



Sexual Purity Course Lesson 11

Scripture: Read Numbers 24:25-25:18; 31:16; Psalm 106:28-31; and Revelation 2:12-17.

The passage in the NT shows that the spirit of Balaam was not restricted to the event that occurred in the OT. Satan used sexual immorality to draw the people of Israel away from faithfulness to YHWH and he still uses it to this day to draw Christians away from faithfulness to Jesus Christ. The events at Peor give us instruction about the importance of sexual purity.

Study:

Priest such as Phinehas, were God's representatives among Israel and were to symbolize God's character in their life and behavior... The priest in his life and acts must personify, even incarnate, the character of God (Gordon Wenham, *Numbers*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary, pgs. 185 and 188).

1. What can we learn about God from the actions of Phinehas? Relate your answer to the subject of sexual immorality.
2. Explain the jealousy / zeal spoken of in Numbers 25:10-12.
3. What was Balaam's role in causing Israel to fall into idolatry and the accompanying sexual immorality? Also, what motivated him?
4. Why were some of the leaders of Israel put to death when these events occurred?

Application:

1. Balaam was a false prophet. He gave instruction that led the people of God to sin against God. His teaching lives on (Rev. 2:14). What kind of false teaching and teachers do we need to avoid in our own day?
2. In your fight for sexual purity what kind of people should lead you and help you in this matter? What requirement should you have for those that are guiding you and helping you in this process?
3. What can we learn and apply from the actions of Phinehas. What heart attitude should we have in our attack against sexual immorality?