

Every. Good. Gift.

James 1:16-18

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Guard Against Deception (v.16)**
- A. We are tempted to blame God for our sin
 - B. We are tempted, not only to sin, but to avoid taking responsibility for it
 - C. Satan is at large in and around the church to provoke her to unbelief

- II. Understand the nature of the Gift (v.17a)**
- A. EVERY good gift
 - 1. Most immediately, wisdom
 - a) Connecting faith to the trial
 - b) The context is a trial
 - 2. More broadly, Himself
 - a) This will come to light later
 - b) We must first reckon with the understanding that God is perfect, good, holy, and true and wants only such things for His children
 - B. Every GOOD gift
 - 1. Every gift is good and perfect
 - 2. The source of the gift is good and perfect

- 3. The result of the gift is good and perfect according to the Giver
 - a) God is perfectly good
 - b) God causes all things to be good for those who are His own (**Romans 8:28**)
 - c) So, for God's children, our understanding of "good" is tied to our understanding of being "called" by God
- C. Every good GIFT
 - 1. Free & undeserved
 - 2. The Gift is reflective of the Gift of salvation
 - a) This means every gift we receive is for the purpose of magnifying the gospel
 - b) Brings perspective to the gift of suffering
 - (1) **Isaiah 48:10**
 - (2) Richard Baxter, *"Suffering so unbolts the door of the heart, that the Word hath easier entrance."*
 - (3) **2 Corinthians 1:5-7** will also share in our comfort."
 - 3. Every good & perfect gift is available for the asking
 - a) Wisdom (**v.5**)
 - b) Through trials -- trials then become a gift from God (not necessarily

- asked for) because of the gift of wisdom given through them
- c) Ask expectantly
 - (1) Because you are in a trial
 - (2) Because the purpose of trials is to deepen & strengthen faith
 - (3) Because faith pleases God (**Hebrews 11:6**)
 - (4) Because God's word commends and commands it
 - (5) Because we don't see as clearly as we ought the connection between the trial and faith
 - (6) Because the answer is waiting (**James 3:17**)

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sovereign in salvation

John 1:12-13

This means that every gift of God is a gospel-kind of gift. God gives us (His children) Himself by giving us wisdom to see that each trial we face is to deepen our dependence upon, and worship of, Him...FAITH.

CONCLUSION:

III. Understand the nature of the Giver of Gifts (vv.17b-18)

- A. The construction of this passage would have us believe that trusting the Giver of Gifts carries the greater weight
- B. Creator
 - 1. Father
 - 2. Sovereign over the cosmos
 - 3. Designed as He sees fit
 - 4. Source of all that is
 - a) Unchangeable & Consistent
 - b) **Genesis 1:3-4**
 - c) **Isaiah 45:5-7**
- C. Re-Creator
 - 1. Father of His own