**Adorning the Doctrine of God**

*Titus 2:10*

**Introduction**

1. Saying – “A product is only as good as its salesman.”
2. In a way we are trying to “sell” the gospel to the world.
	1. “We are the only Bible the careless world will read; We are the sinner’s gospel, we are the scoffers creed. We are the Lord’s last message, given in deed and word; What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?” (The World’s Bible, Annie Johnson Flint)
	2. Certainly, the power belongs to God, and we should hide behind the gospel of Christ – **1 Corinthians 1:18, 21**
	3. However, in hiding behind the cross we are allowing the light of the gospel shine through us in the world – **Matthew 5:14-16** (they see our good works, but glorify God)
3. We know the product (the gospel) we have is priceless (we have bought the truth and are selling it not).
4. Is our conduct displaying the value of the gospel to the world?
5. The Principle
6. The Language
	1. Adorn – ***kosmeō*;** to put in proper order, i.e. decorate (literally or figuratively). (Strong)
		1. “to arrange, to put in order…to adorn, to ornament…to garnish” (Vine)
		2. “metaphorically to embellish with honour, gain honour” (Thayer)
		3. Adorn – make more beautiful or attractive (New Oxford American Dictionary)
			1. to add to the beauty, splendor, or attractiveness of. (Webster)
		4. Adorning tombs/monuments – **Matthew 23:29** (decorating them to honor them)
		5. Adorning buildings – **Luke 21:5**
	2. What are we setting out to decorate or adorn?
		1. Doctrine of God – teaching of God.
		2. “grace of God” that teaches – **2:11-12**
		3. “faithful word” – **1:9**
		4. “the truth which accords with godliness” – **1:1**
		5. “Sound doctrine” – **2:1 – IT IS HEALTHY, I.E. ADVANTAGEOUS AND GOOD – WE NEED TO SHOW THAT.**
	3. We are to “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”
		1. We are to make it more attractive to others.
		2. We are to show its value through our lives.
		3. “IN ALL THINGS”
		4. I.E. WE HAVE A PRODUCT WE KNOW IS INVALUABLE AND OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE, AND WE NEED TO BE A GOOD SALESMEN SO WE DON’T HINDER IT, BUT RATHER PROMOTE IT.
7. In the Negative – i.e. do not do this
	1. The negative – what not to do or cause for the doctrine – helps us with the positive of adorning the doctrine.
	2. The False Teachers – **Titus 1:9**
		1. What they do – **(vv. 10-11, 16)**
		2. Such are those who give the gospel a bad name. They abuse it and misuse it for “dishonest gain.”
		3. They take what is good (gospel) and use it in a way that is useless – **3:9-11**
	3. Instruction to Older Women – **Titus 2:3-5**
		1. What they are to be – **(v. 3)**
		2. What they are to teach – (**vv. 4-5)**
		3. Why? – (**v. 5b)** – that the word of God is not blasphemed (SPOKEN EVIL OF)
	4. Instruction to young men – **Titus 2:6-8**
		1. What they are to be – (**vv. 6-8a)**
		2. Why? – (**v. 8b)** – that there is nothing evil to say of you (a CHRISTIAN)
	5. The Jews – **Romans 2:17-24**
		1. Claim – **(vv. 17-20)**
		2. Practice – **(vv. 21-23)**
		3. Result – **(v. 24)** – the name of God is blasphemed because of them.
		4. Jesus’ instruction **– Matthew 23:1-2** – do as they say, not as they do.
	6. Our conduct can hinder the gospel if it is not in line with it.
	7. But, our conduct can make the gospel more attractive if we are obedient to it.
8. In the Positive
	1. Instruction for bondservants – **Titus 2:9-10**
		1. Their conduct – **(vv. 9-10a)**
		2. The result – **(v. 10b)** – the doctrine is adorned.
		3. A contrast to the Cretan stereotype – **Titus 1:12**
			1. Liars – showing good fidelity
			2. Evil beasts – obedient, well pleasing, not answering back, not pilfering (stealing)
			3. Lazy gluttons – obedient, well pleasing, not pilfering
			4. A MASTER WHO PRIMARILY HAD TO DEAL WITH THE TYPICAL CRETAN WOULD SEE THE VALUE OF THE GOSPEL IN A SERVANT WHO ACTED ACCORDING TO IT.
			5. Would prove a Christian is a much better and profitable worker than the average Christian.
	2. The need to be salt and light – **Matthew 5:13-16** – they see our works (according to the gospel) and glorify God.
	3. Prove what is God’s good and acceptable will – **Romans 12:1-2** – in contrast to the way of the world.
		1. DONE BY LIVING ACCORDING TO IT – transformed in mind and practice.
		2. Be an epistle – **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** – embody the word of God.
9. We adorn the doctrine – make it attractive, show it to be good and virtuous – when we are consistent in applying it to our everyday lives when we are in the world.
10. The Application
11. Cultivate Godly Homes
	1. We live in an age of postmodern thought that rejects the Bible on a large scale, and claims “better” ways of doing things – hence, a new structure of the home.
		1. While roles are switched in the marriage relationship, and new-fangled ways of parenting are promoted, divorce rates are extremely high, and it is common to see children in control of the parents – authority is undermined.
		2. So many homes are broken, and the children coming out of them are damaged.
		3. Following generations are not as productive, virtuous, or morally directed. (The nation sees the effects of such.)
		4. WE CHRISTIANS MUST TAKE THE HELM OF RESTORING THE OLD PATHS BY DISPLAYING THE VALUE OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR LIVES WHICH CONFORM TO IT.
	2. Husbands and wives – **Ephesians 5:22-25, 33**
		1. Husband – head – authority – Love (agape – service)
		2. Wife – submits to the head – respects – homemakers, love husbands (**Titus 2:4-5**)
	3. Parents (especially Fathers) – **Ephesians 6:4**
		1. Teach them the word of God.
		2. Train them – **Proverbs 13:24** – do not spare the rod.
	4. Children **– Ephesians 6:1-3**
		1. Do not question your parents, but obey them in all things.
		2. Value their wisdom – **Proverbs 1:8-9** (Don’t make the mistake of Rehoboam)
12. Let No One Despise Your Youth
	1. As a product of broken homes, the youth are despised today more than ever.
		1. This is not without good reason.
		2. “millennials” – are often looked down upon due to their lack of competence, morality, respect for authority, among other things.
		3. THE YOUTH CAN BE LOOKED UP TO DUE TO THEIR VIRTUOUS WAYS AS THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT TO GOD, AND THE DOCTRINE WILL BE MORE ATTRACTIVE.
	2. Let none despise your youth – **1 Timothy 4:12-16** – be an example of what is right – according to the truth.
		1. **Galatians 5:23** – no law against such.
		2. Those in the world will be impressed with the character displayed.
	3. The youth can have clean ways – **Psalm 119:9-11**
	4. The youth can have wisdom – **Psalm 119:97-100**
13. Work as to the Lord
	1. There are so many in the workforce who are dishonest, greedy, lazy, insubordinate, etc.
		1. The Christian WILL NOT be those things if he is maintaining fidelity before God even in his secular work.
		2. We adorn the doctrine of God if we are letting Christ shine through us at work.
	2. Bondservants – **Colossians 3:22-25** – can be applied to employees.
		1. **(v. 22)** – i.e. not doing it just when you are seen, but always – BECAUSE GOD SEES.
		2. **(vv. 23-24)** – do such with all your might, as if doing it for the Lord. (Because you are)
		3. **(v. 25)** – knowing who will judge you in the end. (**v. 22b** – fearing God)
	3. Masters – **Colossians 4:1** – can be applied to those who are bosses.
		1. Be fair and good.
		2. Don’t abuse your authority.
		3. Realize there is still one above you always – God.
	4. That you may adorn the doctrine of God – **Titus 2:9-10** – EMPLOYEES WHO ARE FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS ARE GOOD EMPLOYEES, AND SUCH MAKES THE GOSPEL ATTRACTIVE.
14. The Desired Result
15. NOTE: the doctrine we are trying to adorn has appeared to all men – **Titus 2:11-14**
16. We adorn the doctrine so people come to obey it – **1 Peter 2:11-12** – “day of visitation” – through the gospel.
17. To receive salvation.

**Conclusion** – God has given us the noble work of adorning His doctrine. We, by living according to it, make it attractive to those who observe it in us.