



STAR PROJECTS – INIQUITY - Part A

Hi. I'm Scott Stanley. I am the founder of DTG Ministries. DTG is an acronym for the Deep Things of God. For the longest time I have wanted to create a podcast and just do a series of studies making them short, but connecting them together to try to bring the Gospel to the world, and I just held back from calling it a podcast. I finally realized why that is; in the Scriptures the word "angel" is simply the word "messenger". That word was transliterated and if you translate "angel", it just means "a messenger". In Revelation 1 Christ tells us that the candlesticks are the churches, but the stars, the seven stars that He holds in His right hand, are messengers, or angels to the churches. I thought, well, wouldn't that be great, instead of giving messages to the churches, which is what I've been doing most of my Christian life, I would like to give messages to those who dwell on the Earth. I would like to give messages and be an "angel" for those who dwell on the earth.

Now, a star, you know, when you think about it, it's also an acronym of speaking truth and righteousness. In this case, instead of this being a podcast, I would like to think that this is a **Star Project**. DTG Ministries, (the Deep Things of God Ministries) speaking truth and righteousness to those who dwell on the earth. So laugh at me; say what you will, but I like the idea of a Star Project, so I'm going to put a section on my website for "Star Projects", and it's going to be these little studies that we do that connect together to teach the Gospel.

Now, today, this Star Project is dealing with INIQUITY. You could say the GOSPEL and "INIQUITY", but the entire Bible has a lot to say about iniquity. If you're anything like me, (I should say how I was) you're probably thinking, well, INIQUITY is just sin. BUT, it isn't. **There is a difference between SIN and INIQUITY. INIQUITY** is the thought you have that leads to sin. **SIN** is just simply the action of INIQUITY. It's a big difference.

Thoughts produce feelings. Feelings move you to action; so, that first thought - you can't speak it, or do it, unless you think it. It has to be in your mind first, so INIQUITY creates feeling; the feeling moves you to the action; and the idea of Christianity is to catch that iniquity. **Stop the iniquity from going any further than just a thought.**

You know, I've heard it said you can't prevent a bird from flying over your head, but you CAN prevent it from making a nest in your hair. I'm from Oklahoma, and that speaks a lot to me, so think about it; that is a truth that I believe God would have us understand.

Now, if you'll turn with me to *Exodus Chapter 34*, I want to show you how the Lord has put this thought /feeling/action in to play. In *Exodus, Chapter 34*, I'm going to start reading at verse 6. *And the LORD passed by before him and proclaimed: The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 keeping Mercy for thousands, forgiving **h433375 (lifting up) iniquity and transgression h6588 (Rebellion) and sin...*** Now, stop it there and notice I have numbers beside some of these words. Before I go any further, what do the numbers represent?

The numbers come from a Strong's Greek and Hebrew Concordance. James Strong, in 1890, published his Strong's Concordance. What he did is take every word in the Bible and gave it a number so that

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people like you and me { maybe you've never studied Hebrew or Greek) -someone like us can come along and read a verse, and go look up any word in that verse. James Strong will tell you what it means. He will give you the definition taken from Greek and Hebrew. It's one of the most valuable tools that you'll ever have in your Bible study. There are a series of books that use the Strong's numbers. There are Bibles you can get that already have the Strong's number in the Bible itself; every word will have a Strong's number to point you to the definition.

Why is that important? I, for one, got tired of people telling me. I mean, we would be doing a study and somebody would say " well, the Greek says" and "well, that isn't what it says in the Hebrew". I heard someone say one time that I may have never studied Greek and Hebrew. Maybe I don't know it , but I sure have some dandy books that will help me.

God has given us these tools. You can get the Strong's Concordance for a King James and for an NIV. I don't know of any other version that is numbered to Strong's, but the NIV and the King James – (whichever one you are using) – if you get a Strong's , when I give you a definition, you can look it up and see that I'm not making this up. You can look it up for yourself and not rely on me, and you know, to be at my mercy to tell you the truth. I'll never like that and I can't understand why everybody doesn't already have these books. Let's go back to Exodus 34.

Exodus 34, looking at verse 7: *"keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving **h5375 (lifting up)** the word; forgiving you'll see a Hebrew number beside it. A Strong's number for the Hebrew. That word is not to forgive, it means "to lift up". He will lift up iniquity and transgression. The word is not to forgive,- it means to "lift up". He will lift up *iniquity and transgression **h6588 (rebellion)** and sin...**

The word "transgression" has a Strong's number of **h6588**. It literally means REBELLION and SIN. So, what do we have? INIQUITY ,REBELLION and SIN. **Thought/ feeling/ action**. INIQUITY – the **thought**, that when you act on it, it becomes **sin**.

Get a Concordance and look it it up for yourself. What we're seeing here, is that **SIN BEGINS IN YOU MIND**, and when He says He "lifts up iniquity, rebellion and sin", that is, lifting it up from YOU, from your **mind** – from your **THINKING**. Let me show you where this comes into play . Turn with me to **Psalms 32**.

Psalms 32: starting at verse 1 : *Blessed is he whose transgression **h6588 (rebellion)** (there's Rebellion) is forgiven **h5375 (lifted up)**whose sin is covered 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity and in his Spirit there's no guile. Now, I want you to drop down down to verse 5.*

It says 5 *I acknowledged my sin unto you and mine iniquity have I not hid and I said I will confess my transgressions **h6588 (rebellion)** (or my feeling) unto the Lord and thou forgavest **h5375 (lifted up)** the iniquity of my sin.*

So, when He lifts up the **INIQUITY** of your sin, that is out of **your MIND**. In other words, for Him to lift up INIQUITY, He is going to give you the truth. He is going to **cleanse** you from that **thought**. There's another place I want to turn to. This is in the New Testament. Turn with me in your Bibles to **1 John**,

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Chapter 1, reading from verse **9**: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all **g93 (iniquity)** .* What do you think that word is? That's **INIQUITY**. He will **cleanse** you from all **INIQUITY**; you confess your sin and he'll cleanse you from the iniquity.

That's what we want. We want to be cleansed from the **THOUGHT** that is moving us to sin! Now, an example. Let's say that your spouse comes home late three or four hours late and your first thought when they haven't come home, is they're having an affair. See? That **THOUGHT is INIQUITY**. Love will bear all things, hope all things, believe all things, be long suffering, be patient. But to just jump to the conclusion they must be having an affair – that's **INIQUITY** – so that **THOUGHT is going to create in you a FEELING**. A feeling of anger or jealousy. Like the Bible, put rebellion against that person, so that when they walk through the door the way you approach them and what you say to them- **your attitude toward them will be based on that INIQUITY that was in your mind**. Who knows what you might say or do? Whereas, if you're walking in love, maybe you would meet them at the door and say "did you have a wreck or did you have a flat tire? What happened? Are you okay? Can I help you?" There are a thousand different ways to address that issue, but **to allow INIQUITY to control your life – that leads to SIN. This is significant, because there is something I want you to see about Jesus Christ.**

Paul wrote this: It's **Titus 2: 14**. : *who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people; zealous of good works.* And since we're looking at the writings of Paul, - **2 Timothy 2:19** - *nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure having this seal. The Lord knows them that are his and let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

Christ gave himself to redeem us from iniquity. Now, notice what he DIDN'T say. **He did NOT say he DIED TO PAY YOUR SIN DEBT. According to Titus 2:14 he died to KEEP YOU FROM SIN.** He redeems you from iniquity and if you're in Christ, if you're a Christian walking with Christ, then **you WILL depart from all iniquity.** Think about it. WHY does that even matter?" Let's turn and look at one more verse:

This one is in **Matthew 7:21** *Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father, which is in heaven. (You want to walk in obedience and do the will of God.)*
22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? In your name we've cast out devils. In your name we've don many wonderful works?* 23 *Then I will profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Who would say that we've done many wonderful things in your name? We've cast out devils in your name. We've done many wonderful works, but believers? Christians would say that.

But he says, "But I never knew you." See, the people who are going to enter into heaven, are those who do the will of God. If you're a believer; **if you're a Christian, you will depart from all iniquity. He died to give you the ability to depart from INIQUITY.**

And when the day come, he will say, "depart from me, ye workers of iniquity." So at this point, if you're a Christian, if you're going to church somewhere and you happen to get hold of this study and you're looking at it, considering all of the doctrines you've been told -- I want you to consider this: I've simply read verses to you. I'm not making anything up. I've simply taken the verses of the Bible and read them

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to you to show you that **God gives you a way out from your iniquity. You can come to him and confess your sin; confess the rebellion. Confess the INIQUITY. He will lift up that iniquity. He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness,** but who has ever told you to do that?

You know, when I was going to the denominational churches, I would sin and repent. Sin and repent. Sin and repent. It just went on and on and I wondered if the Holy Spirit leaves me every time I sin? You know, what's going on here?

I want you to consider what we've read together from the scripture, and in our next installment of our **STAR Projects**, we're going to look at where iniquity comes from and I want you to see – begin to see how Christ deals with this at the cross. **The cross is so much more than just having your sin forgiven! It's giving you the ability to overcome sin when it says that he will save his people from their sin.** I was only told, "oh, he'll forgive you." Well, it means more than that – he **DIED to REDEEM you from the INIQUITY** and to give you the ability to turn and think in another direction and walk in the righteousness of God.

The next installment of the STAR Projects will be deal with "**Where does iniquity come from?**"