

Editorial Thought...

Every Good And Perfect Gift...

"So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light." - James 1:16-17 (MSG) -



Daniel Seay

So do you think of God as generous? Why or why not? How you respond to this question is going to depend on what your knowledge of God is from the Bible. It will also depend upon the experiences from your past and from the present. So do you think of God as *generous*? Why or Why not?

The story is told of a young minister who was setting up a worship facility on a college campus. He found a young girl sitting in the dark. *"I hope you don't mind my being here,"* she said. *"I don't believe in God."* The young minister responded: *"Why don't you tell me about the God you don't believe in. Maybe I don't believe in him either"*. Sure enough, the God she rejected was one that sits on his hands, does nothing about the pain of the world, watches like one watching a game, invents arbitrary rules to keep people ashamed and afraid, and finds delight in passing his killing judgments. It was a pleasure for the young minister to say to her: *"Guess what? I don't believe in that God either. He doesn't exist"*. She asked *"So what is God like?"* The young minister replied. *"My God is the God of music and laughing, of science and beauty, of patient justice and tender mercy, of everything that is alive and everything that is good. He is not far from you if you think you know what love is or forgiveness or meaning or hope. My God is the inventor of fireflies and the one who first thought of the cool summer nights in which they could fly. My God is the one you can thank for your shoes and the feet you put in them. He is the healer of broken hearts and the God of second chances"*

I want us to focus on the Word of God from the book of James to see the God who made us and determined, in advance, how He wanted to bless our lives so that we might seek Him and find Him. James writes in verse 1:17: *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"*. It's clear. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. He does not change in His approach of how He loves us or in the good gifts that He wants to give to us. Yet, we may not always look at God as being generous. Here are a few reasons why that may be:

1. God created all things, therefore He must have created the bad things. The Bible tells us that God made everything perfect. Scripture tells us that Satan first, and then Adam and Eve rebelled against Him when they were tempted and that is why sin and disease and death came into the world.
2. God is God, so why does He permit evil and bad things to exist? Again, Scripture tells us God did something about all the bad stuff. By giving the perfect gift of His Son, His redemptive plan is to remove the debt of sin, and its associated guilt, and to give us life forever in heaven. In the context of our text, James gives us the source of many bad things in our life. *"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me'. For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; ²⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ²⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."* (James 1:13-15).

We must humbly accept James' warning and daily repent of our sins so that an unrepentant attitude won't cause our spiritual death. The gospel is the good news about God's active love for us. God planned to send His Son, Jesus, into the world, which He accomplished to perfection. In that love gift we are blessed indeed. *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."* (Ephesians 1:3).

News And Notes

Our Prayer List

Bud Daniel, Austin Clark, Gwen Gann, LouAnn Gann, The Robin Wilson family, Josh Wallace, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Alice Jones, Daker Elessor Diana Nordin, Dick Cox, Barbara Shank, Gary Scoggins, Andy Huffman, Jeannette Pope, Betsy Pippin
Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
[James 5:16b]

Statistics

For The Week Of May 10th, 2015

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Sun3ay Class | 12 |
| Sunday AM | 17 |
| Sunday PM | dnm |
| Wednesday PM | 6 |
| Contribution | \$572.00 |
| YTD Budget (19) | \$13,965.00 |
| Difference Year-To-Date | +\$627.55 |
| Savings Account Balance | \$1,640.89 |

2nd Corinthians 9:12 - 'Your generosity is doing great things

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday: Shane McCallie (5), Amber Flessner (13), John Guyot (18), Mary Ann Harris (21), Brooke Guyot (28)
Anniversary:-None

COMING EVENTS

Next Fellowship Lunch – August 16th @ 1pm
- This Will Be A Part Of Our Planning Weekend -

Hope Harbor Picks Up Pantry In July

Items: Misc. Chocolate Cereal, Dirty Rice Mix, Velveta Cheese 2%

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

This past Wednesday, the grandson of Rob & Mary Ann, Wyatt Williams (baby son of Steve & Stephanie) was rushed to Children's Mercy South in Overland Park and then quickly transferred to Children's Mercy Downtown so that urgent medical services could be provided. He is doing better, but your prayers are requested on his behalf, as well as for Steve & Stephanie.

What can I give back to God for the blessings He's poured out on me? I'll lift high the cup of salvation—a toast to God! I'll pray in the name of God;
-Psalm 116:12-13a (MSG)-

Agenda For Sunday, May 17th, 2015

Theme:

SEEKING A BLESSING

Today's Topic:

"Every Good And Perfect Gift"

AM Class: *"CHURCH ISSUES"* – Moderated By Chase Harris / *In The Blue Room*

10:30 am: *"God's Perfect Gifts In Christ"*

Text: James 1:16-18 / Ephesians 1:1-3

1 pm: *Heavenly Sunlight*

Text: Matthew 17:1-13 / Ephesians 1:1-3

Wed. Bible Study: *"Isaiah The Prophet"* Study - Wade McCallie, Moderating

Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June Brant | Gwen Gann |
| Jeannette Pope | Ruth Kinnick |
| Diana Nordin | Allen Sullivan |
| Billye Werner | Andy Huffman |
| Robin Wilson | Pat Murphy |
| Austin Clark | Roy Bays |
| Ray and Imogene Hearn | Steve, Stephanie & Wyatt Williams |
| Bill Fisher | Sophia Cannady |
| Josh Werner | Jeanie McDonald |
| Betsy Pippin | Norman Gann family |

There is nothing better than to bask in the blessings of our Father God, who gives us all good things! - DTS



Roger & Charlene Edgett

Date: June 7th

Time: 2 to 4 pm

Place: Church Building

Given By: Their Children

- Please, No Gifts -