



Chapter & verse – Derek Estill (page 24)

Read Titus 3:1-11, followed by Derek Estill's article.

1. The article's first paragraph suggests that giving money to people less fortunate than ourselves is one way of putting Christian faith into action. Can you think of any problems that giving money can cause? Are there right or wrong ways to give?
2. Paul tells Titus 'to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone'. What other rules would you add for Christians to adhere to today? Would you change or remove any of Paul's rules for Titus?
3. To quote from Derek's second paragraph: 'Help is needed more and more – even in the UK, which has the fifth largest economy in the world. What does that say about our society?' What does it say? And, as Derek asks in the third paragraph: 'Have we got our priorities wrong?'
4. Summarising the Bible text, Derek highlights that anyone 'could easily and unexpectedly fall foul of circumstances beyond our control, rendering us in need of help'. Who do you know that needs help today? Do you know of people that need help but might be perceived as not needing help?
5. The biblical text reminds us that God loves and saves us 'not because of any works of righteousness ... but according to his mercy'. Is this a comforting, or troubling prospect? What are the incentives of doing good works? Who benefits?
6. In paragraph six, Derek talks about the challenge of building up a Christian community against the odds. Do you agree that encouraging Christian communities is a challenge? What are the challenges, and how can we meet them?
7. Derek ends the article saying: 'By living out the love of God in all we do and say, we become custodians of [God's love]'. How is your community living out God's love? Can you think of examples in wider society?



Column 3

Derek Estill Chapter & verse
Let's promote the real meaning of being a Christian this Christmas



...and on these things, we find Jesus who has come to fulfill in God what the prophets had foretold. He is the true God who has come to fulfill in God what the prophets had foretold. He is the true God who has come to fulfill in God what the prophets had foretold.

Christmas is coming, the great time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time when we remember that God has come to us in the flesh, to live with us, to die for us, and to rise again for our salvation. It is a time when we are reminded of the love of God and the grace of the gospel.

At a time when so many people are turning their backs on the faith, it is important that we do not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. We must remember that Jesus came into the world for everyone, not just for the elect. He came to bring the good news to all people, to all nations, to all tongues, and to all peoples.

Let us therefore celebrate Christmas in a way that is true to the gospel. Let us remember that Jesus came to us in the flesh, to live with us, to die for us, and to rise again for our salvation. Let us remember that God has come to us in the flesh, to live with us, to die for us, and to rise again for our salvation.

Jesus came into our world for everyone

...and on these things, we find Jesus who has come to fulfill in God what the prophets had foretold. He is the true God who has come to fulfill in God what the prophets had foretold.

1 Derek Estill is the author of the book 'The Gospel of the Kingdom'.

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For further reflection: 'Take good care to ... love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.' Joshua 22:5

Prayer: Father, who gives unstintingly the things that we need in order to thrive and grow, make us generous and wise givers we pray. Help us, together, in all we do, to live out your love. Amen.

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