

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Text: James 1:16-18

Title: The Father of Lights and New Life

*Proposition:* This morning, we're going to refresh our faith with five aspects of God's goodness from James 1:16-18 so that you persevere when you face trials.

1. The Truth of God's Goodness (v.16)
2. The Generosity of God's Goodness (v.17a)
3. The Strength of God's Goodness (v.17b)
4. The Constancy of God's Goodness (v.17c)
5. The Certainty of God's Goodness (v.18)

*Study Guide Questions:*

- Why is confidence in God's goodness essential in the midst of trials?
- In what ways can we deceive ourselves about God's goodness?
- What are some obvious good gifts has God given you? What are some good gifts that have been painful, the goodness of which you only appreciated in hindsight?
- Do you think God withholds goodness from you? Why or why not? Is God withholding "goodness" actually another display of His goodness?
- How is thinking of God as the Father of Lights, the Creator of the Universe, meant to affect our appreciation of His goodness? If God made and manages the universe, is there any goodness He intends that He cannot give?
- How is it comforting that God's goodness is more constant than the heavenly bodies?
- When are you tempted to doubt that God's goodness toward you is constant?
- What is James' logic in v.18? How is being born again by God, according to His desire, related to His goodness to us?
- What comfort is there to be had in being the firstfruits of God's harvest?