

HOW TRUE CHRISTIANS ADORN DIVINE TEACHING

Note to the Speaker:

Help audience to appreciate the privilege we have of making Jehovah's teaching shine in all our activities of life. We want others to see that divine teaching provides not just sound principles but an appealing way of life practiced by true Christians today

JEHOVAH DELIGHTS IN ADORNING ALL HIS CREATIONS (6 min.)

Adornment is described as that which is "put on to decorate, beautify, embellish, add luster to, and make the person himself, or that which he represents, pleasing or attractive" (it-1 51)

The Scriptures describe Jehovah as being surrounded by beauty (Ps. 104:1, 2; Rev. 4:2, 3)

All of Jehovah's spiritual creations are described as having similar holy adornment, reflecting his glory

Jehovah's heavenly organization of angelic sons has radiant beauty (Ezek. 1:4-28; Rev. 12:1)

The New Jerusalem is described as "a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2) Jehovah's physical creations abound with breathtaking beauty

They are among the pretty things he has made (Eccl. 3:11)

The starry heavens are "declaring the glory of God" (Ps. 19:1)

When Jehovah created the earth, the angels were treated to a spectacular sight (Job 38:7)

A closer look at the earth reveals that he has ornamented his earthly creation with color, variety, intricacy, and majesty (Ps. 139:14; Lu. 12:27, 28)

[Briefly describe some beauties of creation, such as snowcapped mountains, cascading waterfalls, giant redwood trees, a dazzling array of colorful flowers, animate life forms both large and small]

Jehovah's earthly creations are beautifully adorned and give glory to him (Ge. 1:31)

HUMANS HAVE THE ABILITY TO ADORN THEIR ENVIRONMENT—BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL (5 min.)

Jehovah started first human couple off in the most idyllic surroundings—a beautiful paradise home

He purposed that they use their God-given abilities to adorn the earth by extending the boundaries of Paradise globally (Ge. 1:28; 2:15)

Sin marred the beauty of God's human creation

Earth itself came to be ruined before the Flood (Ge. 6:11, 12)

The ruining of the earth' is taking place in our day (Rev. 11:18)

Even though imperfect, humans have the capacity to adorn things

Physical adornment: At great cost and effort, humans decorate their homes and adorn themselves

Spiritual adornment: When humans work at spiritual adornment, Jehovah is delighted (1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4)

True Christians have the unique privilege of adorning Jehovah's teachings (Read Titus 2:10)

What does this involve?

WAYS YOU CAN PERSONALLY ADORN DIVINE TEACHING (24 min.)

God's teaching is beautiful, like a precious metal (Ps. 12:6)

When we live according to that teaching, we are, in effect, polishing it

We make it shine, or as The New English Bible puts it, we "add lustre" to it (Tit. 2:10) Divine teaching is thus made attractive to others

Paul directed Titus to remind Christians in Crete of the many ways they could adorn divine teaching (Tit. 2:1-15)

We too can personally adorn divine teaching (w89 6/1 15-20)

Consider the following ways :

Field ministry

Strive to improve the effectiveness of our ministry so that we present the Kingdom message in a way that will appeal to honesthearted ones (Rom. 11:13)

Keep literature, witnessing cases, and related materials neat and clean

Congregation meetings

Faithful attendance despite adversity is beautiful to behold (Ps. 133:1)

At all meetings, as in the ministry, we should be neatly and appropriately dressed

Take pride in keeping our Kingdom Halls clean and in good order

On secular job and at school

As Christians, we can adorn divine teaching by being industrious and well-mannered (w90 9/15 23; w73 187-8; g94 7/22 27)

Moral climate at school and in the workplace is often shocking

By our conduct and speech, true Christians stand out as different

View of non-Witnesses

We never want to speak disparagingly of those who do not share our beliefs

A superior attitude will not attract others to worship of Jehovah (w98 12/1 15)

Physical cleanness

Cleanness is an identifying mark of true Christians (2 Cor. 7:1)

It identifies God's people as a group, and it should be evident in each of us individually

The appearance of our home should add to the Kingdom message we bear (g88 9/22 8-11)

Lavishness not required, but modesty, good taste, and cleanliness should be reflected

Our car should be clean, inside and out, so that its appearance does not detract from our message

We must keep our clothing and our person clean so that our appearance is not a cause for reproach

Dress and grooming

Our personal dress and grooming should befit those "professing to reverence God" (1 Tim. 2:10)

True Christians are frequently identified by these means

Entertainment

Proper attention to our choice of entertainment will demonstrate our desire to adorn divine teaching

It would reflect badly on Jehovah if his people were to imitate the world while thinking that they are adhering to divine teaching

In all these ways and others, true Christians adorn divine teaching and make the Kingdom message they bear more attractive to others

RESULTS OF ADORNING DIVINE TEACHING (10 min.)

A polisher of gemstones works hard to bring out the beauty of a precious stone. The result is a decorative ornament that the beholders regard with admiration. Likewise, many are attracted to divine teaching because they see its beauty reflected in the lives of Jehovah's worshipers (1 Pet. 2:12)

There are modern-day examples of faithful Christians who have adorned the teachings of God, making those teachings attractive to observers (See the Index under "Jehovah's Witnesses, statements by Others")

Conventions have often impressed non-Witnesses favorably (km 5/93 4; g93 12/22 11-12)

Many who visit Bethel homes around the world are impressed by high standards of Christian living maintained at those facilities (w97 8/1 9)

Jehovah is delighted when he sees us working hard to add luster to his teachings (Prov. 27:11)

He will be pleased to assign us the work of turning the earth into a global paradise

Those who adorn divine teaching now will be among Jehovah's pretty things that bring honor and glory to him throughout eternity

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)