“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)
      b. Translated more times “unrighteousness”.
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 opra” 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).