

# Love Came Down

The Fullness of Time — Galatians 3:23-4:7

December 9, 2018

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

## I. HEIRS ACCORDING TO PROMISE

- Under the law, all of God's people were like children awaiting an inheritance (Gal. 3:23-24; Rom. 7:7).
- Faith has come in Jesus the Messiah. The law has served its purpose (Gal. 3:25-29; Rom. 3:27-31; 7:13-20).
- God's people, prior to Christ, knew freedom only as a slave knows freedom (Gal. 4:1-3).

## II. THE GREAT EXCHANGE

- The great gift of God in Jesus is adoption. We can be part of God's family (John 1:11-13; Rom. 8:12-17; 1 John 3:1-3).
- When the fullness of time had come...
  1. God sent his Son
    - born of woman (vs. 4)
    - born under the law (vs. 4)
    - to redeem those under the law (vs. 5)
    - that we might know adoption as sons (vs. 5)
  2. God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts
    - so that we might know God as a Father, and exchange slavery for sonship.
- Because of what God did for us in and through his Son that first Advent, we are no longer slaves, but sons. Better yet, we are heirs of God with Christ (vs. 7; Rom. 8:17, 29).

**KNOW:** God sent his Son into the world for many purposes, not the least of which being our adoption into his family. When the fullness of time had come, God sent Jesus into the world to make slaves into sons.

**DO:** Live your life like an heir of God, not like a slave.

### Suggested Reading:

*Knowing God* by J.I. Packer (LifePoint Library #231 PAC)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. What is the "great exchange" that Paul describes in our passage from Sunday?
2. What was the primary purpose of the law for those who lived under it? (see Gal. 3:23-24)
3. Why is it better to live under faith in Christ than it was to live under obedience to the law?
4. You'll be speculating some here, but why do you think God chose the first century as the "fullness of time" in which to send Jesus?
5. Do you know of anyone who was adopted out of a difficult situation into a loving family? How did that change their future?
6. How does knowing that you have been brought from slavery not only to freedom, but to sonship, change your thinking about yourself?
7. What has Christ's incarnation meant to you in your life? How have you been changed?