

Because Iniquity Shall Abound...

I. Introduction:

A. In last week's lesson (https://www.wordsoftruth.net/TheFoundationOfGodStandeth_2021.pdf), we discussed Paul's warning to Timothy and how things were promised to get worse (**II Timothy 3:1-13**).

1. We discussed how that Timothy was told to continue in what he had learned (**II Timothy 3:14-17**).

2. Yet, because of the worsening situation to come, teaching was not going to be easy for him (**II Timothy 4:1-5**).

B. Regardless of what's going on in the world around us, we know that we are expected to grow in love (**I Thessalonians 3:12** and **II Thessalonians 1:3**).

1. We need to help each other in this (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

2. We have the example to follow (**Ephesians 5:1-2**).

II. Body: In the context wherein Jesus prophesied of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem (**Matthew 23:37-24:34**), He said: "*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold*" (**Matthew 24:12**).

A. Iniquity defined: "Violation of law or (genitive case) wickedness: — iniquity, x transgress(-ion of) the law, unrighteousness. The condition of without law; because ignorant of it; because of violating it. Contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness" (Strong's # 458).

1. A worker of iniquity is lost (**Matthew 7:21-23** and **Matthew 13:41**).

2. A worker of iniquity can appear outwardly righteous (**Matthew 23:28**).

3. Iniquity multiplies (**Romans 6:19**).

4. Those redeemed are delivered from iniquity (**Titus 2:11-14**), lest the redeemed turn back to sin (**II Peter 2:20-22**).

5. Simply put, iniquity is a synonym for "sin" (**I John 3:4**) and the reward for "sin" is not eternal life in Heaven (**Romans 6:23**).

6. This is even the case when a person was once faithful, but has turned back (**Ezekiel 18:24**).

B. Abound defined: "To increase (transitively or intransitively): — abound, multiply. To increase, to multiply; to be increased, (be multiplied) multiply to be increased, to multiply" (Strong's # 4129).

1. An example of this word is found in **Acts 6:7** translated "multiplied."

2. In fact, every other time this Greek word is used in the N.T., the KJV translation is "multiplied" or multiply (**Acts 6:1**, **Acts 7:17**, **Acts 9:31**, **Acts 12:24**, **II Corinthians 9:10**, **Hebrews 6:14**, **I Peter 1:2**, **II Peter 1:2**, and **Jude 1:2**).

C. Think about the effects of the love of many waxing cold...

1. Think about there being less love for the Lord (**John 5:42-47**).

2. Think about there being less love for the truth (**II Thessalonians 2:10-12**).
3. Think about there being less love for one's neighbor (**Romans 13:8-10**).
4. Think about there being less love for good (**Micah 3:1-4**).
5. Think about there being less love in congregations (**Revelation 2:1-7**) and the crippling effect of that on edification (**Ephesians 4:15-16**).
6. Think about the connection of love with obedience (**I John 5:1-3** and **II John 1:6**).
7. Think about why the loss of love leads people away from perfection (**Colossians 3:14**).
8. Think about the lack of love in leading to hypocrisy (**Romans 12:9**).
9. Think about the uselessness of good works without love (**I Corinthians 13:3; 16:14**).

III. Conclusion: While iniquity has and will continue to make the love of many wax cold, do not think for a moment that love will altogether disappear (**I Corinthians 13:10-13**).