Adorn the Doctrine of God

► Intro:
- Tit. 2:10 Christians are to adorn the doctrine (teaching) of God
- this lesson, explore the question: Are you adorning the doctrine of God?

► “adorn” – word usage in Bible
- noun: kosmeo (kos-meh'-o)
  - "to arrange, to put in order" (Eng., "cosmetic") (Vine’s)
  - illus.: used of furnishing a room, trimming lamps, adorning tombs and buildings, adoring one’s person
  - Tit. 2:10 metaphorically used of adorning the doctrine of God – verb, action in Christian life

- verb: kosmos (kos'-mos)
  - "a harmonious arrangement or order," then, "adornment, decoration," came to denote "the world, or the universe, as that which is Divinely arranged." (Vine’s)
  - 1 Pet. 3:3 physical and inner adornment

► illus.: Arlington Cemetery (pic)
  - arranged, put in order: graves, buildings, grounds
  - everything is harmonious: crosses on graves harmonious order
  - as we adorn our own selves and our possessions, so we adorn the teaching of God

► How do we adorn the teaching of God?
- kosmeo: metaphoric, to embellish with honor
  - illus.: Arlington Cemetery, a place of honor that each visitor must adorn with their behavior and character, or not permitted to be on the premises (embellish with honor) – pic
  - illus.: soldiers who guard the tomb of the unknowns – info about what they do

► - We adorn the teaching of God, in the same way we adorn Arlington when we visit – behaving honorably toward
  - Rom. 1:21a honor God, His teaching
    - illus.: child adorns parents by honoring them (Eph. 6:2) – e.g.
    - illus.: husband adorns wife by honoring her (1 Pet. 3:7) – e.g.
  - 2 Jn. 1:9 abiding in Christ’s teaching – not go too far
  - 1 Tim. 6:1 behave properly, so doctrine not spoken against
    - illus.: Christian, sin, world blasphemes – e.g. drunk, drunkenness, profanity, fornication
    - Col. 4:6 speech seasoned with salt
    - Matt. 5:16 men see good works and glorify God – His teaching, word
  - Rev. 2:14, 15, 24 not hold to false religious doctrines
    - Col. 2:19 hold fast to Christ
    - Phil. 2:16 hold fast to the word of life
  - 2 Pet. 1:2-4 when we behave honorably toward God’s teachings, we partake of His divine nature, and adorn His teaching with our good behavior
What’s the result of adorning the teaching of God?

- What does earthly adornment do?
  - makes something look good
    - attractive, appealing, others want to be the same way, the person is made to look good and the adornment also
      - illus.: woman who adorns herself to reflect godliness (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:4)
    - makes something look honorable
      - illus.: Arlington (above)
  - Likewise, what do we do by adorning the teaching of God?
    - make it look good to ourselves and others
      - attractive, appealing, others want to be the same way, the person is made to look good and the adornment also
    - make it look honorable

- affects others: cause others to glorify God because of our good works
  -Matt. 5:13-16 light, city upon a hill, salt of the earth, men see good works and glorify God
    - honor God by actions, whereby others honor Him, even if not a Christian
  - illus.: Daniel, released from lion’s den, King Darius made a decree that in all the dominion of his kingdom “men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever” (Dan. 6:26)

- evangelism: save some by the testimony of our lives
  - 1 Pet. 3:15 people ask the reason for the hope within us
    - illus.: Paul, a walking testimony of God’s power and grace, often told his life’s story to convert
    - illus.: 1 Pet. 3:1-4 Christian woman can win unbelieving spouse without a word, godly adornment
      - godly earthly adornment adorns the teaching of God

- because, you’re different from the world (2 Cor. 6:14-18)
  - Matt. 7:13-14; 21-23 persecution, in the minority
    - not popular with those who respect sin over godliness
    - all godly people suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12) – part of adorning the teaching of God
    - so, important for us to help one another: encourage, stimulate, assemble
  - not in the mire with them, participating in their sinful deeds (Eph. 5)
    - Eph. 5:7-11 rather exposing their deeds by your example of life, and speech, as a light
    - persecution results: ridicule, brunt of jokes, spoken evil of

- so then, must be patient when people around us doing what’s wrong – can be irritating, annoying, harmful to you personally
  - illus.: students who cheat and get a better grade than us
  - illus.: drivers who purposely break laws and wreck, causing us bodily injury
  - illus.: people who are impatient with us for doing the right things the right way, rather than cheating and breaking the rules like them
  - have to be different to make a difference
Summary / Inv.
- We adorn God’s teaching by:
  - honoring Him, His word, His teaching
  - abiding in Christ’s teaching
  - behaving properly, so doctrine not spoken evil against
  - not holding to false religious doctrines

- The result:
  - God is glorified
  - some saved

- Are you adorning the doctrine of God? – bring honor and glory to it, and to God?

- inv.: bring glory to the doctrine of God by obeying it – God will be glorified