

THE ART OF SELF DECEPTION

"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity" 2 Tim 2:19-21

- ✓ Iniquity in the Old Testament is *Awah* - 5753, literally, to bend, twist and deviate from the standard to one's own will.
- ✓ Iniquity in the New Testament is *Anomia* - 458, literally, "lawlessness."

I recently spent two days visiting an inmate in a maximum security State Prison. There were rules that had to be followed by everyone without exception. Yet, I saw bending, twisting and even a few who willfully deviated from the standards that were given to us in written and verbal forms. Those who enforced the standards on more than one occasion warned individuals that they had deviated from them and were in jeopardy of losing their privileges.

The synopsis of iniquity is bending and twisting God's standards through self-will until it becomes transgression.

Within the Body of Christ iniquity is the foremost issue challenging believers in the last days! So much bending and twisting is going on that many in the Body of Christ are experiencing trying times! Iniquities promote.... *"self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good, traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God, as they retain the outer form of religion but deny its power!"* 2 Tim 3:1-5 CJB

It is time to stop bending and twisting God's STANDARDS to fit our will..... As believers we must deliver ourselves from "iniquitous behaviors!" How is this done? Stop manufacturing weasel words for why it is ok to bend and twist God's Word until it works the way you want it too! By saying things like I am sure the Lord will understand why I had to do it.... *"The heart is deceitful above all things."* Jeremiah 17:9a

You willfully obey or you willfully bend and twist having a form of godliness that is powerless to overcome sin, iniquity and transgressions.

"BEHOLD, THE Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Isa 59:1-2 AMP

Are we saved? Yes. But bending and twisting separates us from feeling His pleasure and experiencing His favor. It keeps prayers from being heard and answered. Why? Because His face has become hidden from bent and twisted iniquities!

APPLICATION: Iniquity is mentioned 241 times in 229 verses, so it must be important. Think about a situation where you have blamed God for your problems or felt like He let you down, then ask yourself what bent and twisted iniquity did I carry out that helped created the problem? Repent right now of bent and twisted behavior towards God's Word. "*God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.*" Acts 3:26 NKJV

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Blessings Pastor Bob Hill

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