

The Good and Perfect Gifts

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Not every gift is a good gift. We could have a great conversation this morning if we just went around and had everyone tell us about the worst gift you ever received.

As a matter of fact, the ministerial will meet the third Thursday in December and we are supposed to bring some of those bad gifts to sort of recycle them, or unload them, if you know what I mean.

Now it is not that people try to give bad gifts, its just that some people have different tastes.

But God always gives the best gifts. His gifts are different in so many ways from those of our friends and relatives.

As we come to this time of thanksgiving, let us consider the gifts that God has bestowed upon us.

I. Every good gift

- A. Not everything that we think is good is good for us.
- B. But everything that comes from God is good.
- C. Everyone benefits from the good gifts of God.
 - 1. Life, love, family.
 - 2. The ability to enjoy, the earth, the heavens and nature in general.
 - 3. The ability for touch a baby's face, to hold your children.
 - 4. The ability to taste that Thanksgiving turkey, the gravy and dressing.
 - 5. The ability to hear your child's first words, their childhood songs or Handel's Messiah.
 - 6. The ability smell a spring morning to the burning leaves in the fall.
 - 7. The ability to see the beauty of all that God has created.

II. Every perfect gift

- A. But God's gifts are not only good they are perfect.
 - 1. The idea is that of perfection.
- B. But God's gifts are not primarily physical for His children, but spiritual.
 - 1. His love is perfect.
 - 2. His grace is perfect, complete.

3. His mercy knows no end.
4. His forgiveness is complete without regret or any holdover.
5. His promises are many and full, not partial.

III. Is from above, from the Father of lights

A. The words “coming down” have the idea of constantly descending.

1. God’s gifts continue every day.
2. As the Psalmist said, “His mercies are new every morning.”

B. Father of lights

1. This has the idea that God is the creator of all that is good.
2. We do not worship the sun, although this time of year it is appealing.
3. We worship the one who made the sun the stars and all that we see.
4. In the Bible light is considered good while darkness is considered evil.
 - a. Previously in this passage James has been discussing if God tempts people to sin.
 - b. This is one of his answers.
 - c. How could a good God, the Father of all that is good tempt people to do evil.
 - d. It is the devil that offers the bargains of this world, but never any gifts for everything you receive for Satan comes with a heavy price to be paid sooner or later.

IV. With whom is no variation.

A. God does not change.

1. Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) 6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
2. Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

B. Therefore He will never become what He is not now.

1. Our God will never stop being good and giving good things.
2. Mt 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

God’s gifts are always better than Satan’s bargains. Satan never gives any gifts, because you end up paying for them dearly. Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 2, p.

344). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Everything we get from God is a gift. We can buy nothing. Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV) 1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.