Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives) |   |  |  |  |
| Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)                           | Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)          | Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)              | William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)                |   |  |  |  |
| Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)    | Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)                   | Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)           | Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)                |   |  |  |  |
| Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)              | Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)               | Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)                  | Maria Aragon (Liseth's Mother)                        |   |  |  |  |
| 2-Denise Davis  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 3-Trenton Anderson                                      |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 3-Larry Lauderdale                                      |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 4-Kevin Anderson  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 10-Bj Winslett  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 10-Eleanor Weldon                                       |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 10-Matthew Sullivan                                     |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 11-Sheryl Fowler  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 11-Kimberlee Myers                                      |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 12-Jared Johnson  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 13-Adam Saylor  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 14-Patsy Ogle   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 16-Brittany Bagents                                     |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 17-Laura Weldon   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 21-Sarah Chandler                                       |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 24-Wade Winslett  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 24-Lauren Johnson                                       |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 25-Ashley Collier                                       |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 28-Hallie Hall  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 29-Sandlyn Fultz  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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## Cause and Effect of the Doctrine of Balaam

By Gerald E. Evans



### Thoughts to Ponder

...“Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.”

(Numbers 22:18)

Christianity, in its purity, is the same now that it was almost 1900 years ago. That which God approved then he will approve now; and just what he condemned then he will condemn now. So, if we would be approved of God we must stand where we know God approves and avoid all else. All who accept the Bible as the final rule of conduct recognize that.

In **Revelation 2:12-14** the Lord commended the church at Pergamos for some things and censured them for others. They were commended for holding fast his name, and for not denying the faith once delivered to the saints, and all this "where Satan's throne is." That is no small commendation! Those who take such a stand give courage and strength to all who know Christ's appreciation for such a stand. But more, it involves showing honor to Christ. To hold his system of faith in all its essential elements will secure the divine blessing.

Like the unconverted sinner, unwilling to bow in humility to the will of the Lord that they might be saved, too many brethren today seek a Scripture that will make them acceptable to God like they are. They go to the word of the Lord to see what the Lord would say "more," and find an answer to suit them.

But where error exists, Truth demands censure of the error. Some in the church at Pergamos held to the doctrine of Balaam and also to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The Lord emphatically declared of such teaching, "Which thing I hate" (vv. 14-15). Recognizing the Lord's strong disapproval, it should be obvious that we need to determine the underlying cause of men embracing such doctrine. The effect is obvious in **verse 14**: idolatry and immorality! The basic doc-

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**Elders**  
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
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trine of Balaam just could be a sin all too common among Christians: elders, deacons, preachers and other saints!

Balaam was an Old Testament character, the history of whom is found in **Numbers 22-25**, dating approximately B.C. 1452. He was a prophet of God after the old order, the order prevailing before Moses received the Law given exclusively to Israel. Even though he was a descendant of Abraham, he was not under the covenant of Jacob. The Israelites were his kin by the flesh but not in the religious sense.

In **Numbers 22:18** was a noble statement, "I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more." But the fact was that he went at once to obtain God's permission to do what he had already said "though shalt not do." This is like so many (even among God's people) today. They are not content with the results of doing God's plain will, but keep chasing Scripture, knowing that sooner or later they will find what fits the idol in their heart (**Ezek. 14:1-4**). I was told just yesterday on a Dial-a-Bible-Message response that **Ephesians 5:19** and **Colossians 3:16** teach the use of instrumental music in the church! Like old Balaam, who claimed he "couldn't go beyond God's word, to do less or more," this person sure was eager to get God to change his word, wasn't he?

Can we be blinded to the cause behind the doctrine of Balaam, an unwillingness to accept God's Word on a matter without question, and thus could we be condoning the doctrine of Balaam? Like the unconverted sinner, unwilling to bow in humility to the will of the Lord that they might be saved, too many brethren today seek a

Scripture that will make them acceptable to God like they are. They go to the word of the Lord to see what the Lord would say "more," and find an answer to suit them. The same practice brought error amongst God's people in every apostasy on record, and still works today. Some brethren simply are not satisfied with "what the will of the Lord is" if it goes counter to individual desire or some vested interest. No matter the hardship and pain obedience may afflict even upon the innocent, the Lord's will changes not to accommodate the situation or the times. Sin is what causes the affliction.

Of what did the "doctrine of Balaam" consist? At least we know this much: ". . . who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality" (**Rev. 2:14**). When anyone teaches that the divorced fornicator is loosed to marry again with impunity, in spite of the fact that Christ taught plainly in more than one Scripture that such would be adultery (sexual immorality), do we have "the doctrine of Balaam" and even possibly the doctrine of the Nicolaitans being taught among us today? We certainly know from the Lord's letter to the church at Pergamos his attitude toward such doctrine. No amount of searching for "more" in Old or New Testaments will alter the declaration of Jesus, "But I say!" (**Matt. 19:9**) Nevertheless the search and arguments and debating and disrespect for "what has been written" continues, and "the Lord (has answered and) will answer according to the multitude of his idols in his heart" (**Ezek. 14:3-6**). Until all God's people are "speaking as the oracles of God" and are content therewith, I believe "the doctrine of Balaam" will not only hinder the peace of God's people but also will result in the loss of numberless, precious souls.



## Big and Little Organizations

By Morris D. Norman

One of the first things that I learned when I first began preaching the gospel over thirty years ago was that any organization smaller or larger than the local church was unscriptural. The church with its bishops, deacons and saints, through its collective treasury, was sufficient to do everything that God had commanded it. Back then, the issue involved the missionary society and the denominational Sunday School. Sending men to preach the gospel was not the issue, but for the local church to send funds to a missionary society to select, send, support and supervise "missionaries" involved an organization larger than the local church, was without scriptural precedent and had to be opposed. Bible classes, as a part of the local teaching program under elders, were not the issue. But to have a Sunday School which had an entity apart from the local church with officers, membership and a treasury was another organization; or for the various classes to have officers and a treasury, was an organization smaller than the local church and was unscriptural.

For the most part, those who were involved in these big and little organizations also used instrumental music, so they caused little problem among "us," especially the missionary society. Oh, there were a few churches which had collection in the Bible classes, and some classes had projects (generally benevolent), but, in most instances, the teaching done solved the problem, at least among the church with which I worked. I can remember only one church that had a collection in classes and

The church with its bishops, deacons and saints, through its collective treasury, was sufficient to do everything that God had commanded it.

that was with the little folks "to teach them to give," and the few pennies collected went in the collection plate. I would have preferred that not even this be done but that the children learn by giving during the worship hour just like everyone else. I saw danger in the practice.

But the battle lines changed to the edification society (schools) and then benevo-

lent societies (orphan and old folks homes). What brethren could see in reference to the missionary society, they could not apply to the other two. So a large number of local churches that once stood opposed to an organization larger than the local church began to contribute to one, not seeming to realize that what was true of one organization separate and apart from the church through which the local church did her work was also true of any other such organization.

But what about the smaller organizations? It seems some never learn. Recently, I received a list of donors to an orphan home, among which there were individuals, churches and, you guessed it, Bible classes from local churches. Hence, local churches are giving to organizations larger than the local church; and organizations smaller than the local church (without going through the local treasury) giving to an organization larger than the local church.

Those who will be ignorant, let them be ignorant still, but for those who want to do the will of the Lord, let them be warned and build according to the pattern.

