

# **“Iniquity”**

Titus 2:14 (KJV)

## Introduction:

- A. “Iniquity” from three words in King James Version.
  - 1. Anomia - “A” (not) “nomia” (law). (2 Thess. 2:7; Matt. 7:23)
  - 2. Adikia - “A” (not), “dikia” (right). (1 Cor. 13:6)
    - a. Used interchangeably with “Anomia” (Luke 13:27; Matt. 7:23).
    - b. Translated more times “unrighteousness”.
  - 3. Paranomia - “para” (against), “nomia” (law). (2 Pet. 2:16).
- B. “Iniquity” is disrespect for truth (1 Cor. 13:6) or law (Matt. 7:23).
  - 1. Respect for law fundamental with God. (cf. In Eden)
  - 2. Sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4; Rom. 4:15).
  - 3. Respect for law taught from infancy. (parents, society, school, nation, God).
- C. “Iniquity” is condemned in N.T. at three distinct levels:

## Discussion:

### **I. The Mystery Of Iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7)**

- A. A lawless attitude not yet openly demonstrated. (“Mystery” = hidden)
  - 1. May yet lack opportunity to commit lawless deeds.
  - 2. May still fear certain consequences rather than respect law.
  - 3. If opportunity comes or consequences removed then will act.
- B. A lawless undercurrent in churches waiting for favorable time to go public.
  - 1. Subtle doctrinal changes, privately taught, away from public scrutiny.
  - 2. Subtle practical changes that seem innocent at first - need to anticipate where their logical end.

### **II. The Rejoicing In Iniquity (1 Cor. 13:6)**

- A. Rejoicing in moral iniquity of others - would not yet do it ourselves.
  - 1. Congratulate others in adulterous marriages. (“So happy for you”).
  - 2. Entertained by moral filth.
  - 3. Pulling for “soap opera” immorality.
- B. Rejoicing in religious iniquity of others - would not yet do it ourselves.
  - 1. Religious iniquity is not the answer to moral iniquity.
  - 2. Glad for folks to “go to church” somewhere.
  - 3. “Rather see them in denomination than nothing” - not so sure.
  - 4. Lend words of encouragement and joy to people's religious lawlessness.

### **III. The Working Of Iniquity (Matt. 7:21-23)**

- A. It is not enough to be religiously active. (“many wonderful works”).
  - 1. These even invoked the Lord's name into their works.
    - a. Called Jesus “Lord”.
    - b. Said they worked “in thy name”
  - 2. These would think of themselves as faithful Christians.
- B. It is essential that one be lawfully active. (Matt. 15:9; cf. Lev. 10:1).
  - 1. Lawful plan of salvation. (Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38).
  - 2. Lawful worship. (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19).
  - 3. Lawful church: Name, organization, work, etc.
  - 4. Lawful life-style

## Conclusion:

- A. Notice the progression of iniquity.
  - 1. An improper attitude toward law concealed from others.
  - 2. A relaxing in attitude toward lawlessness in others - rejoice in their iniquity.
  - 3. An open working of iniquity on our part.
- B. “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19).