

In the Fullness of Time
(Turnpike Wesleyan - December 20, 2020)

Scripture Text: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Introduction

A lady on an elevator, expressing her frustration with all the Christmas shopping and errands, was overheard to say, “Who ever thought up Christmas? We ought to catch this guy and hang him up somewhere!” From the back of the elevator a voice spoke up, “Don’t worry, mama, we already crucified Him!”

Galatians chapter 4:4-7 is actually a Christmas text. Even the Galatians needed a reminder about the real meaning of Christmas. They were turning from the Gospel of God’s grace to the bondage of the law.

It is about the Advent of a Savior (verse 4)!

First, we see his Divine Origin. The Bible says, “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son.” You see Jesus had always existed with the Father. John says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

In love for humanity, the Father sent the Son. In love for the Father and humanity, Jesus willingly went!

We see His full humanity. “Born of a woman.” While Jesus was fully divine in origin, He was likewise fully human. He entered the world just as you and I entered the world.

Christmas is also about the Acceptance of Sinners (verse 5).

Verse 5 begins with the word “To.” To do what? Paul is now going to tell us why Christmas came, why Christ was born, why he lived under the law.

He tells us there is a twofold purpose, one building upon the other. First, to bring redemption! To redeem means to set free, to purchase one's freedom.

Knowing the rules and trying to keep the rules in our own power has always resulted in failure. We need something more than a written moral code. We need a change of heart.

We must also be set free from the law because the law carries with it a curse. To do one thing immoral in thought, word, or deed; in omission, as well as commission brings upon us the curse.

He freed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. He removed our curse as He suffered, bled, and died on the cross. And for what purpose did He do all of this?

That we might receive the adoption of sons and daughters. He set us free from the curse so that He could place us in His family, so that you and I could become adopted sons and daughters of God, bearing all rights and privileges as natural sons and daughters. "Oh, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." He has taken us from slavery to sonship!

Finally, Christmas is about the Assurance of God's Spirit (verse 7).

Once again, the divine takes up residence in the human. "He sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your heart." God lives in our innermost being. A personal Christmas.

This is also the heart cry of the child of God. A cry of trust, a cry of closeness, a cry of kinship, a cry of worship and a cry of love.

In our heart of hearts, God is not distant. In our heart of hearts, He's Abba, Daddy. Has this been your experience?