**Adorn the Doctrine**

*Titus 2:10*

**Introduction**

1. Like Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to uphold the truth, so Paul left Titus on the island of Crete **(Titus 1:5** – To set in order things lacking):
	1. Specified is the appointment of elders **(v. 5).** **However, the setting in order lacking things reached beyond that.**
	2. **Cretan people** – **(v. 12)** – a general rule of the character possessed by Cretans – acknowledged by their own.
	3. **Christians – aren’t supposed to act like Cretans, but like Christ (vv. 13-16).**
	4. **Elders** – would help strengthen the churches that existed on Crete.
	5. **Titus – would appoint elders, but also preach the truth! 🡪**
2. **Titus 2:1-10** – Titus would speak about sound doctrine, and that which constitutes such.
	1. **This is to the end that the Christians on Crete would act becomingly, i.e. in a way that is suitable for the title they possess.**
	2. **NOTE: Titus 2:10** – They were to ***“adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”*** (Servants before masters specifically) 🡪
3. ***Adorn*** the Doctrine
4. Adorn Defined
	1. ***kosmeō*;** from 2889; to put in proper order, i.e. decorate (literally or figuratively). (Strong)
	2. “to arrange, to put in order…to adorn, to ornament” (Vine)
	3. **Put in proper order:**
		1. **Modest apparel (adorn)** – **1 Timothy 2:9-10** – *orderly apparel – i.e. apparel that is in order with her Christian character.*
		2. **Parable of Wise and foolish virgins (trimmed)** – **Matthew 25:7** – *put in order so that the lamps could burn – foolish discovered they had no oil.*
	4. **To ornament, or decorate:**
		1. **Adorn monuments of righteous (adorn)** – **Matthew 23:29-30** – *decorate to bring honor (Pharisees did so to align themselves with the prophets – Jesus says they are murderers, not like the prophets!).*
		2. **Bride adorned for husband (adorned)** – of apparel (also 1 Timothy 2:9) – **Revelation 21:2** – *decorated in beautiful dress to please her husband. (The church in purity.)*
	5. **Adorn the doctrine? – In the second sense of the term.**
		1. **Adorn – to add to the beauty, splendor, or attractiveness of. (Webster)**
		2. Decorate, or ornament the doctrine of God.
		3. Make it beautiful, and appealing to others.
		4. **HOW COULD I DECORATE SOMETHING ALREADY SO ASTOUNDINGLY BEAUTIFUL? 🡪**
5. Opposite of Adorn
	1. *To better understand what it means to adorn the doctrine, and how we can adorn the doctrine, we can look at the opposite.*
	2. **Titus 2:4-5** – Old women admonish young women to ACT AS THEY SHOULD AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN.
		1. So the word of God is not blasphemed – by those without.
		2. **NEGATIVE MOTIVE** – to act with proper conduct as a Christian.
		3. **People may speak reproachfully of the gospel if the women who profess to be submitting to it act inconsistently with it.**
	3. **2 Peter 2:2** – Those who follow the false teachers’ ***“destructive ways.”***
	4. **Ezekiel 36:21-24** – Israel profaned the name of God among the Gentiles by living like them.
	5. Thus, the BLASPHEMY of the truth is the NEGATIVE MOTIVE to act with proper conduct as a Christian.
	6. **THE ADORNING of the truth is the POSITIVE MOTIVE to act with proper conduct.**
	7. **To adorn the doctrine of God is to live, not to add to it, *but to promote it as something desirous before the world by acting accordingly, thus, displaying its attractiveness and effectiveness.***
6. Adorn the ***Doctrine***
7. Doctrine is Essential
	1. **Doctrine is often spoken of in negative terms, especially in this postmodern world.**
	2. **We must understand that doctrine is essential, and adorn it with our good works.**
	3. **Romans 1:16-17** – This is not distinct from “doctrine” – doctrine and gospel are the same.
		1. **It is that which saves! It must be important!**
		2. **2 John 1:9** – Abide in doctrine = have Father and Son.
	4. **Not about doctrine, but grace?** – **Titus 2:11-14** – The grace of God teaches us to live a certain way. This is how we look for, and prepare for Christ’s coming.
8. Doctrine Must be Followed
	1. **Titus was to speak about such things so that Christians could live that way.**
	2. **Titus 2:1** – Titus was told to speak sound doctrine that Christians might abide in it, thus, have God.
	3. ***“But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).***
	4. ***“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).***
9. When we adorn the doctrine, we do not necessarily add to the attraction of it, but we highlight its attractiveness.
	1. **The doctrine of God is already attractive** – it is greatly effective, and adds much good to any situation.
	2. However, when an individual showcases this in their lives, **they become an ornament to the doctrine of God which people can observe to see how attractive it truly is.**
10. ***Adorn*** ***the*** ***Doctrine***
11. Doctrine Followed is Doctrine Adorned
	1. **Romans 12:1-2** – When we show our transformation by living according to God’s standard, WE PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT GOD’S WILL IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE.
		1. Not only prove what SPECIFICALLY THE WILL OF GOD IS…**but prove that it is GOOD and ACCEPTABLE.**
	2. **1 Peter 3:1-4** – Wives are instructed to win over unbelieving husbands to the gospel.
		1. This is done by displaying ***“chaste conduct”*** and the ***“fear”*** of God.
		2. Submission to God in all things, especially in regard to the marriage relationship.
		3. **This makes the doctrine of God appealing, and wonderful to their husbands.**
	3. **1 Peter 3:8-12** – Those who commit themselves to following God’s law will ***“love life and see good days.”***
		1. The world will notice such.
		2. **When we adhere to the doctrine of Christ, and such conduct is shown to cause joy *(for the spiritual blessings, and hope we have)* in our lives, we adorn the doctrine!**
	4. **Galatians 5:22-26** – When we follow the doctrine, and bear the fruit of it (of the Spirit) we adorn the doctrine.
		1. **(v. 23b)** – There is no law against this kind of living!
		2. **(v. 24) –** We have followed Christ, and become His, thus have put to death the man which was given to the ***“works of the flesh.”*** (***In this way, we adorn the doctrine of God by showing the benefits one receives who is molded by it! And the trouble he avoids.)***
	5. **This call to adorn the doctrine, i.e. become an ornament to it, SHOWING ITS BEAUTY, REALITY, AND EFFECTIVENESS by its presence in our lives can AND MUST be accomplished by all who are Christians. 🡪**
12. From the Humblest to the Highest
	1. **Titus 2:9-10** – EVEN SERVANTS, as lowly a state they possess, CAN BE AN ORNAMENT TO THE DOCTRINE OF GOD.
		1. We may tend to feel as if we cannot be as effective in this realm as others who hold more NOBLE positions in society.
		2. **However, the fact about Christianity is that not only CAN the lowly have this effect, but ESPECIALLY them.**
		3. **Cf. James 1:9-11** – Lowly brother glories in exaltation.
			1. Society may expect him to lead a pitiful, loathsome life.
			2. **However, he is exalted before God, and exhibits such in his life by the Christ-likeness he now possesses.**
	2. **Colossians 4:1** – The same is expected of the masters.
		1. When they treat their servants well, even though they have power to abuse, this will AFFECT HOW THE SERVANTS VIEW THE GOSPEL THAT THE MASTER IS FOLLOWING.
		2. **Thus, adorning the gospel is expected for all Christians.**

**Conclusion**

1. We need to be impressed with the command of God to ***“adorn the doctrine.”***
2. It is an important task to ornament the wonderful gospel of Christ.
3. **THIS IS WHAT GOD SEEKS TO ACCOMPLISH IN US TO BRING OTHERS TO HIM (cf. 1 Peter 2:11-12).**