



The Goodness of God

James 1:17-18

July 26, 2026

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

18 *In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.*

Pastor Vaughn

1. Everything we have that is good we have received as a gift of God's grace.
2. God's giving of good and perfect gifts to us is continuous and is rooted in His special love for us.
3. God's goodness toward us will never change.
4. God's goodness is the reason for our salvation.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that Christians ought to be the most joyous of all people. Do you agree? Why?

2. Why is it important for us as Christians to count our blessings?

3. Read Psalm 103:1-5. According to v. 2, why is it important for us to count our blessings?

According to the psalmist, what are some of the blessings every believer has to be thankful for?

4. What is the immutability of God?

Is the fact that God does not ever change encouraging to you? Why?

5. According to James 1:18, how are believers in Jesus saved?

6. How should the goodness of God toward us impact the way that we live life every day?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kawell. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.
Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.
Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.
MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.
Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intervarsity, 1985.
Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.
Zodihates, Spires. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.