**Daily Prayer & Encouragement Saturday 26th December –** Bernard Taylor

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Boxing Day is a largely British festival though also observed by former colonies too. Opinions differ as to how it got its name. However, all are agreed that it is a day when gifts are given (a box of good things), most often to servants and tradesmen. Although this was the practice in Victorian times, nowadays we usually give our gifts on Christmas day.

Now, our Father in heaven doesn’t just give good gifts on one or two days of the year. He gives us gifts with great generosity all year long. He is the giver of all good things.

It starts when we are born. He gives us life, the air to breathe, the sun to light us and give us warmth and food and drink to sustain us. He gives us our talents and skills. He gives us our friends and neighbours and our societies and governments. Indeed, we must also not forget the spiritual gifts. The list is endless. All things though Him and by Him are made.

And then there is the greatest gift of all – the Lord Jesus. While we were far off the very God came down to earth to dwell with us and to rescue us by dying on the cross.

Forget the turkey, the movies, the x-boxes and smartphones. Accept the most perfect gift from the most perfect God: His son, Jesus.

***Dear Father,***

***we thank you that, while earthly gifts may perish, those from you are lasting and eternal. Help us to fully grasp the enormity of that greatest gift of all, Jesus.***

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvas1sw8BcM>

