

# LIVING IN A CRETAN WORLD

## (Titus 2)

### Introduction

- 1) **Titus 2:1** – Paul continues to instruct Titus as to what he should do while on island of Crete
- 2) Cretans were well-known for their worldly and ungodly behavior (1:10-16)
  - a) Had an effect on brethren who lived in this ungodly society
- 3) Christians must understand how to avoid sin and live righteously in a worldly environment

### I) **DECEPTIVE LIES OF AN UNGODLY SOCIETY**

#### A) *When in Crete, do as the Cretans*

- 1) Our faith and godliness must not be compromised to “fit in” (1 Cor. 15:33-34)
- 2) We are to be lights of right in a world of wrong (Phil. 2:15)

#### B) *Feel affirmed whatever your lifestyle*

- 1) Many people wish to be saved from their past guilt and from their future punishment, but don’t want to be saved from their present sinful lifestyles (Rom. 13:12-14)
- 2) There is a proper way to live in this present world (Titus 2:12)

#### C) To counteract any such false ideas, Paul instructs Titus to “speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine” (2:1; cp. 2:15; 3:1, 8 “sound” – Gk. *hygiaino* [Eng. hygiene]), “that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (2:10)

- 1) God’s truth will always keep us spiritually healthy and is the only antidote to cure the sickness of error and sin

### II) **ADORNING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD IN A CRETAN WORLD**

#### A) *All are taught the doctrine of godly living (2:11-12)*

- 1) By the grace of God that brings salvation – *revelation of conversion*
- 2) Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts – *identify, refuse, and shun error*
- 3) Live soberly, righteously, and godly in present age – *walking by a divine standard*

#### B) *All must make personal application of godly living (2:2-10; 3:1-3)*

- 1) Older men/women (vv. 2-4a); Younger women/men (vv. 4-8); Servants (vv. 9-10); All (3:1-3)
- 2) A distinct difference from those lifestyles found in the Cretan world – sober, moral, loving, selfless, reverent, submissive, faithful, humble, gentle, peaceable
- 3) The “adorning” of the doctrine of God (Gk. *kosmeo* – put in order, arrangement)

#### C) *All will look for the blessed hope of Christ’s return (2:11-14)*

- 1) We await Him who gave Himself to redeem us and give us hope of eternal life (1:3)
- 2) This world is not our home or destiny – we are strangers and pilgrims looking for an eternal city and home (1 Pet. 2:11-12; Heb. 11:13-16; 13:14)

### III) **WHEN LIVING FOR GOD...**

- A) We are speaking and hearing the things which are proper for sound doctrine (2:1, 12, 15)
- B) We are adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in all areas of our lives (2:10)
- C) We are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Savior (2:13)

### Conclusion

Titus and the faithful brethren on the island of **Crete** were not left without divine instructions on how to live soberly, righteously, and godly in a Cretan world. Titus spoke it and Paul wrote it by the Spirit and grace of God. Our mind and life can properly adorn the doctrine of God to shine the light of truth, especially while living in a Cretan world of ungodliness and worldly lusts.