

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

GOD WHO GIVETH

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART THREE OF SIXTY FOUR*

It is the nature of God to give. "But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

The history of man upon the earth is the story of God's giving to man. In the garden of Eden God said, "I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food" (Genesis 1:29).

To Israel "Jehovah gave...all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein" (Joshua 21:43).

To us the greatest Gift of all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him" (John 3:16,17). "And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (I John 5:11).

How do you respond to the goodness of God? Do you accept the physical blessings and reject the spiritual? Do you enjoy the sun which He maketh to rise on the evil and the good, and reject Him? God is good and His goodness should cause us to serve Him. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Do you do His will, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4).

God has promised that those who do His will shall enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21). Those who do not obey the truth shall receive His wrath and indignation (Romans 2:8). "To him that overcometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

B. G. Echols

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257