

'GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTS'
(Biblical Gift Exchange Traditions of God & His Children)
2019 CBF Christmas Series

**"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and
comes down
from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or
shadow of turning.**

**Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth,
that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."**

James 1:17-18

Better Gifts For A Good & Perfect Christmas

Christmas gift-giving is a tremendous joy for some, but a dreadful task for others. If you are a Christian with the spiritual gift of *giving* (**Romans 12:8**), it comes naturally to you and Christmas is time for your spiritual enablement from the Holy Spirit to shine like that Bethlehem star. If you have some other primary spiritual gift, *giving* probably isn't as much fun for you, but like those other six *spiritual gifts* (**Romans 12:6-8**), you are obliged to do it, even if giving doesn't happen to be your specialty.

The LORD God loves to give and is really, really good at it! As the theme verse for our 2019 Christmas series affirms – if you are truly a born-again child of God (**John 3:5-7**), you have a Heavenly Father Who loves to give you *gifts* that are exactly what He knows you need – gifts that are *good* and *perfect* like Him. Usually, the gifts He sends us aren't exactly what we remember asking for on that *gifts list* we gave Him. That's because His heavenly presents are always better than we *asked or imagined* (**Ephesians 2:20-21**).

This Christmas season, let's think about this biblical premise as we study those verses from **James**. Amidst the holiday festivities, let's seek a deeper appreciation of the many *good and perfect* gifts God gave to the world that original Christmas so long ago. And let's prayerfully think through how we, God's children, can give *good and perfect* gifts to our *good and perfect* heavenly Father this year.

- Sunday, December 8th - **'Good & Perfect Gift Pre-planning'** (**James 1:17a**)
(gifts predestined in eternity past) (think first, then get and give)
- Sunday, December 15th - **'Good & Perfect Gift Preparation'** (**James 1:17b**)
(gifts prayerfully packaged above) (Spirit & Savior led gifts)
- Friday, December 20th - Special all **Church Family Christmas Program** at CBF (**7 pm**)
(Refreshments & Fellowship in the courtyard following)
- Sunday, December 22nd - **'Good & Perfect Gift Presentation'** (**James 1:18a**)
(gifts properly presented and received) (reverence and embrace)
- Tuesday, December 24th - Special **Christmas Eve Celebration** Program at CBF (**7 pm**)
(Refreshments & Fellowship in the courtyard following)
Usual Wednesday and Friday night ministries resume in January
- Sunday, December 29th - **'Good & Perfect Gift Preservation'** (**James 1:18b**)
(gifts that get better and better with use in Christian service)
- Tuesday, December 31st - CBF **Church Family New Year's Eve Worship & Fellowship** (**7 pm**)

*(Pot-faith time of refreshments & fellowship in the courtyard following)
Usual Wednesday and Friday night ministries resume in January*

'Good & Perfect Gifts' (Part 1)
(Good and perfect planning for a very Merry Christmas)

God's Ancient Advance Giving Plan
(The Triune God's list in eternity past)

What? God's good & perfect selection

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..." **Ephesians 1:3-4**

Who? God's good, perfect Savior

"...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you who through Him believe in God..." **1 Peter 1:19-21**

When? God's good & perfect schedule

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons..." **Galatians 4:4-5**

Why? God's good & perfect salvation

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." **2 Peter 3:9**

How? God's good & perfect 'sign'

"I see Him (Messiah), but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A scepter shall rise out of Israel..." **Numbers 24:17**

Our Good & Perfect Gifts for Our Father

If you are not absolutely sure you have been *born again* through repentance and saving faith in the Lord Jesus' Christ's cross-work (*not His cradle rest*), you are not a child of God.

- ♥ You are not good and perfect enough to go to heaven as you are.
- ♥ You must receive the good and perfect Gift of Jesus by inviting Him into your life.
- ♥ In order to not perish, give yourself to the Lord today; He will gladly receive you!

If you have received God's Gift of everlasting life, wrapped up in the divine Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (**1 John 5:11-13**):

- ♥ You are obliged to let the light of His presence shine within you, through you to others, and to God in worship (**Matthew 5:11-12, Philippians 2:14-16**).
- ♥ *Plan ahead now to share with family, friends, and co-workers this week – how? A tract, a talk, invite to church; an email, etc.*

