

GIVING – A STATIC TRAIT OF GOD

Romans 5:6-9

INTRODUCTION

- A. 1 JN 4:8 – God is said to be “love.” Biblical love is essentially giving. JN 3:16. Therefore, “giving” is God’s nature, technically speaking, rather than just a trait.
- B. It is no surprise to the student of the Bible, then, to read of God giving to and for man.
- C. Make some comments on agape and agapao (Greek words for love relative to God).
 - 1. Show how these words always have the concern and well being for the object in mind. W. E. Vine has some good and simple remarks regarding these words and how they reveal God’s nature.
 - 2. “*Agape* and *agapao* are used in the NT
 - (a) to describe the attitude of God toward His Son, John 17:26; the human race, generally, John 3:16; Rom. 5:8, and to such as believe on the Lord Jesus Christ particularly John 14:21;
 - (b) to convey His will to His children concerning their attitude one toward another, John 13:34, and toward all men, 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Cor. 16:14; 2 Pet. 1:7; (c) to express the essential nature of God, 1 John 4:8.” (Vine’s)

DISCUSSION

- I. THE BIBLE OPENS WITH GOD GIVING.
 - A. GE 1:1, 28-30.
 - B. The earth is demonstratively designed for man and his dwelling.
 - C. Man is a keeper of lower creation and is to partake and enjoy God’s creation.
 - D. Not only intelligent design but perfect design is seen in creation, especially in relation to man.
- II. GOD PROVIDES THE MEANS OF SATISFACTION FOR MAN, IN GENERAL AND IN PARTICULAR.
 - A. God prepared man to work and accomplish. GE 2:15.
 - B. Spiritually serving God produces some of the greatest satisfaction.
 - C. EC 12:13 – “whole of man” - constitutes man’s whole being – RO 3:29.
- III. GOD GIVES MAN WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND JOY.
 - A. EC 2:26.
 - B. PR 2:1-6; cf. JN 8:32.
 - C. Man is intellectually superior to the lower creation.
 - D. Man is to exercise his intellect in service to God and in the acquisition of wisdom and knowledge. CO 1:10.
- IV. GOD PROVIDES TRAVAIL FOR SINNERS.
 - A. EC 2:26; cf. PR 13:15; HE 12:5-12.
 - B. Trials and difficulties come upon all. 1 CO 10:13.
 - 1. Those who violate God’s laws suffer accordingly.
 - 2. However, affliction can be good for man. PS 119:67, 71.
- V. GOD ENDOWED MAN WITH SPIRIT.
 - A. EC 12:7.
 - B. GE 1:26; 2:7.

- C. Man has both spirit in the sense of life and then spirit in the sense of being made after and in the image of God.
- VI. GOD PROVIDES MAN'S DAILY BREAD.
 - A. MT 6:11, 33.
 - B. God's providence is certainly taught in the prayer Jesus outline for His disciples to pray.
 - 1. The petition regarding daily bread not only presupposes providence, but a daily operation of such.
 - 2. Such providence assurance, though, does not excuse man's lack of participation (I TI 5: 8, EP 4: 28).
- VII. GOD WANTS TO RICHLY BLESS MAN.
 - A. MT 7:9-11.
 - B. God is the Father of all, not just his special children.
 - 1. However, his children enjoy the special status of children (RO 8: 1).
 - 2. Having said this, God desires to bless all and wants all men to come into covenant relationship with him (2 PE 3: 9).
- VIII. GOD HAS GIVEN MAN ASSURANCE.
 - A. Acts 17:31.
 - B. The assurance is in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.
 - C. The resurrection provides the basis for the hope the Christian has of a similar triumphant resurrection. 1 CO 15:1ff.
- IX. GOD GAVE US HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.
 - A. RO 5:6-8.
 - B. Here is the ultimate act of giving on the part of God the Father.
 - C. Was mankind deserving of this ultimate act of love?
- X. JESUS GAVE US HIMSELF AS A SIN OFFERING.
 - A. GA 1:4; 2:20; TS 2:14; HE 9.
 - B. We cannot fully comprehend all that was involved in Jesus giving Himself as a sin offering.
 - C. 2 CO 5:21 contains some of the strongest language and greatest insight to be found.

CONCLUSION

- A. What are WE giving to God? 1 CO 8:2-5.
- B. Such giving on God's part ought to prompt man to also give of himself to God.
- C. 2 CO 5:14, 15.