

## Adorning the Doctrine of God

Titus 2:9-10

### Introduction:

1. Most of us go to great lengths to adorn ourselves.
2. We spend large amounts of time and money on clothes, hairstyles, shoes, jewelry, cosmetics, and the like. . . all for the sake of adornment.
3. But that is not all. We adorn our houses, our cars, our walls; even our mailboxes receive special adornment.
4. With such adornment we distinguish ourselves from others and set ourselves apart as unique.
5. But what does it mean to “adorn the doctrine of God?”

### Discussion:

- I. The English word “adorn” means to make more beautiful or attractive.
  - A. Merriam-Webster says, “adorn, decorate, ornament, embellish, beautify, deck, garnish means to enhance the appearance of something by adding something unessential. Adorn implies an enhancing by something beautiful in itself.” Ex. “a diamond necklace adorned her neck.”
  - B. “Kosmōsin” (kosmeō, kósmos) is the word in the Greek. You might recognize it in the English “cosmetic,” and “cosmos.” It means to arrange, to put in order, to furnish a room (Matt. 12:44), to garnish tombs (Matt. 23:29). The cosmos is the organized universe.
  - C. God is certainly involved in adorning things. Our tendencies to adorn things may spring from our being created in His image.
  - D. 1 Pet. 3:3-4 says to wives, “Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit.”
- II. So how does one “adorn the doctrine of God?”
  - A. The doctrine of God is equivalent to the “sound doctrine” of 2:1.
    1. In this context it stands in contrast to the teaching of the empty talkers and deceivers of vs. 10ff.
    2. It is consistent with the sound doctrine of v. 9.
  - B. Timothy is to speak the things that are fitting for sound (healthy) doctrine (teaching).
    1. Paul addresses different groups that Timothy is to teach.
    2. He identifies what each respective group is to be taught (vs. 2-8).
  - C. In verse 9 Paul is addressing what Timothy is to teach bondslaves and identifies how they are to adorn the doctrine of God.
    1. Subjection to their own masters in everything.
    2. To be well-pleasing.
    3. Not argumentative.

4. Not pilfering, but showing faith.
  5. Adorning the doctrine of God involves all of these things for bondslaves.
- D. It is implied that each of the other groups adorn the doctrine of God with their good behavior that follows sound teaching.
1. So doing such things as showing yourself an example of good deeds, etc. decorates and beautifies the doctrine of God.
  2. Such behavior exemplifies the order associated with God.

III. It is summarized in verses 11-15.

- A. The grace of God is the force that brings such adornment.
- B. It involves “denying ungodliness and worldly desires,” and putting aside “every lawless deed” on the negative side.
- C. It involves “living sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age and looking for the appearing of the Savior, Jesus Christ.”
- D. The summary extends into 3:1-11.
  1. Various behaviors are identified that constitute that which makes “ugly.”
  2. Various other behaviors are the good deeds that beautify, organize and make attractive, thus they too and part of our work of adorning the doctrine of God.
  3. This explains why the factious man should be rejected. Instead of beautifying he is “uglyfying.” with foolish controversies and strife and disputes that are unprofitable and worthless (vs. 9-11).

Conclusion:

1. We need to adorn the doctrine of God that is evidenced in the manifestation of his kindness with behavior that makes that doctrine look good.
2. When our behavior is sinful we distract from the beauty of the doctrine of God.
3. When our behavior is good we adorn the doctrine of God and make it attractive.
4. Are you making the doctrine of God look good?