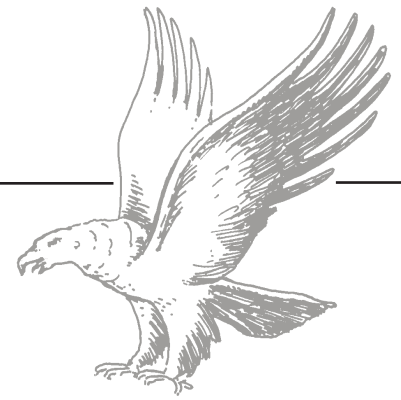


Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



August 28, 2016

God Is Not a Man

We are accustomed to seeing people change their principles for the flimsiest of reasons. But God is not a man, and we dare not expect Him to act like one.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Num. 23:19).



When Balak sought the prophet Balaam to curse Israel, Balaam took the job (v. 1-6). After all, the pay was great. But instead of cursing Israel, Balaam could only utter blessings (v. 7-10). Balak was furious and demanded a redo (v. 11-14). But the prophet reminded the king who he was dealing with. God is not a petty human tyrant who can be manipulated or bought off. When God expresses His will on a matter, the deal is done, and He will make it good. All of Balak's power and money could not change God's words.

In these days of ever shifting cultural standards, I am often reminded of this ancient story. Like Balak, many people today want to dictate how things should be in their lives. They apply enormous social, financial, and legal pressure to make sure their preferences are honored. Like Balak, they even try to enlist God

in their cause. But all their scheming cannot alter what God has already spoken.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the area of human sexuality. Sexual immorality has been a problem since the beginning of time, but our culture has gone to great lengths to make it not just acceptable, but respectable.

For several generations now, society has embraced cohabitation and promiscuous divorce and remarriage as no big deal, even for Christians. In recent years, some gay activists have argued that the Bible doesn't condemn homosexual behavior. In their view, they can remain on God's good side while holding on to their homosexual lifestyle. A recent book by an associate pastor at Union Church outside of Chicago argues that pre-marital and extramarital sex—and possibly even polyamory—is just as holy as marital sex (*Washington Post*, 8/22/16). Why should only married couples have all the fun?

We've not seen the end of this trend yet. Recently a Jewish rabbi, in an effort to normalize transgenderism, argued

that God Himself is transgender (*New York Times*, 8/12/16). There appears to be no limit to what men are capable of dreaming up in God's name. What God has revealed in His Word on this matter, settled and understood for thousands of years, suddenly is up for revision. God really didn't mean it, or didn't do a good job explaining Himself.

These efforts to put God's imprimatur on sex outside of marriage are as meaningless as Balak's money. The laws of men may have to be revised or repealed when those laws are found to be unworkable or unwise. But God is not a man, and His laws on sexual purity are not subject to revision. When people bend God's word to fit their sexual predilections, they reveal more than a distorted view of sexuality; they display a warped understanding of the God whom they claim to serve.

Balak wasted his money trying to buy God's favor. However, Balaam later succeeded in bringing God's curse upon Israel—ironically, by leading them into sexual sin. Our society is going down that same path, and for the same reason.

— David King