

5 Special Gifts from God

(James 1:17)

Introduction:

1. In this verse James revealed the source of *"every good gift and every perfect gift"* -- God.
2. To illustrate how God is the source of all good and perfect gifts,:
 - a. He gave *"His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16)
 - b. He gives *"eternal life"* through His Son (Romans 6:23)
 - c. He gives *"salvation"* by His grace (Ephesians 2:8).
3. The apostle John explained why God is so giving when he said, *"God is love"* (1 John 4:8, 16).
 - a. There is a close connection between *"giving"* and *"loving."*
 - b. It has been said, *"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."*
4. In our lesson we are pointing out *"5 special gifts from God"* that are revealed in Romans 8:18-39.

Discussion:

- I. GIFT #1: "HOPE" (Romans 8:18-25)
 - A. The word "hope" is used 6 times in these verses.
 1. As we examine these statements carefully we see that the "hope" under consideration is *"eternal life."*
 - a. Vs.18 mentions *"the glory which shall be revealed in us."*
 - b. Vs.23 mentions *"the redemption of our body."*
 2. This gift has been in God's mind for a long time (Titus 1:2).
 - B. Let us consider some information given in Romans 8 concerning "hope."
 1. (vs.24a) *"We are saved by hope."*
 - a. We have identified the "hope" under consideration -- *"eternal life."*
 - b. Do we have it now?
 - 1) No, if we had it now, we would not have to wait for it.
 - 2) "Hope" is based on the future -- it relates to things we cannot actually see at the present time.
 - 3) God has promised eternal life, but He will not give it until the judgment.
 - 4) We have to be patient while we wait for our hope to become a reality.
 2. As we wait for our hope to become a reality, we will be tested.
 - a. There are some unpleasant things in this life that we must endure.
 - 1) (vs.22) The whole creation groans and travails in pain.
 - 2) (vs.23) Christians groan within themselves.

- b. We must not allow these things to overcome us.
 - c. They may make us "groan," but we must not allow them to defeat us.
- 3. If we maintain our hope, we will be able to face unpleasant experiences with "patience."
- C. "Hope" helps us to remain faithful to the Lord so we can receive the reward He has promised (Revelation 2:10).
- II. GIFT #2: HELP FROM 2 GREAT SOURCES
 - A. The Holy Spirit intercedes on behalf of God's people (Romans 8:26-27).
 - B. Christ also intercedes on behalf of God's people (Romans 8:34).
- III. GIFT #3: PROVIDENTIAL CARE (Romans 8:28-30)
 - A. Please note that this gift is only available to certain ones.
 - B. Many Bible characters illustrate this Bible principle (Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Naomi and Ruth, Esther, etc).
 - C. These men and women trusted God to take care of them (Hebrews 11:13-16).
- IV. GIFT #4: PROTECTION (Romans 8:31-33)
 - A. (vs.31) *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (see Hebrews 13:5b-6)
 - B. (vs.32) Since God gave His Son to die for us, will He not provide the things we need?
 - C. (vs.33) Since God has justified us, who can possibly charge us with anything?
- V. GIFT #5: INSEPARABLE LOVE (Romans 8:35-39)
 - A. Can anyone or anything separate us from the love of Christ?
 - B. Can anyone or anything separate us from the love of God?

Conclusion:

1. We understand from James 1:17 that God is the source of every good and perfect gift.
2. These verses in Romans 8 reveal 5 of God's special gifts, including:
 - a. the hope of eternal life
 - b. help [intercession] from the Holy Spirit and Christ
 - c. God's providential care
 - d. protection
 - e. inseparable love from Christ and His Father.
3. Earlier (Romans 6:3-4), Paul explained how we get into Christ so we can gain access to these gifts.