

ADORNING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD **Titus 2:1-14**

Introduction:

A. Two Greek Words:

1. kosme,w

2885 kosme,w kosmeo {kos-meh'-o}

- from 2889; TDNT - 3:867,459; v
- AV - adorn 5, garnish 4, trim 1; 10
- 1) to put in order, arrange, make ready, prepare 2) to ornament, adore 3) metaph. to embellish with honour, gain honour

5725 Tense - Present (See 5774) Voice - Active (See 5784) Mood - Subjunctive (See 5792) Count - 352

- a. to beautify*
- b. to make attractive*
- c. To the Greeks, the universe was beautiful and well ordered...*
- d. Cosmetics – to make attractive...*
- e. Adorn – to make beautiful*

2. didaskilia

1319 didaskali,a didaskalia {did-as-kal-ee'-ah}

- from 1320; TDNT - 2:160,161; n f
- AV - doctrine 19, teaching 1, learning 1; 21
- 1) teaching, instruction 2) teaching 2a) that which is taught, doctrine 2b) teachings, precepts

- a. *Doctrine*
- b. *What is taught, made known...*
- c. *English word – didactic*
- d. *Used 21 times in NT*
- e. *I Timothy 4:13*

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

f. I Timothy 6:1-3

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and *his* doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do *them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

g. II Timothy 3:16

16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

h. Titus 2:10

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

B. We are talking about a specific teaching and instruction:

- 1. What our faith is based on...doctrine...*
- 2. "...the faith once delivered to the saints..."*

I. A Definite Body of Truth

A. Jude 3

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

- 1. "...earnestly contend..."*

* **1864** *evpagwni,zomai* epagonizomai {ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee}

- from 1909 and 75; TDNT - 1:134,20; v
- AV - earnestly contend for 1; 1
- 1) to contend

5738 Tense - Present (See 5774) Voice - Middle or Passive Deponent (See 5790) Mood - Infinitive (See 5795) Count - 109

- 2. Agonize – over the once for all faith that was delivered to the saints...*
- 3. This body of truth is definite and definitive...*
 - a. No just any body of knowledge...*

b. Not just some philosophy of man...

B. Paul said to the Galatians that he received his doctrine from Christ...

1. Not taught by man...

2. He testifies he was true to that body of truth revealed to him...

3. II Timothy 4:

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

C. We are neither to add to nor to subtract from...

1. Revelation 22 warns us:

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

2. *John the Baptist said he was just, "...a voice crying in the wilderness."*
 - a. *Not an opinion...just a voice...*
 - b. *Not a clever idea on how to reach people...just a voice...*
3. *He was preaching a definitive and definite body of truth...just a voice crying...*

II. A Revealed Body of Truth

A. *The origin and source of doctrine has been is God and has been revealed by to us by Him...*

1. *There is a branch in philosophy called epistemology...*

- a. *Searches for the origin, the validity, the limit and methods of knowledge...*
- b. *How do we know what we know?*

2. *The ancients studied epistemology at great depth:*

a. *Plato said, "The ultimate source of knowledge lies in the mind, the process of reasoning in ideas."*

* *Idealist trace their origins back to Plato...*

b. *Aristotle said just the opposite and that "True knowledge is gained by factual observation."*

* *Humanist, pragmatist, secular humanist trace their origins back to Aristotle.*

B. *The Christian avows, however, that neither of these theories is true...*

1. *To Plato – Christian says, “Man cannot know God by human reasoning.” – Job 11:7-9*

7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

8 *It is* as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

9 The measure thereof *is* longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

a. *The human mind cannot answer:*

Where did I come from?

Why am I here?

What is the meaning of my existence?

What is my destiny?

Where am I going?

b. *To these questions, man has no answer.*

2. *To Aristotle – Christian says, “You cannot know ultimate truth by human reasoning of factual observation...”*

a. *Our senses are limited...*

b. *The meaning of life lies beyond our senses and what we see, hear, feel or observe.*

3. *It is only as we accept what God has revealed that we can reason, observe and understand.*

a. *His creation – “The heavens declare...”*

b. *His Son –*

c. *His Word –*

d. *His Salvation –*

4. *Every truth is bound to the revelation of God.*

C. *So we have:*

1. *A Definitive Body of Truth – God’s Truth*
2. *A Revealed Body of Truth – Revealed by God*

III. A Valuable Body of Truth

**Because it is God’s truth, revealed by God, it is of great value.*

A. *Doctrine makes us what we are:*

1. *Doctrine is the foundation on which life rest...*
 - a. *A strong foundation means a strong house...*
 - b. *Matthew 7:24-27*

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

2. *This is the tragedy that has overwhelmed our modern culture and civilization...*

a. People have built their lives, home and nation on wrong foundations and they are collapsing all around us...

b. Psalm 11:3

3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

B. Many have been misled by the humanist, the materialist, and the secular humanist...

1. They are now living in existential despair...

2. No meaning to life...

3. No hope for the future...

4. They have turned away from the great foundational faith in God's revelation...

C. A vessel will mold the shape of the water it holds:

1. So doctrine will shape and mold the people the church it holds...

2. That is why we must be faithful to God's revealed doctrine.

D. In late 200 AD and early 300 AD, there arose a great controversy in the Roman Empire:

1. A brilliant man named Arius:

a. Taught that Jesus was like God, but was not God...

b. Swept across the empire...

2. Athanasius stood against this teaching and rebuked it...

a. He said, "Jesus is very God of very God..."

b. He was told, "The world is against you."

c. He replied, "Then I am against the world."

3. This dispute led to the Council of Nicea in 325 AD

a. This doctrine was discussed...

b. Conclusion: Jesus Christ is God of very God...

4. Years later, Edward Gibbons, who was an agnostic, in his book, The Rise And Fall Of The Roman Empire, mentions this dispute:

a. He presents the Arian heresy...

b. He accuses Athanasius of tearing apart the Roman Empire with an iota.

(Like the "i" in English)

*5. Arius said, "Jesus is homoossios."
(The same or identical substance)*

*6. Athanasius said, "Jesus is homoiousios."
(He is very God or the same God)*

a. Just one letter difference...

b. Some said it was not enough to matter.

c. Would you think the same about numbers?

d. If I owed you \$100.00 and I gave you \$10.00 – only one little zero difference.

7. Right doctrine makes all the difference in eternity:

a. Heaven or hell difference

- b. Saved or lost difference*
- c. Right or wrong difference*
- d. Inspired of God or written of man difference*

E. This Body of Truth is of great value:

- 1. That is why the pastoral epistles are so valuable to us...*
- 2. God's revealed truth has shaped and guided our world:*
 - a. The early church faced a pagan world...*
 - b. Caesar worship...*
 - c. Christians refused to bow to Caesar...*
 - 1) Refused to acknowledge that "Caesar is Lord."*
 - 2) They said, "Jesus is Lord."*
 - 3) Many became martyrs for their faith as their blood stained the mouths of the lions in the coliseum.*
- 3. Our nation was founded on that rigidity of belief, that commitment to the doctrine of God.*
 - a. See that little band of Christians in England refusing the dominance of state religion.*
 - b. Pilgrims*
 - c. That we might have a free church in a free state...*

F. A Valuable Body of Truth

IV. A Glorious Body of Truth

A. Doctrine is the skeleton by which we move, live and exist...

1. *Without this framework, we are just blobs of human flesh.*
2. *God made the body in a marvelous way...*
 - a. *To move, to do, to become...*
 - b. *Our skeleton structure is a miracle of God...*
3. *So God gave us the faith, the doctrine of God as our skeleton...*

B. By itself, however, it is a crude and unlovely sight...

1. *It needs some help...*
2. *Ezekiel 37 – valley of dry bones...*

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones,
 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry.
 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.
 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.
 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.
 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

- a. *Bones were very dry...separated...*
- b. *Bones came together...*
- c. *Needed more....*

- 3. *Needed flesh, muscle, tendons, blood, skin...*
- 4. *They needed to live...breath...*
- 5. *It is doctrine that gives these things to us and helps us to live right in God's will...*

C. *That is why we are to "adorn the doctrine of God."*

1. *Titus 2:1*

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 That the **aged men** be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 The **aged women** likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the **young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 **Young men** likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 *Exhort* **servants** to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again;

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**

Notice: Teach the doctrine to:

- a. *Aged men;*
- b. *Aged women;*

- c. *Young women;*
- d. *Young men;*
- e. *Servants*

2. *That is God's way to help us adorn the doctrine of God...*

Conclusion:

A. *We adorn the doctrine of God by godly living and looking for that blessed hope...*

B. *Titus 2:11-14*

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works

C. *Adorn the Doctrine:*

- 1. *In our speaking*
- 2. *In our actions*
- 3. *In our daily living*
- 4. *In our service for the Lord*

D. *"Belief and Behavior"*
"Doctrine and Duty"
"Creed and Conduct"

E. Only a beautiful, consecrated, committed life to Jesus Christ can adorn the doctrine of God.