

the next issue of the paper it said that the man -- that his ideas had come under suspicion and that he was being examined and he was taken in by the government and he has never been seen or heard of since. Now there is no Christian church allowed to be open in China at all. This man for a long time stood true to God's Word, but he compromised in order to be able to get the message out, and in the end probably many people benefited by what he did but there probably was a far greater number who lost out and suffered as a result of what he did. In the end it was so that ~~in~~ only in the underground can there be any Christian teaching in China today. May God enable us to copy Balaam's good features and stand by them, but to avoid the errors that he made that at the end of our life the Lord won't say as of Balaam, he stood true to the Lord up to a great extent, he did much that was good, but yet he compromised sufficiently that he can get no credit for the good that he did.

Let us pray: O God our Father we thank you for the Scripture. We thank you that the Scripture covers all phases of life, some of them we have to hunt to find but they are there. We thank you that we are in a wilderness journey, but that it is not something new. Others have passed this way before and you have given us much evidence as to how we should conduct our lives. O our God help us to look ever to the brazen serpent. Help us not to be worn down by the serpents of adversity, but to look to the serpent on the cross, and to constantly come back to Christ who is our only hope. May he <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ in us the hope of glory and help us to avoid the errors of Balaam but to follow the good that he did. We ask in Jesus' name Amen.