

advantages as the first objective we are in danger. Balaam said, God says, I do not behold iniquity in Israel or perverseness in Jacob. God can only bless what is good. He can't bless what is evil. Now he said, Look at some of these Israelites that are falling into wicked sin ~~and some of~~ with some of these Moabite women. He says to Balak, I've only presented God's word, I wouldn't curse them. But, he said, if you really want to injure them, you lead them into sin. You encourage your people to tempt them and then if they fall into sin God can't possibly bless them. And they did fall into sin and thousands of them were punished by God as a result of it. And Balaam's name became a reproach which it has been ever since and he has been referred to in 2 Pet. 2:15; Jue 11; Rev. 2:14 as an example for us to avoid -- going in the way of Balaam who was seeking the regards of unrighteousness. And what a tragedy. A man -- he could have said what Balak wanted and received tremendous honor and tremendous money and he could have taken that and gone off and enjoyed it, but instead of that he stood absolutely true to God up to this point and then after it all he managed to twist his thinking ~~and~~ in such a way as to stand true in his teaching that God will only bless that which is good, but to tell the forces of evil how to get around it, how to twist around it and he gave them advice which resulted in the death of thousands of Israelites and resulted in his name becoming a curse in the Scripture. So here is a man that deserves tremendous honor for the way he stood true to God, but he gets none of it because of his great failure at the end, and because of his lesser failure at the beginning. I believe that the life of Balaam is worth everyone one of us looking into and looking back to every year in our ministry, and applying to ourselves. Will you stand as true to God as Balaam did? Will you present his word exactly as God gives it? Are you able to say, If Balak would give me his housefull of gold and silver I would not say anything except what God ~~is~~ tells me to say. I would stand true to His word. Are you ready to do that no matter what you face? I don't know if MacGovern becomes president I wouldn't be surprised if the communists would completely take over within ten yrs. from now. I ~~is~~ wouldn't be a bit surprised. Things are moving fast. In the colleges and even in the high schools our young people are being indoctrinated to think