

At Just the Right Time

Galatians 4:4-5

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Dec. 22, 2019

Christmas is the historical record of a real God who stepped into a real world to do a really important thing that we could never do for ourselves.

Galatians 4:4-5 “⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

I. His Timing was Perfect...

Galatians 4:4 “But when the fullness of the time had come...”

A. God Had Been using the Greeks to Get this World Ready for His Son

God used the reign of Alexander the Great for the spread of the Greek language—which became the universal trade language of the world—so that everyone would be able to hear and understand the Good News of Jesus!

B. God Had Been Using the Romans

God used the victory of the Romans over the Greeks in 63 BC for a universal peace so that His Good News could spread unhindered from country to country.

God used the building of roads all around Rome for the spread of the Gospel.

II. The Purpose Was Absolutely Clear...

Galatians 4:4 “...God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...”

“Born of a woman” – The incarnation!

“Born under the law” – The good news of no more condemnation!

“To redeem those under the law” – The cancellation of a sin debt that we could never pay.

Jesus came into this world, was born of a woman, and laid in a manger...but His ultimate purpose was to become a curse for us by going to the cross for us, where He paid the penalty for all of our sins!

Galatians 3:13 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’)”

Jesus – by His death on the cross – purchased for us the gift of eternal life that can be yours today!

III. This Gift is Free But You Have to Swallow Your Pride to Receive It

Some gifts can be hard to receive because the very acceptance of the gift acknowledges a need for it.

We struggle to accept the fact that we need a Savior because it says something about us that we refuse to accept – that we're sinners who fall short of God's standard and could never be good enough.

As long as you cling to your own self-assessment of being good enough, you'll never receive the free gift of eternal life that Jesus purchased for you because to do so requires a humble, grateful heart that sees its own need.

John 1:11-12 ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Isaiah 9:2, 6 *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined... For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*