



Sunday, December 5, 2021
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Galatians 4:4-7

Have you ever thought about the fact that the terms “early” or “late” or “unexpected” are terms that reflect our frailty and humility as human beings? Because we are finite creatures, our sense of time is entirely dependent on other things. For instance, the fact that time exists is something God has given to us—it wasn’t invented by us, and we have no control over it. Likewise, the events of our lives that take place within time are also outside of our control in large part. Things often get us off schedule or thwart our plans. Yet for God, who sits in the heavens, who does all that He pleases, everything is always right on time.

We know this because the coming of Jesus was right on time. Do you ever wonder why Jesus wasn’t born to Adam and Eve? After all, Mary was a sinner just like Eve. It’s not like Mary had some sort of righteous standing before God—she was chosen by grace to bring Christ into the world. Yet for thousands of years, God worked with (and in spite of) His people to ensure that we would understand exactly who He was and what He came to do. Still, when He showed up, people didn’t recognize Him (John 1:10-11). But He came at exactly the right time in exactly the right context to do exactly what God required of Him—to suffer, to die, to rise again in order that God’s people could be reconciled to Him. Praise God for His wonderful work!

Context

In Galatians, Paul is making the argument that our relationship to God is not earned through good works spelled out in the law, but is a matter of grace working through faith alone (3:10-14). In order to drive his point home, he explains that to belong to Christ means being in the family line of Abraham—but not his physical line, but rather through the line of faith. That way our salvation depends on the gracious promise of God, and not some other standard.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Galatians 4:4-7

“The Crib and the Cross”

Wonder of Perfect Timing

- Fullness of time

- Took a long time!

Wonder of an Incredible Process

- Born of a woman

- Born under the law

Wonder of Redemptive Purpose

- Redemption

- Adoption

Discuss

- 1) If God is unchanging, what does the coming of Jesus “when the fullness of time had come” mean for God’s timing in all things?

- 2) Why was it important for Jesus to be human—to be “born of a woman”? What would have been lost if He was not “born of a woman”? (See also Genesis 3:15)

- 3) Why was it important that Jesus kept the whole law—that He was “born under the law”? What would have been lost if He had not kept the whole law? (See also Matt. 5:17-20)

- 4) When you think of the fact that Jesus came to *redeem* us, what comes to mind?

- 5) What does our adoption mean for how we ought to relate to God? Do you find yourself relating to God in these ways regularly?