

# ***Am I Adorning The Gospel?***

Titus 2:1-10

## • **Introduction**

- One of the basic principles that we want to teach our children is that choices/actions have consequences.
  - That the name you wear means something.
  - That your conduct reflects on your name, your family, your professed beliefs.
  - That your actions, speech, companions, activities, dress, etc. all have consequences, which can be serious and far-reaching.
  - That one of those is how you reflect on your name and family – how others view.
- Paul teaches that lesson in Titus 2:1-10, with regard to our behavior and the effect it can have on others.
- What does Paul mean by “adorn the doctrine”?
  - “Adorn”: To make attractive, to make beautiful, to make appealing.
  - From same word in I Tim. 2:9, where the emphasis is on making the inner person attractive with godly character.
  - There were some things each group needed to do to adorn the doctrine.
  - Our conduct is observed by other people, and should be such that will adorn the teaching of the gospel.
  - When we are in the world – work, school, shopping, recreation, vacation, neighborhood, etc., we cannot compartmentalize our lives.
  - We must constantly remind ourselves that our attitude, words and actions have consequences. By those, we will reflect either positively or negatively on the gospel of Christ and our profession.
  - Paul’s admonition applies to us today, as much as it did in the first century.
- We must live in such a way that brings glory to God, and makes the truth attractive of others:
  - Matt. 5:13-16 → 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
    - Purpose of good conduct: not to bring glory to self, but to God.
    - Our conduct in the world has an impact on what others think of God and his word.
  - I Peter 2:11-12 → 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.
    - “Conduct yourselves honorably” (HCSB)
    - Phil. 1:27

## • **Lesson:** How do we adorn the doctrine of God?

### **#1 → Remember that Satan is always at work.**

- Trying to find something in our lives to discourage not only us, but to use us to discourage, hurt and hinder others in coming to knowledge of the truth.
- Satan = adversary. Devil = accuser, slanderer. He tries to find something that would distract other from the gospel by our conduct.
  - Lk. 11:53-54. The Pharisees are trying to find something in Jesus’ speech to turn the people against him, and to undermine his teaching.
  - Nehemiah 6:1,3,6,13 → that they might reproach me.
- Satan can’t damage a perfect gospel, but he seeks to use God’s people as his instruments to reflect badly on it by ungodly words or deeds.
- Knowing this, when tempted to act or speak in an ungodly manner, recognize what is happening, and what the consequences may be...

### **#2 → Strive To Maintain Godly Conduct In All That You Do.**

- I Peter 2:12 → 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- Godly people are spoken against
- In the face of that we should...
  - Do that which is honorable
  - Do good works,
    - » So that people will recognize it for what it is...
- Be thou an example of the believers, (I Tim. 4:12)
- Maintain good works
  - Dorcas. (Acts 9:36,39)
  - Aquila and Priscilla. (Acts 18:26)
  - Barnabas. (Acts 4:36-37)
- Understand that the Devil will not relent in seeking to use you to turn someone else against the gospel – to do or say something that will reproach the gospel. A lifelong struggle.

**#3 → Have a good report, founded on good character among those with whom you live, work, associate.**

- Scriptures:
  - Phil. 4:8 → 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
  - Acts 6:2 → 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute... (Acts 10:22; 16:2; III Jn. 12)
- A question to ask ourselves: What kind of report do I have with my associates? My brethren, co-workers, schoolmates, neighbors?
- People are watching our lives, wherever we are, even when we are not aware. Am I adorning the doctrine of God?