

Certain Christians

Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul (Col.4:14; Philmn 24; 2 Tim.4:11), wrote two books, Luke and Acts. The purpose of his gospel is set forth in Luke 1:4: "that thou mightest know the certainty concerning the things wherein thou wast instructed" (ASV). Luke wrote so that Christians can know the "certainty" or "exact truth" (NASV) of Christianity.

The first recipient of the books of Luke and Acts was the "most excellent" Theophilus (Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1). We don't know much about this man, but we know that Luke wanted him to have "certainty" about his beliefs. Read Luke 1:1-4 and note how Luke used words like "fulfilled", "eyewitnesses", "accurately", and "certainty".

What we learn from this is that a Christian's faith is not founded upon mere speculation or hearsay. New Testament authors, like Luke, recorded the facts about Jesus so that Christians can be certain about what to believe and how to live.

Christians do not live on uncertainties. They are certain about what they know and believe. Christianity is based upon the historical record of Jesus which in turn is based upon eyewitness testimony.

If you are not certain about what you believe, then place your faith in the Jesus of the New Testament gospels. Be certain!
- Chris Reeves

Up-Coming Events

Gospel Meeting

April 20-23

(Thr. through Sat., 7 PM)

- Thr: What Is A Church of Christ?
- Fri: Our Mission In Your Community
- Sat: What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- Sun: That Good Book — The Bible (9:30 AM)
- Sun: How NT Christians Worshipped (10:30 AM)
- Sun: Where Did I Come From, Why Am I Here, Where Am I Going? (6 PM)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Attitudes That Lead to Salvation

The importance of a person's attitude can be seen in one's relationship with God. Many people today know what God wants them to do to be saved, but they won't do it because they don't have the right attitude toward God's word.

The acceptance of any truth depends upon the attitude of the person who is listening (Luke 8:11-14) and the attitude of the speaker (1 Timothy 4:6-16).

In this article, I want to look at the attitudes of an Old Testament character named Balaam. You can read about this man in the following Bible verses: Numbers 22-24; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:9-10; Nehemiah 13:2; and Micah 6:5.

Balaam's personal life is certainly not an example to follow. He was an immoral man (Numbers 31:8,16; 2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11; and Revelation 2:14). However, Balaam's statement in Numbers 23:26 gives us a good summary of the proper attitudes necessary to be saved. Balaam said: "All that Jehovah speaketh, that I must do." Let's break this statement down.

Balaam said, "all". **THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF COMPLETE SELF-SURRENDER.** Balaam was employed by Balak to curse Israel (Numbers 22:5-7). No doubt Balaam felt an obligation to please his employer. However, when he spoke God's word, God was his only employer - like Amos (Amos 7:10-16) or Paul (Galatians 1:6-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

Balaam was promised a place of honor and money (Numbers 22:17-18). But, Balaam felt that God, not man should get the glory (Numbers 24:1-13).

Balaam said, "that Jehovah speaketh". **THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF CRITICAL LISTENING.** Some people have trained themselves not to listen to God's word - the Bible. Balaam did not have the popular attitude of today that says "I feel". Balaam acted by what Jehovah God spoke to him (Numbers 22:18-19,35,38; 23:3,12,20; 23:26; 24:13).

We need to have the attitude of Balaam and of Samuel who said: "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:9-10,18).

Balaam said, "I". **THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.** Balaam was pressured to curse Israel. This pressure was placed on him by Balak, the messengers, and the land of Moab and Midian. Balaam, however, realized his personal responsibility to examine God's will, to do it, and to do nothing else.

There are several good examples in the Bible of an attitude of personal responsibility toward God. Men like Joshua (Joshua 24:14-18), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 18:20,30 (33:1-20), Peter and John (Acts 5:29), Paul (Romans 4:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10), and John (Revelation 2:23) all lived with and taught an attitude of personal responsibility.

Balaam said, "must". **THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF GOOD CONSCIENCE.** Balaam acted, not because God forced him to,

but rather because he knew this was the right thing to do and he desired to do God's will. His conscience would not let him do otherwise. He did it because it was a "must" for him to do.

There are several "musts" in the Bible. Jesus believed that he "must" do his Father's will (Luke 2:49; John 9:4). Peter and John believed that they must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). We "must" be born again through baptism (Acts 9:6; 22:16; John 3:1-7), we "must" worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:21-24), and we "must" have faith in God (Hebrews 11:6).

Lastly, Balaam said "do". **THIS IS THE ATTITUDE OF ACTIVE OBEEDIENCE.** Balaam realized that he must do something, and that particular doing was controlled by God's word.

The religion of Jesus Christ is a religion of doing. Jesus is the example of doing the Father's will (John 4:34). Jesus also taught that one must do things to be saved (Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 6:46; 8:19-21; 10:25-27; 11:27-28; John 15:14). The "God-does-it-all" type of salvation so popular today is not in the Bible!

"Thank you", Balaam for teaching us these proper attitudes. What attitudes do you need to change in order to be saved? Surrender your all to God. Listen to him carefully. Take personal responsibility in your salvation. Say I "must" and then do what God wants you to do. - Chris Reeves