



PARIS TN

Elders

Josh Coleman
Steve Delaney
John McDavid
Rudy Peoples
Michael Williams

Evangelists

Josh Manning
Ethan Schulte

Prison Minister

Ricky Lomax

Deacons

Craig Brown
Phillip Brown
Troy Buttrey
Bob Comer
Jon Davidson
Philip Davidson
Levi Dodd
Brian Foster
Billy Hensley
Adam Killion
Will Little
Mike McDaniel
Jason Smith
Lance Winders

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday AM Bible Study-9:30am
Worship-10:30am
Sunday PM Worship-6:00pm
Wednesday AM Adult Bible Study-10:00
Wednesday PM Bible Study-7:00

Live Radio Broadcast-10:30am
AM 1000, 97.5 FM

Spectrum-Channel 195
Sunday @ 9:00am

Live Streaming Youtube.com
Sunday 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM,
Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sermons: Facebook.com /
ewcofc.com / youtube.com

Office: 731-642-2861
www.ewcofc.com
Bus: 731-642-7751

Sunday AM & PM / Leave Message

E-mail us at:
eastwdco@bellsouth.net

Minister-Josh Manning
email: jpbboarder720@yahoo.com

Youth Group: www.ewyg.org
Closed Group

**HEAR THE GOSPEL ON
CABLE TV AND SATELLITE
EACH SUNDAY**

Charter / Spectrum Cable:

6:00am In Search of the Lord's Way-
Channel 15
7:00am In Search of the Lord's Way-
Channel 13
7:30am Preaching the Gospel-
Channel 13

WBBJ-TV/CBS-Charter Channel 708

7:00am A Bible Answer

Dish TV 58 & Direct TV-Channel 30:

7:00am In Search of the Lord's Way
7:30am Preaching the Gospel
8:00am Good News Today

THEME FOR 2023: "O to be Like Thee" 1 Peter 1:7

EVERY GOOD & PERFECT GIFT

by Josh Manning

One of the most beloved passages from James 1 is what we find in verses 17 and 18: *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."* If I had to venture a guess, I would say that most people would remember something about the "pure religion" passage at the end of the chapter (1:27) before recalling anything else, with verses 5, 17, and 22 coming in close behind (let me know what you think!). But for our article, and for the month of December, we are going to focus on what James says about our heavenly Father, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father"*.

We begin by asking a basic question: *Is James's depiction of God an accurate one?* Now we all know the correct answer to that question, right? Of course, James is right. How could an inspired writer pen a falsehood? (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16). However, from an earthly perspective, we have to admit that his understanding of "good and perfect gifts" is not always easy to grasp. At times, accepting what James tells us about *the goodness and perfection* of what God gives us requires a measure of spiritual maturity. Why do I say that? Consider the context of James 1. In the opening eight verses, James talks about rejoicing when we find ourselves in the midst of the trials of life (indeed, a very easy task to perform). This is then appropriately connected to asking God for wisdom, with, however, the caveat that you are aware of the fact that you are lacking wisdom. It is in this difficult context that God first appears as a giver of good gifts in James: *"let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally"* (1:5). So God gives wisdom. But it is a gift given in the midst of trials to those who lack of the wisdom to see the benefit of suffering...and if there is doubt, nothing will be given (1:6-8). I repeat that seeing God's gifts as good and perfect requires spiritual maturity at times.

Continuing in the text, the next time James pictures God as the giver of gifts is in verse 12, *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* This idea of receiving a crown from God is not unique to James's writing: *"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:8). We also notice that the reception of the crown occurs, not in this life, but in a context of judgment, possibly *The Judgment Day*. And this giving of the crown for having overcome temptations appears in contrast with the gift that is given to those who succumb to temptation (1:13-16).

Notice what we find as we think about how James presents God as the giver of gifts. God's gifts are not always immediately recognizable as being the best presents! They often come with great responsibilities. And yet, when we consider these good and perfect gifts, we are forced by the context of James to view them in light of eternity. What makes God's gifts good and perfect? If they are received with wisdom and in faith, they conform us to eternal glory.

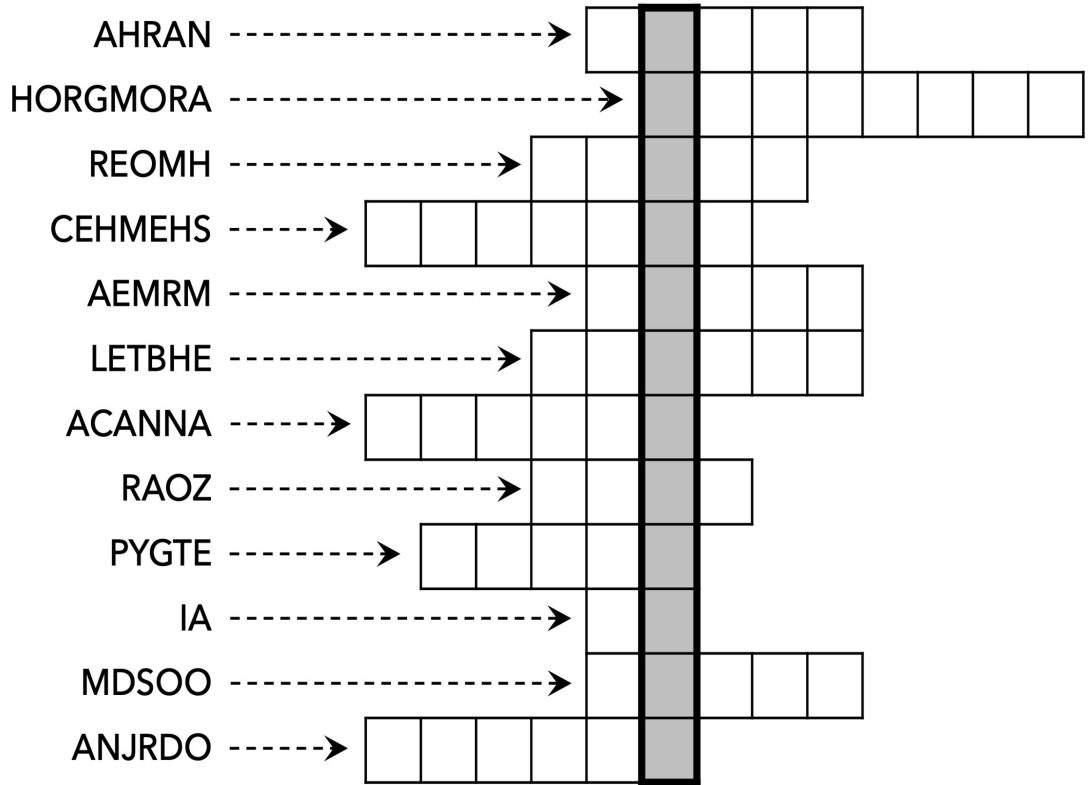
STATE OF THE YOUTH

Abram and Lot's Travels

Instructions:
Rearrange the letters of these words to make places that Abram and Lot traveled to in Genesis 12 and 13! When you are done, the center column will remind us that God promised to make Abram

_____!

_____!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Family Potluck: Sunday, December 10th in the Multi-Purpose Room after AM Service.

Youth Trip: Discovery Park, December 16th, 2023.

Dorcas Christmas Party: Thursday, December 21st, at 6:00 PM at the home of Danette Delaney. 189 Jackson Estates Drive. Bring a snack to share and a \$10 gift to exchange.

New Years Eve Lock-In: Sunday, December 31st after PM Service / Pick up at 7:00 AM Monday.

Evangelism University 2024 (EU): "LOOK UP" January 12-14th, Savannah, TN.

CYC 2024 at Pigeon Forge: "FAMILY" February 23-25th. For all 6th—12th Graders. Sign-up through December 6th, Cost is \$40 (due at sign-up).

BIRTHDAYS

Parker Powell

December 28

Taylor Little

January 9

OUR ATTITUDE

Sunday AM Bible Study.....	155
Sunday AM Worship.....	196
Sunday PM Worship.....	105
Wednesday PM Bible Study.....	120
This week's contribution.....	\$18,871
Weekly Budget.....	\$8,506

FOOD PANTRY

Canned Beef, Canned Ham,
Canned Chicken, Spaghetti Sauce, Soups,
Canned Fruit, Jelly and Peanut Butter

SUNDAY A.M.

Announcements
Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
Closing Prayer
Communion &
Contribution

DECEMBER 3

Rudy Peoples
Dan Patterson
Logan Davidson
Steve Delaney

Will Little

DECEMBER 10

Rudy Peoples
Craig Brown
Philip Brown
John McDavid

Josh Coleman

SUNDAY P.M.

Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
Communion &
Contribution
Closing Prayer

DECEMBER 3

Mark Brown
Patrick Peale
Jason Smith
Troy Buttrey

DECEMBER 10

Jon Davidson
Donald Drinkard

Bob Comer
Edwin Carrington

WEDNESDAY

Song Leader
Invitation
Closing Prayer

DECEMBER 6

Billy Hensley
Rudy Peoples
Gary Steele

DECEMBER 13

Jason Smith
Ethan Schulte
Eddie Lane

BOYS TO PICK-UP CARDS

Wednesday, December 6th: Gavin Wynn and James Wilson
Wednesday, December 13th: Clint Wynn and Charles Atkins

DECEMBER

USHERS: Levi Dodd / Brad Smith
EAST SIDE DOOR: Adam Killion
CONTROL ROOM VIDEO: Philip Davidson
BENEVOLENCE: Jason Smith / Lance Winders

KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Valerie Wynn: began her chemo treatments this past Wednesday; 17095 Hwy 69N / Cottage Grove TN 38224

Linda Steele: (Valerie Wynn's step-mother) home.

Darlene Humphreys: (Patsy Davidson's sister) asks for continued prayers as she battles health issues.

CONTINUE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mike Bryson	Jo Stainsby
Leon and Carolyn Bumpus	Stan Summers
Buddy Goad	Marcia Wimberley
Zet Presson	
Peggy Shepherd	
Jim & Darla Russell	
Ray Tucker	
Dale & Kathy McCant	
Claire Mayberry	

THANK YOU

I wanted to thank those who sent cards, flowers, food, and texts during my recovery from surgery. They were greatly appreciated! If you didn't, there is still time. I'm not 100% yet! Joshua Coleman

Thank you to the Ladies Wednesday Night Bible Class for the "goody bag". I am thankful for the visits and kindnesses all have shown me. Joan McWherter

Dear East Wood Family, Thank you for the many prayers for my sister as she dealt with cancer. We greatly appreciate your love and support since her passing. All the cards, food, and chimes have been comforting during this difficult time. In Christian Love, Lance and Stephanie Winders

BLOODMOBILE

The Bloodmobile will be in downtown Paris, December 7th, from noon until 6:00 PM.

Church of Christ
800 East Wood St.
Paris, TN 38242

Non-profit Organization
Postage Paid, Permit No. 38
Paris, TN 38242

Return Service Requested

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIA Team 1: will meet this morning, December 3rd, in the Multi-Purpose Room at 8:30 AM for breakfast hosted by The Clarks.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal: December 6th, Team A, will be providing the meal in the Multi-Purpose Room at 5:45 PM. (Danette Delaney's group)

Widow/Widower Fellowship: Thursday, December 7th @ 1:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. Will share holiday treats.

Deacons Budget Worksheets: have been placed in each deacon's mailbox to assist in preparing the 2024 committee budgets. Budgets for 2024 are due on December 10th.

Mighty Oaks Potluck and Dirty Santa Party: December 14th in the Multi-purpose Room at Noon for lunch and a gift exchange that costs no more than \$20.

Christmas Fruit Plates: to be picked up for delivery by FIA Teams 3 & 4, Sunday December 17th, they will be located in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Adult Ladies Ornament Party: Tuesday, December 19th @ 6:00 PM at Danette Delaney's home. Bring an unwrapped ornament and finger food.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th Evening Service will be at 3:00 PM.

New To The Library: 226 Ney "The Social World of Luke-Acts" Models of Interpretation (paperback)
Author: Neyrey, Jerome H.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3: FIA Team 1 will meet in the MPR at 8:30 AM for breakfast hosted by The Clarks

December 6: Fellowship Meal Team A, MPR at 5:45 PM (Danette Delaney's Group)
CYC Sign-up and pay \$40 by today

December 7: Widow/Widower Fellowship at 1:30 PM in the MPR.

December 10: FIA Team 2

Youth Family Potluck: Sunday, December 10th in the MPR after AM Service

December 11: My 5 Favorite Things Christmas Party at 6:00 PM in the MPR

December 12: 242 Fellowship, both groups will meet at 6:00 PM at the home of Michael and Evonne Williams

December 14: Mighty Oaks Potluck & Dirty Santa Party
For lunch at 12:00 PM, \$20 gift limit in MPR

December 16: Youth Trip to Discovery Park

December 17: Eiffel Gardens Singing at 2:00 PM

Christmas Fruit Plates to be delivered by FIA Teams 3 & 4
Youth Devotional

December 19: Adult Ladies Ornament Party @ 6:00 PM at Danette Delaney's home. Bring an ornament and finger food

December 20: Fellowship Meal Team B, MPR at 5:45 PM.

December 21: Dorcas Christmas Party at Danette Delaney's home at 6:00 PM (see Youth Page for details)