

## God's Good and Perfect Gifts

James 1:17

### ***Introduction:***

- A. Whatever the occasion may be, birthday, anniversary, Valentine's day, etc., it is important to find a good gift for the person involved. We try to find a gift that has some value to the person to which we intend to give it, but that does not always happen. Many times, the gift is not considered "good."
- B. When it comes to receiving the gift, we always want the giver to give us something of value. The one giver that always does this is, of course God. While some may disregard His gifts, He will always give only good gifts.

### ***I. God Is Good And Gives Good Gifts***

- A. There is no "variance" with God: He is completely good – Mk 10:18; Jas 1:17
- B. God knows which gifts are good and how to give them - Matt. 7:7-11, esp. 7:11
- C. God said that His people "shall not be in want of any good thing" - Psa. 34:10
- D. God's people prove – demonstrate – His good and acceptable and perfect will when we give ourselves to Him in service as living sacrifices - Rom. 12:1-2
- E. What kinds of gifts does God give us that are described as "good and perfect?"
  - 1. What does the Bible mean by this?
  - 2. What kinds of gifts are we giving to God and others?

### ***II. God's Loving And Mature Gifts Include Food, Shelter, Work, Marriage Or Singleness, Guidance, Jesus, God's Word, Faithful Endurance, And The Result – Eternal Life!***

- A. God's gifts are both loving and mature
  - 1. God's gifts are "good"
    - a. Wondrous, excellent, distinguished
    - b. God's voluntary, self-sacrificial benevolence which we are commanded to practice - Jas 1:17
  - 2. God's gifts are "perfect"
    - a. Mature, brought to its end or goal - Jas 1:17
- B. God calls His gifts good: food and shelter, work, marriage or singleness, guidance, Jesus, His word, faithful endurance, and their result – eternal life
  - 1. God said that food and shelter are good gifts to be enjoyed and shared rather than used for gluttony and show - 1 Tim. 6:6-8, 17, 4:3-4; Cf. Gen. 1-2
  - 2. God said that work – constructive, productive activity – Is a good gift to be used to strengthen rather than to tear down - Eph. 4:28; Cf. Gen. 1-3
  - 3. God said that serving a spouse in marriage – and also serving others while we are single! – are good gifts to be used to please God and help others rather than for self-centered pleasure - Prov. 18:22; 1 Thess. 4:1-8, esp. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 7, esp. 7:2-5, 9b & 7:1, 8, 32-35; Matt. 19:3-12, esp. 19:6b, 12; Eph. 5:1-2, 22-33; Col. 3:18-22; 1 Pet. 3:1-8
  - 4. God said that His guidance is a good gift to be used lawfully for improvement rather than for self-righteous boasting - Rom. 7:7-12, esp. 7:12; 1 Tim. 1:8-11, esp. 1:8; Cf. Rom. 3:19-27, esp. 3:20 & Gal. 3:19 (& 16)
  - 5. God said that the salvation that He gives through Jesus Christ is a good gift to be enjoyed and shared rather than used as an excuse for ungodly living - Jn. 3, esp. 3:16, 4:1-26, esp. 4:10; Rom. 5:15-16; Eph. 2:8, 10

6. God said that His word is a good gift to be enjoyed and shared rather than ignored or hoarded - Lk. 10:38-42; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15, 24-25; 3:16-17
7. God said that the mature Christian life of faithful endurance in the face of temptation and trial demonstrating fearless love for God and people is a good gift to be received rather than rejected in some quest for childish pleasure or worldly “retirement” - Eph. 4:11-16 (& Col. 1:28, I Thess. 3:10); Jas 1:2-4, 12-18; 1 Jn. 4:16-19
8. God said that the result of His gifts is eternal life growing out of our sanctification rather than death growing from serving self - Rom. 6, esp. 6:22-23

### ***III. Loving And Mature Gifts Come From God While Lesser “Gifts” Arise From Arrogant And Ignorant Ingratitude.***

- A. Ingratitude provides destructive consequences when we ignore God’s role in the gifts of our life - Rom. 1:18-32, esp. 1:20-21

#### ***Conclusion:***

- A. The best gift anyone can receive is that of salvation. God gave the gift of His Son freely, so we might have a hope. Have you accepted this gift?