



**GOD'S TIMING IS NEVER OFF.**

Galatians 4:1-7

*I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything,<sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.<sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Charles Spurgeon, "The birth of Jesus is the grandest light of history, the sun in the seasons of all time. It is the pole-star of human destiny, the hinge of chronology, the meeting place of the waters of the past and the future."

What did the fullness of time look like?

- 1) A time of widespread **legalism** and **lust**.
- 2) A time of linguistic **unity**: Greek became the transnational trade language for hundreds of years after the brutal conquests of Alexander the Great.
- 3) A time of social and ethnic **disunity**: Jew vs. Gentile, Free vs. Slave, Men vs. Women, Greek vs. Barbarian, and Roman over everyone else.

W.A. Criswell, "To the Roman, all other men were slaves. To the Greek, all other men were barbarians. And to the Jew, all other men were dogs."

- 4) A time of **connectedness**: Roman roads allowed legions to quickly move wherever they were needed to defend the Empire.

How God prepared the best thing through some of the worsts things:

- A. Legalism and lust left people profoundly **empty** and open to the Gospel.
- B. Linguistic unity allowed believers to easily **communicate** the Gospel to virtually anyone in the known world.

- C. Social and ethnic disunity caused the light of Christian **unity** to shine even brighter.

Gal. 3:27-28

*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- D. Roman roads and safe trade routes allowed believers **expedited** access to every corner of the known world.

Action point: If we believe God's preparation is more comprehensive than ours, then let us obey in confidence.

