

Planting God

Pages: 160

Publisher: Klug Publishing Group, LLC (October 4, 2016)

Format: pdf, epub

Language: English

[DOWNLOAD FULL EBOOK PDF]

“I have known Derek for two decades, heard him teach and preach, and have had many wonderful conversations with him. This book is a culmination of a life-time journey. It takes what could be an overwhelming subject and makes it personal and accessible to all. For a generation that wants it broken down and metaphorically digestible, this is the big picture in an album of great photos.”

Frank Naea,

Former International President, Youth With A Mission

Auckland, New Zealand

“Derek skillfully relates captivating true stories, adeptly uses the Bible, and then suddenly connects it all to real-life issues that I’m going through right now. This is the kind of book you buy, read, recommend to friends and then read again.”

Jeff Cheek

Managing Director, Homes of Hope

Mexico

“An uncommonly wise planter of the Kingdom, Derek consistently and innovatively deliberates outside the lines. In this book, he teaches us to know our Creator and accept with gratitude who we’ve been made to be. Then, we’re equipped and motivated to plant the living God into the hearts and minds of others.”

Dr. La Prella Martin,
Leadership and Program Development
University of the Nations, Kona, Hawaii, USA

“The genius of this book is in its ability to clarify the meaning of being a Christian: discover and engage with our loving God, then plant what we’ve learned into the lives of people around us. Derek helps us know God – so we know Whom we are planting – and then inspires our potting projects. This is the one book that church leaders and pastors will find empowered to equip their members!”

Rev. John K. Choi
Pastor of 2nd Gen. English Ministry
Open Worship, Tacoma Central Presbyterian Church ECO
Tacoma, Washington, USA

PLANTING GOD

BY DEREK H. SCHOENHOFF

Planting God
Published by the Klug Publishing Group, LLC
Copyright © 2016 by Derek H. Schoenhoff

Amazon Kindle eBook Edition

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form, or by any

means, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by standard copyright law.

Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.

First Edition

ISBN 978-0-9911112-6-8

Unless otherwise noted, all quoted scripture verses are taken from:

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

In addition, the following versions of the Bible have also been quoted:

The New American Standard Bible®,

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,

1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

The Amplified® Bible,

Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987

by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

The New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982

by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For bookings or general communication,
you can connect with the author using:

1136 Union Mall Ste 301

Honolulu, HI 96813-2711 USA

Cover Design by Neil Sauvageau

Author Photo by Mia Jang

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

So many people have contributed to the understandings of God I share in this book: my parents, who raised me in a godly family; my brother, who has such a sharp mind for truth; amazing professors in university and seminary who guided me in my learning; peers that I've worked with, who have been my iron sharpening iron; role models, like Loren Cunningham, whose obedience to God opened so many doors for people like me, or Ken Hemphill and Bob Reccord, on whose church staffs I was privileged to serve; members of my congregation in Hawaii, who have always been encouraging and supportive; and of course my amazing wife, who believes that my work is a valuable and important contribution to the world.

Thank you all - you're deeply loved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Forward](#)

[Prologue](#)

[1 | Reversing the Great Commission](#)

[2 | Discovering our Creator and His Character](#)

[3 | Clearly Seeing His Invisible Qualities](#)

[4 | He is Present, Active and Working](#)

[5 | Discerning Truth](#)

[6 | Restoring Our Identity](#)

[7 | Recognizing How God Speaks to Us](#)

[8 | Relating to God from the Inside-Out](#)

[9 | Worshipping Our King and Dad](#)

[10 | Identifying the Work of Jesus](#)

[11 | Detecting the Enemy](#)

[12 | Overcoming Fear](#)

[13 | Thieving and the Power of Words](#)

[14 | Repenting, Forgiving and Reconciling](#)

[15 | Moving Forward with Gratitude](#)

Forward

When I first met Derek, he was speaking in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a group of us stayed up into the wee hours of the morning engrossed in deep discussion. As he shared with us, I learned that God speaks, that we can have intimate relationship with Him, and from that relationship, our lives can be radically transformed. At the time, I had no idea of how true that would become for me.

I took Derek's teaching and continued to try to connect with my Creator. Just the tiniest step towards a more intimate relationship with God and it felt like He swept in, scooped me up, and just

held me so divinely and deliciously close. Over the coming months, God revealed himself. And there was light.

To my delight, I discovered that God was not elusive and distant. He was not like the kind, but uninterested, father figure of my childhood who provided only for my basic needs as any good father does. No. This father, my Heavenly Father, was very interested in me because He created me to reflect His glory. Strength built upon strength was what I found as I shed off my brokenness, shame and victim mentality. I exchanged it all for the most authentic relationship I could've ever imagined.

And He pursued me. God desired my love. Not a passive casual desire. He desired me in fierce and deliberate ways. And He wanted to bless me. Blessing upon blessing.

When I got my mind wrapped around the teaching Derek was delivering, my world - the world I have dominion over - split wide open in possibility.

He restored my health.

He redeemed my body.

He poured in beauty, peace, and joy.

He multiplied relationships.

My vocational calling became clear.

Resources poured in.

And I began to bear fruit.

I walked in a power I had never been aware of. I became the daughter of the King that I had always been. I stopped standing in the darkness and moved into light. I will never be the same.

This book delivers an understanding of God that will awaken something in your spirit. With an experienced dexterity that comes from teaching this material for almost two decades in close to a hundred nations, Derek is able to take difficult concepts and make them wonderfully easy to comprehend. He uses the Bible as his foundation and opens our eyes to its application in our everyday life with engaging true stories and vibrant insights. As you read *Planting God*, you'll feel hand-led through the nature and character of our heavenly Father in a way that empowers and inspires you.

I'm so glad Derek made the effort to plant what he's learned about God into my life, and now I'm thrilled he has done the same for all of you. When I come across an author that helps shape my understanding of God and encourages me in my faith, I have to tell people about their book. I'm sure you'll want to do the same!

Marcia Barnes

Prologue

In three out of the four New Testament gospels, the writers document Jesus telling the story of a farmer sowing seed on a variety of soils. When He told the story, Jesus was outside, by a lake, and there were so many people pressing in to hear what He was saying, that He decided to speak from a small boat.

“As the farmer was scattering the seed,” Jesus said, His voice carrying over the din of the crowd, “Some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” (Matthew 13:1-23)

Later, Jesus explained that the parable had to do with the “knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven.” When people hear the message and do not understand it, He said, “the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their hearts.” If someone hears the word and gladly receives it, but then their passion dies away – they are like the seed falling on rocky ground and their joy only lasts a short time. When pressure comes, they “quickly fall away.” He said the seed falling on thorns refers to a person who hears the word, but the “worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

Further down in the chapter, in verse thirty-seven, Jesus says, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.” Surely, nobody else can sow seed that is truly good – He is the only One.

About the seed that falls on good soil, Jesus said it refers to someone who “hears the word and understands it.” This is good seed and this is good soil. And these people, our Lord affirms, produce “a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” How does that happen? How does seed produce a successful crop? The seed multiplies! New seed, from the exact DNA of the original seed, is re-sown.

Whether the soil was a hardened path, rocky ground, full of thorns, or a moist and fertile soil, all the soils had one thing in common: the good seed fell on them. As Jesus explained that process, people heard.

In the past few decades, there has been a lot of emphasis on church planting, starting a ministry, or pioneering a new Christian work. It is all contributing to an incredible growth of the Kingdom of God and is truly thrilling to witness. In the process, people are discovering that a church building should not be our goal, a new ministry with larger crowds should not be our goal, and new projects should not be our goal. Really, our goal shouldn't even be to plant a structure or a program, but to plant what we've learned of God directly into the lives of people around us and then discovering what it is that He would like to grow – it might not even look like a church or have a model for us to copy.

But if this is going to happen, we need a clear understanding of who God really is and how we can relate to Him. We need to carefully learn about His character and His personality. And we need to

understand about ourselves and how marvelously we were made in His image. When we have this in our minds, we can thoughtfully and effectively be Planting God.

1 | Reversing the Great Commission

I'll always remember hurrying across campus to get to my first seminary class with the legendary Dr. Roy Fish, distinguished professor of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. It was a chilly morning that demanded a brisk pace and the dark clouds seemed to be ominously predicting light snow or heavy rain. I readjusted my backpack as I entered the large rotunda doors and made my way downstairs to his classroom, trying to shrug off the nervous energy that comes with starting something new. There was a vacant seat in the front row, on the far right side, and I quickly sat down, took a deep breath, and prepared to take notes. Dr. Fish entered the lecture room right on time and the pre-class chatter died down in eager anticipation of what this dearly loved and respected man of God would share with us.

"Good morning, everyone," he said into a little microphone that he always brought and hooked up to a small speaker on the table in front of him. A few people returned the greeting, while others just stared, as if even his greeting was something to never forget.

Dr. Fish wrinkled his brow and solemnly declared, "Class, we have reversed the Great Commission." He pursed his lips and nodded solemnly. "By and large – we have inverted it."

I was stunned. "Have we really?" I wondered.

He was referring, of course, to the section in Matthew 28:19-20, where Jesus commands all of His disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Another passage like it is in Mark 16:15-16, when Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

"The Great Commission," Dr. Fish continued, "says to go and tell." He paused, looking at each of us, "But we have said, come and listen."

The room was very quiet.

"So we have built bigger buildings, spent more money on style, lighting, sound systems, and relevant music. We establish more programs, desperately create greater shows and work tirelessly in an effort to get people to come to our thing. Listen. We don't need to get people to come to our thing – we need to go to where the people already are! Jesus did not say for us to pray that harvest would come to the workers, but that the Lord of the harvest would send workers to the harvest."

I quickly turned to Matthew 9:38 and Luke 10:2. Dr. Fish was right, of course; it's exactly what Jesus had said and the implications were huge.

When I had returned to my studio apartment, my mind was swirling with questions. Were we in danger of some hideous side track? Were we, in fact, reversing Jesus' Great Commission?

The only solution was to go back to the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. As I thought about it, I needed to understand more about the Lord of the harvest and who He was. Then I needed to try and figure out how we could get back to going and telling. Over the years, it's become a passion of mine.

What I've realized since those early seminary days, is that there can be many misconceptions in our minds about God. I've recognized that our deceptive enemy, spoken of by Jesus in John 8, doesn't seem to care if we embrace a specific aspect of God's character, as long as that's all we embrace. If all we believe in is the grace of God, for example, then we are unable to Biblically explain His judgment and wrath. This can lead to a casual dismissal of the reality of sin and its effects on our lives, families and communities; it can cause us to speak of hell as if it didn't exist; it can cause people to think that God will overlook shameful behavior.

On the other hand, if all we see is God's judgment and wrath, it can lead to lives occupied with criticism, gossip and judgment; we can easily be trapped into living lives full of bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness; and people can think that God is full of rage and constantly disappointed with almost all of our life choices.

A good friend of mine called this latter result, "living in a shame zone." He goes on to describe a person who was a brilliant piano player.

One day, when this musician was younger, his mother came home and demanded, "Did you practice your piano?"

"Yes," he answered, truthfully.

His mother's eyes narrowed disapprovingly, "Well, your room's a mess!"

This young pianist described to my friend how it seemed like nothing he ever did could meet the expectations of his parents. Every time he would try to meet them, they would just raise their demands and he would live his younger years in this shame zone. Since his parents were the supreme authority figures in his life as a child, when he met God – the supreme authority figure for us all – and became a Christian, he transferred that feeling of shame into his new relationship with his Savior. He viewed our heavenly Father as someone who was never really happy with him, as someone whose expectations he always fell short of, and as someone who viewed him as the great disappointment.

These warped perspectives of God can impact us deeply and truly influence our life decisions and how we treat people. They can skew our perception of how God sees us and even decimate how we see ourselves. Not only do these distorted ideas impact us as individuals, but we can extend them into the community around us with devastating effects. To continue with our example, entire churches can sway into a theology of grace, for instance, that doesn't line up with the Word of God – or they can swing to a theology of judgment and wrath that leaves grace alone on the side of the street.

I don't think it's possible for us to have a perfect perception of God. Paul writes in I Corinthians 13:12 that we only see a dim reflection, as in a mirror. But, despite the dimness, God has perfectly revealed Himself to us because everything He does is perfect. In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that God has made Himself so plain to us and easy to understand, that people will be without excuse in their knowledge of God. In Romans 1:20, he wrote, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." So even though we have an imperfect view of God because His revelation is not yet complete, He has perfectly

revealed all we need to know of Him. As a matter of fact, God has revealed so much of Himself to us that we are without excuse. Paul continued to write that one day, we would see God fully when we're face to face. At that time, our revelation of Him will be perfectly complete.

I guess what I'm most excited about in my relationship with God, is knowing that I've never fully arrived, but I'm always on this exciting journey of discovering more and more about God. We should not be content with what we have already learned, but we should be passionately hungry to discover more of Him and His love for us.

It's like a guy and a girl who are initially attracted to each other. At first, they know a little bit about each other, but something in them wants to know more. There is a desire in them to spend more time together and invest in a relationship. Why? Because they want to get to know the other person and they want the other person to get to know them. In Jeremiah 24:7, we see God transferring this idea to the prophet when He said of the Israelites, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."

God revealed himself perfectly, although incompletely, and gave us a desire to know Him more. That wonderful process happens in the safety of the covenant relationship He has made with us and when we discover the depth of His love, our lives are forever changed.

Don't we love witnessing that desire for Jesus and the ensuing transformation? Nothing is more exciting than meeting brilliant young people who are thirsting after God. Weary of the disintegrating opinions around them, they are passionately desiring to know and apply Truth to their lives. Whether they be part of the more than 600 million people under the age of twenty-five in India; the vast amount of Koreans who are disillusioned with legalistic systems of religion, but hungry for vibrant relationship with God; a growing core of young Americans who still believe in a right and a wrong; young Europeans who are starting to understand that the foundations of their nations are important to preserve and defend; Latinos who are channeling their passions into missions; or youthful Africans who are rising up with courage, humility, and determination – knowing deep in their hearts that the time for them to shine is now; there is a sweeping global desire among many people to be light in a dark world instead of being a candle with no wick.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them' ..."

Speaking of our Creator, let's take a closer look at how He has revealed Himself to us through the book that He wrote. It's a great one! As we look at it more closely, I think we'll learn a lot about Him, together.

2 | Discovering Our Creator and His Character

One of the greatest challenges any author faces is how to begin their book. They want to capture readers, set the tone, and inspire people to keep reading. I don't think it was any different for God when He thought about what to write and how to start His book; He picked a brilliant launching point.

In Genesis 1:1 we read, "In the beginning ..."

What a masterful way to start this life-changing book we call the Bible. Already we have some very serious and foundational questions answered for us. There was a beginning! And apparently, someone who knows something about it is going to tell us what happened.

The next word tells us more when we read, "In the beginning, God ..."

I can imagine the thought our Creator put into His opening line. He was probably pondering how, in one phrase, He could answer our questions. How did life start? How did we get onto this planet we call earth? Is there anyone who really has these answers? Can we really know? Do we have some kind of purpose to our lives? With one line, one simple statement, so many of our questions find an answer. There at the beginning, witnessing the birth of the earth and humanity itself, was God.

He continues to share about Himself with the very next word. "In the beginning, God created." With a sigh of relief, humanity finds its Designer! God's first title, other than God, is Creator. He is the Master Artist, the One who invents, the Instigator of life, the Architect of universal physics, science, art, business, economics and poetry. He is the Thoughtful Planner.

What did He create?

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." He created everything we know. He created things we see and things we have yet to discover. As it turns out, this world was not a random accident of crashing neutrons; rather, it was the purposeful design of Divine neurons.

The marvelous thing about our Creator is that He has never stopped creating. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" So one of the things God is still creating is a new you! A work in progress perhaps, but if those who are in Christ are a new creation, someone must be doing the creating. It could only be the work of our original Designer, our Creator God.

Verse three is uniquely exciting. Not only did God create, but He reveals Himself to us. In most English versions it reads something like, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." Interestingly, that light wasn't the stars, the moon or the sun. Those weren't created until verse fourteen. So what light became visible?

In John 1:3,4 we read, "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men." In Revelation 21:23, when John was writing about the new city he saw in the heavenlies, he penned, "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light ..." The prophet Isaiah wrote, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2) Could it be that the light in Genesis 1 is actually God revealing Himself to us? Yes!

This is important, because right there, in the beginning of the Bible, we already learn one of the great things about God: He longs for His creation to know Him. He is not some mysterious God we cannot know or understand – as a matter of fact, He says just the opposite. In Jeremiah 33:3, we read about God saying, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and mysterious things you do not know." God actually looks forward to revealing Himself to us – even His more mysterious aspects. He is the light in the darkness of our lives, He sheds light on the issues of life, and His Word lights up the path in front of us.

I remember meeting a young woman who was a fashion designer in New York. Somehow we got onto the topic of whether or not God speaks to us. She wasn't a Christian and was very skeptical

about the whole idea. So we moved on to talk about something else. She told me about her recent job change and talked about how she had worked for a small but very successful company, and was one of their favored artists, but had been unhappy. A few months before we met, she had just switched fashion companies and was much happier where she was.

“What was the difference?” I asked her.

“I really wasn’t comfortable at my old company. The CEO and top executives would party constantly, spend tons of company money on prostitutes and drugs, and were totally disconnected from the rest of us.”

“You didn’t like that?”

“I felt like my talents and my contributions as a designer were just being wasted on their lavish parties. I almost felt prostituted myself! It was as if they were just using me and then wasting the money that came from my hard work. I actually felt like I was financing their parties with my designs.”

It made sense. “What made you leave?” I asked her.

“I had a thought. ‘This is not right. I’m paying for these parties with my sweat, tears and passion. It is a waste of my artistic talent.’ So I decided to quit. I looked for a different company and found this one.” She pointed to the building behind her.

“Things are better now?”

“Much better. This company is owned by Christians – not that it matters, I guess – but they actually have company-wide profit-sharing. I feel respected, encouraged and safe – I think all the employees feel that way. And trust me, in the world of fashion – this place is a very rare find.”

I thought for a few moments and remembered James 1:17. It reads, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (NASB)

I turned to her and asked, “You know the thought you had? The one where you thought, This is not right?”

“Yeah?”

“That was a good thought.”

She nodded.

“Did you know that it was God speaking to you?”

She raised her eyebrows.

“The Bible tells us that everything good – comes from Him. So the thought that nudged you – the thought that said to you this isn’t right was actually Him speaking to you. He wanted to get you out of there – to rescue you – and because He is our light, He was actually lighting up a pathway out of the darkness to a better place. That’s the kind of God He is. You can see how much He cares about you.” *

The struggle is real. Sure. But often times we can over-complicate our lives. Planting God inspires us with a simple idea. God reveals Himself to us so we can plant Him into the lives of people around us. In this valuable book, Derek Schoenhoff shares exciting life-stories, asks thoughtful questions and applies Biblical truth. You will cultivate your knowledge of God, energize your ability to communicate with Him, unearth powerful principles for your restoration and wholeness, uncover strategies of the enemy in your life, and simplify your calling and purpose.

God has made Himself accessible to everyone, but only you can choose to open yourself up to Him. Whether you have been a Christian for many years, or are just discovering Him, this book will help you on your journey, so you can be passionately Planting God.

God Gave the Growth - ChurchPublishing.org - This potent drink was derived from the Kava plant by chewing it then spitting it out Sold by International Coffee & Books and ships from Amazon Fulfillment. George Müller of Bristol, by Arthur T. Pierson - Project Gutenberg - Take church planting to the next step---multiplication! How to Multiply Your Church: The Most Effective Way to Grow God's Baker Books Paperback. How to Evangelism Tracts - labellamanza.it - Alvin Plantinga, who has led a movement of unapologetically Christian philosophers, argues that theism is compatible with science in his new 7 Keys to Church Growth - And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for Alvin Plantinga - Wikipedia - Church Growth & Church Planting "What would it look like if God's reign were to be more fully realized in your neighborhood? In The New God Is Waiting for You to Plant a Seed - Pastor Rick's Daily - ARC HOW-To Series. The ARC Resources "How-To" series books are designed to give you practical tools and teaching from those who have proven that the Review of "The Seed Who Was Afraid to be Planted" ~ Good - Most of the principles discussed in this book on church planting are the same biblical principles needed for the renewal of existing churches. Both church Prayer for youth sunday - It's like people who can't believe in God the Father because they themselves Mary Jo Sharp: I didn't grow up in the church and didn't know much about In this episode I interview Mary Jo Sharp about her new book Why I Still Believe. Hawaiian God Ku - It is one of many Christian workers' favorite books of Bible, and its narrator I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. There is a time for birth and death, planting and reaping, for killing and These 5 trees take you on a biblical journey of grace and growth - "Growing in Prayer is the most practical book on prayer I have read. "Growing in Prayer, like the books written by great men of God such as E. M. Bounds, will Church Planting Resources - CMM - ARC HOW-To Series. The ARC

Resources â€œHow-Toâ€• series books are designed to give you practical tools and teaching from those who have proven that the

Relevant Books

[[DOWNLOAD](#)] - Pdf Mechanism of Muscular Contraction (Perspectives in Physiology)

[[DOWNLOAD](#)] - Free Playin' Church: The doors of the church are now open pdf

[[DOWNLOAD](#)] - Free Water Baptism and Spirit Baptism: As Taught in the Scriptures free online

[[DOWNLOAD](#)] - Download ebook Subpersonalities: The People Inside Us free epub

[[DOWNLOAD](#)] - Pdf Corrugated & Solid Fiber Boxes in Columbia: Product Revenues free
