

The Fullness of Christmas

Galatians 4:4-6

Introduction:

- If the fullness of Christmas depends upon our:
 1. Finances, then Christmas is for the _____
 2. Fellowship with loved ones, then Christmas is for the _____
- But if the fullness of Christmas depends upon Christ, then it is for all who _____ in Him, regardless of finances or family.
 1. Galatians 4:4,5 summarizes this fullness
 2. As you absorb the truths of this passage, allow Christ to fill your Christmas.

The fullness of t _____ (4a)

- God had determined a fixed period of time when He would s _____ His Son to earth.
 1. Daniel 9:24-27 gives the time frame of the Messiah's first a _____ - so you are to *know* and *discern* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild **Jerusalem** until Messiah the Prince, there will be seven seven's (49) plus sixty-two sevens (434). This equals 483 years.
 - a. The context of Daniel demands us to understand the period of time to be in y _____ (Dan 9:2 – Daniel was thinking in terms of years as he was contemplating the end of the 70 year judgment of God upon the people of Judah)
 - b. This decree was issued in 457 B.C. by Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:13-26), which makes the Messiah's appearance to be in 26 A.D.
 2. Malachi 3:1 – John the Baptist was chosen by God (Lk 1:36) to p _____ the way for the Messiah
 3. Daniel 2:44 – the kingdom of the Messiah would arise during the time of the f _____ kingdom (i.e. world power, which we know to be the Roman Empire).
 4. Other factors – G _____ was the universal trade language; in a period of world p _____; and a system of r _____ had been built for safe and easy travel.
- God's timing was not r _____ but precise.

The fullness of G _____ (4b)

- God's Son was born of a w _____
 1. The Greek word translated *born* is not the usual term for birth but a word that has a w _____ meaning – literally, *to bring into existence*.

- a. Luke 1:34,35 – for this reason the holy Child will be called the S_____ of God because He would be conceived not by a physical union but by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Paul does not mention Mary’s name because he wants to emphasize the n_____ of the Son, not the nature of the mother.
2. Col 2:9 states that all the f_____ of deity indwells Jesus in physical form – God became flesh!
- Jesus is not part God and part man, but fully God and fully human, yet one p_____.

The fullness of m_____ (4c,5)

- His earthly existence was under l_____ (there is no “the” in the Greek text; Paul is referring to law in general)
 - a. Jesus had to keep the laws of M_____ (Matt 5:17)
 - b. Jesus had to submit to the authority of His p_____ (Lk 2:51)
 - c. Jesus had to submit to the laws of g_____ (Matt 22:21)
- His humanity was necessary in order to r_____ humanity from bondage to law (Gal 4:5; see also Rom 6:14).
 - a. He had to demonstrate His r_____ - Since man violated God’s law, man became enslaved to s_____ and man must pay for sin. However, no man can purchase his own freedom from sin. Therefore, God became a man to make that payment.
 - b. He had to demonstrate His l_____ - the price of redemption was His own d_____ (Rom 6:23a). But the road to death was horrible s_____ (flogged, beaten, nailed to a cross). – Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8.

Conclusion (6):

- What is the most expensive Christmas gift ever given? –
- What is the best Christmas gift ever received? –
- What makes Christmas full and meaningful? –

Even if we have failing finances or are missing loved ones this Christmas season, we who believe in Him have Christ’s fullness. – *because you are adopted, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*