

Self Destruction

Proverbs 14:1 reads, “*Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*”

Have you ever known someone who seemed to be bent on self destruction? Perhaps he drank alcohol and then drove his car. Maybe he followed a crowd to do evil that would ultimately end with his own death or imprisonment. It might be he ate incessantly or married someone who was brutal to him.

Most people who are self destructive are not trying to harm themselves. They are just foolish. They do not see the eventual end to their behavior. Such is the case of our Proverb. The woman who destroys her own home is *foolish*. She does not see she is tearing down her home and that is harmful to herself.

The verse is not talking about dismantling a house. She is destroying her home. She may do it by constant criticism of her husband. She may fight with him instead of submitting to his will. She thinks she is advancing herself in the relationship by putting her husband in his place. In truth, she is making him into a man she cannot respect. She is making herself repulsive to anyone who knows her. She is heading for a broken home (divorce).

She may give her children all sorts of privileges behind her husband’s back. She thinks she is winning their affection when she is actually undermining their father’s authority and contaminating her children’s future. They will think that deceit is the way to live and prosper. They will expect to be granted everything they want.

Some wives believe a career is the only way to find fulfillment in life. They are convinced the paycheck will satisfy them, and their neglected children will not bring them grief in the future. They are plucking down their homes with their own hands.

Ron Roberts

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

September 29, 2019

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Announcements

Didi will be preaching for us tonight for the fifth Sunday.

October 6 –11 is our Gospel meeting with Jerome Sasanecki. Fliers are available, and the meal list is posted. Jerome will be by himself and staying at the Roberts’ house.

Ron had a meeting in Plainfield last Sunday through Wednesday. Therefore the announcements will not reflect any new items that were brought up at the last two assemblies.

Continue to sign up to read to Lucille. She enjoys the company as is benefitted by the Bible reading.

Remember to pray for our members who are of ill health. Dewey, Jesse, Alfred, Erma, Jill, Jerry, Julie, Bob, Baily, and others who need help.

New directory pages for Jan are in the back. Please take on to update your information.

**Life is not
always fair,
but God is
always just.**

“Every Good Gift”

Ron Roberts

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” (James 1:17-18).

There are a great many things in this world that we enjoy. They make our lives comfortable. I like the microwave oven. I am glad we have indoor plumbing. I appreciate water heaters, air conditioning, and garage door openers. As nice as these things are, they are not the good gifts that James was writing about. These advances in our technology come from men’s minds, although men got their minds from God. The good things from God could include these items today, but they were not available when James wrote his epistle.

James indicates what good and perfect things he was considering in verse 18 of chapter 1. He begat **us** (Christians) with the **word of truth**. The Gospel is perfect. It was given by the Father of lights. When we obey the Gospel we become perfect. Our sins are forgiven. We are righteous before God. This epistle was likely written to the first generation of Christians. This is why those who obeyed the Gospel were the firstfruits of His creatures. They were the beginning of the church and many generations would follow.

God is the source of all the blessings. **Good** things may refer to the physical things we enjoy (fruit, trees, water, animals...). The **perfect** would then refer to the Spiritual blessings (Jesus, The Gospel, The church...). When he says there is no variableness or shadow of turning with God, he is referring to His consistency. God is not fickle. He will not give us some good things and other bad ones. He will not give us what is good with the right hand and take it away from us with the left. He is faithful in what He does and what He gives.

Earlier in the chapter James tells us that God does not tempt us to do evil. Our lusts for unlawful things is not caused by God’s manipulation. James tells us no man is tempted of God. It is our own lust that is enticed by the devil. The lust leads to sin and the sin leads to death. God did not give us these things (James 1:13-16).

An example of what God gives us is found even earlier in the chapter. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that **giveth** to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be **given** him.”* God not only gives wisdom, but He gives it liberally. He gives it without upbraiding or scolding us for our requests. Wisdom is a good and perfect gift. It comes from God. There is a worldly wisdom that is not from Him. It produces envy and friction (3:13-18).

The idea of variableness is also found earlier in the chapter, but it is not God’s inconsistency that is being discussed. When we ask for one of these gifts from God we should not ask with doubt. *“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”* (1:6-8). God is faithful to give gifts. We need to be faithful in the way we ask for them. We should not ask in doubt or in selfishness. In chapter 4, James tells us we do not receive what we ask for because we desire to consume it with our lusts (vs. 3).

When he writes, *“let every man be swift to hear,”* I believe he is talking about the word of truth (19). Instead of talking or getting angry we should be listening to what God says. Once we have heard from God we need to remove our variableness and develop consistency in our Christianity. *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted **word**, which is able to save your souls”* (21). The receiving of the word does not stop with hearing. We are to be doers of the word (22-26). Through the perfect gift of God’s word we can become pure in our religion and our relationship with Him (27-28).