

Presents From On High

James 1:17

12-26-2010

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV)

It is true that our Good and Loving Lord and God still is the greatest giver of gifts and presents. Who can hope to compete? As Paul has said "who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" (Rom.11:35)

If you were a fly on the wall and listened in on the conversations of the children as they come back together at school one of the first questions asked is often times: "what did you get for Christmas?" That is common among us even into adulthood, we retain the curiosity of wanting to know what was given and received.

We know in our Christian views that Jesus was God's gift to humanity (John 3:16) and we praise God for Him even though the world might reject the gift and the giver; we choose to take hold of both with praise and gratitude. But let's take a moment and see if there are other gifts under the tree.

Ecc.3:12-13 "I know that there is nothing better..."

Ecc.5:18-20 "Then I realized that it is good..."

These are gifts that God gives to humanity and many enjoy the gift but grumble at the giver, what a shame. We should be people who do better. God in His kindness gives greater things than just physical blessings, He gives Spiritual ones which are greater and more valuable and endure far longer.

- Righteousness - Rom.5:17
- Justification - Rom.3:24
- Grace - Rom.5:15
- Eternal Life - Rom.6:23
- Salvation - Eph.2:8

There many other things that God gives to His Children, gifts exclusively intended for His Children and not for the world. This does not mean the lost can't have them, it just means they have to accept His gift of salvation and become His children first so that they might receive the other gifts.

- The Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38; 11:17
- Personal (uniquely individual) - 1Cor.7:7
- Spiritual - Eph.4:7-18
- Varied Spiritual - 1Cor.12:1-11

God in His wisdom and His grace has given great and wonderful gifts for a greater good; our growth and the expansion of His Kingdom. (1Pet.4:10) It is His will that His gifts be used for the blessing and wellbeing of others and in doing so God is glorified. A heart filled with gratitude glorifies the giver.