

Adorning the Doctrine of God, Titus 2:10

I. Introduction, Titus 2:1-15 .

- A. When we think of “*soundness*” (v.1) with regard and usage toward the Lord’s people (either *individually* or *collectively*), it is usually in regards to beliefs, preaching, and practices of such things as MDR, Institutional vs. Non-Institutional, etc.
- B. This is **not** what follows v.1 of Titus chapter 2. This does not mean that the factors mentioned above that “we” might be prone to think of first are irrelevant, or that they shouldn’t be considered. And this is not my point either. But it does mean that there **are** factors that determine “*soundness*” besides these! We must never therefore assume or pronounce “*soundness*” in the absence of what the Holy Spirit lists in this chapter regardless of what other criteria may be met.
- C. Paul instructs Titus to teach the brethren on the island of Crete (and all brethren everywhere since) that “*sound doctrine*” has to do with how well “*Older Men and Older Women, Younger Women and Younger Men, and Bondslaves* live in response to the teachings of God’s grace.
- D. This is described in v.10 as “*adorning the doctrine of God.*”

II. Adorning the Doctrine of God.

A. Understand the concept.

1. *Adorning* is defined as and means to *add something to for the purpose of making more attractive*.
2. We do not *improve the product*- we attractively display it. We make it more visible to others by allowing them to see its effects. This is the same meaning as is used in Eph.3:10. We do not *change* or *improve the message*, we *make it more attractive by demonstrating its power in everyday life*.

B. What it is not.

1. It is not just ***believing*** the doctrine of God, though that is vitally necessary. One must believe in God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Gospel, **Titus 2:11-14; 3:8**,
2. *Adorning the doctrine of God* is not just failing to hinder its progress, though we certainly must not do that either, **Titus 2:5b; 1Tim.6:1**.
3. It is not just *contending for* doctrine of God, though surely must also do that, **Jude 3; Eph.5:11ff; Titus 2:15; 3:8**. It has been well said that “Men will write, fight, and even die for their religion; but how few *live* for it!”

C. Is it necessary, or important?

1. It is necessary from the standpoint of being a command of God- which is obviously sufficient to make it necessary. But it is not absolutely necessary that the *doctrine of God* be *adorned* to be productive. Men can, have, and will read, understand, and obey God’s law without having others available to *demonstrate* its effects. But those capable and

willing to become obedient in that way are few and far between indeed. For more need a living example of the doctrine.

2. It is also important because of the *competition*. Satan and those who serve him certainly see the value of *dressing up* sin, **2Cor.11:13-15** .

D. The Difficulty of the Task.

1. We seek to *beautify* most everything from our autos, homes, lawns/properties- even our bodies are treated and *adorned* in such a way as to make them look the best they can- for some of this is a greater challenge than for others.
2. Some say the *adorning the doctrine of God* is especially difficult because of the inherent beauty of the gospel. I suppose that is one way to look at it. But consider this: Someone or something that is already exceedingly beautiful needs little additional adornment- they/it simply need to be displayed or made available that others might more readily be able to see their beauty. So it is, in my view, with our *adorning of the gospel* , **Rom.10:15; Psalm 19:7-10** .

E. How then are we to adorn the doctrine of God?

1. By obeying the instructions given in it such as in **Titus 2:1-10** whether we are male, female, young or old, servant or master (employee/employer).
2. By *Letting our light shine **in such a way that others may see** our good works and be caused to glorify our Father in Heaven, **Matt.5:16**.*
3. By feeling and speaking positively about our relationship to God and to His children. This is, in my judgment, the single biggest factor in the success or failure of a church to convert the lost. It is not about “programs,” “facilities,” “size,” “location,” “city,” “characteristics,” “makeup,” “preacher,” or any other such thing. When a congregation is made up of people who love the Lord and one another ***and*** are willing to express those feelings, spiritual and numerical growth will not only occur- they will flourish. But if a congregation has some (maybe even just a few) who view their own relationship with the Lord as a list of don’ts, can’ts, and shouldn’ts and their brethren with apathy at best, all the “programs” “facilities” and “preachers” in the world can’t make it grow! Sour grapes are sometimes the most obvious and deadliest of all fruits born by those who suppose themselves Christians.

III. Conclusion

How would you tell someone what the color red is like or how beautiful it can be if they’ve never seen it? Difficult, right? How easy it is on the other hand for them to comprehend if you can simply show them. “The heathen do not judge of the Christian’s doctrines from the doctrine, but from his actions and life” [Chrysostom].