

Heaven Sent: God's First Christmas

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 18, 2011

Galatians 3:23-4:7

23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. 4:1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

I. JESUS WAS BORN UNDER THE LAW

4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

2. TO REDEEM THOSE UNDER THE LAW

4:5 to redeem those under law...

Redeem: "to set free by paying a price"

3. SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME SONS (HEIRS) OF GOD

4:5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

CONCLUSION:

4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Rom 5:6, 8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

C.S. Lewis said,

"The son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God."