



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

God, the Giver of all Perfect Gifts...

READ: JAMES 1: 17-18

- s we cross the threshold of another year it is well for us to reminded of certain truths about the providence and character of God.
- Every good and perfect gift is from above.
- How can we understand what is meant by a good and perfect gift? Some gifts received are perfect in the sense that they are just what we need, or they are a perfect fit, or we have received them from a treasured loved one.
- **God's good and perfect gifts may include many material blessings like a good harvest, a successful enterprise or peace in our nation.**
- Consider how much worse things could be and thank God for good health, provision of daily bread and shelter.
- The great comfort for the Christian is that even though there is a lack of such material **blessings, the goodness of God's grace can still be enjoyed**
- James needs to correct some erroneous thinking among the scattered believers. (v.16) God is not the author of temptation (v.13) only good and perfect gifts come from Him. **He doesn't deliberately put us in the firing line so that we will be overcome by our enemies.**
- "In contrast to the evil things brought about by (our sinful) desire God will only give a good and perfect gift" **(New Bible Commentary)**
- We crave self-importance, recognition, dominion but God will not satisfy such desires- He will only give that which is good for us.
- ^a What James describes as being GOOD is that which is profitable, generous and virtuous. It is inevitable that we will be tested during times of stress, illness and grief with the result that we begin to question the goodness of God. (James1:2-4)
- **We may regard God's providence as being far from perfect when we are in a valley of despair and fear.**
- At such trying times we will need to learn to discern what comes from above and what comes from within our deceitful hearts.
- **Consider God's gift of wisdom** James 3:17 "But the wisdom from above is first pure,



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Week 02

- *then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” (Expand)*
- When my mind has often been clouded by many conflicting dilemmas, I have subjected myself once more to the wisdom that is from above.
- It doesn't take long for the mist to clear and I feel myself again to be on solid ground. Such depth of assurance is a gift from God.

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE

- *God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. (1John 1:5)*
- God is changeless in the sense that He will never change His ultimate purpose. *(Mal.3:6) “Nature’s luminaries vary in magnitude and are subject to phases, eclipses and shadows” (because of constant movement) (R C Sproul)*
- I am so glad that God does not change His mind about that which He has given to us. The Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sin, Eternal life, love, joy peace.

IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT WE BEAR FRUIT

- It is the perfect gift that will ultimately perfect the one who receives it. Some products are advertised in such a way as to make the hearer feel like their life will not be complete without it.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit will perfect the spiritual transformation of the one who is born by the will of God through the word of truth.
- *“The first-fruits were viewed as the best of the harvest so God is making redeemed human beings the apex of all creation.” (NBC)*
- We may not feel so important in God's plan but the reality is that we are on display to all creation and to principalities and powers. *(Eph.3:10)*
- We are God's new creation and all nature waits for the final manifestation of what we will become in the certain hope that nature itself will be delivered from futility. *(Rom.8:19-22)*
- All this growth only to die,, spring after spring, winter after winter but here is the hope of endless life.
- In summary let's rejoice in the many good and perfect gifts that we have from God the changeless One. Let's realize afresh that His purpose is bigger than our own ideals. We are the light of the world, the first-fruits of God's new creation.