

Gal 4:4-20

4 But when the fullness of the time had come (when the right time had come), God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Paul points out the dual nature of Jesus. God sent forth His Son born of a woman, Jesus lived among people.

Historians tell us that the Roman world was waiting on and expecting a Savior,

They wanted something new, change.

People today are wanting change in the world.

- People in America are wanting change.

The tenets of the American dream in the Declaration of Independence states:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Paul said, when the fullness of time had come,

Meaning “the right time.”

The world was changing,

Roman guards were stationed at crossroads,

Pax Romana:

Caesar Augustus was one of the most gifted administrators the world has ever seen

- during his reign and the next two centuries
- that there was relative peace and order,

The Jews had been anticipating their Messiah.

- They were primed and ready for change,
- they were ready for the Messiah to come and to liberate them.

One reason for anticipating the coming of the Messiah

- was the scripture in Gen 49
- where Jacob gave a prophesy to his son Judah.

Gen 49:9

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,

Until Shiloh comes;

The scepter is (the right to rule). Shiloh means “that which belongs to him.”

The Jews no longer had the right to impose capital punishment for capital crimes committed.

The Romans had taken that away

- and greatly restrained their freedom.

The Jewish Talmud (writings on Jewish laws and traditions)

- records that when that happened,
- the Rabbi's and the Sanhedrin
- marched around Jerusalem saying,
- the scepter (the right to rule) has departed from Judah.
- But the Messiah (Shiloh) **has not** come.

But Messiah had come at the exact intended time,

God is always on time!

People today are wondering,

- Where is the Messiah, has He forgotten about His people!

God is always on time!

The Lord is not slack in His promises.

Eph 1:10 - GNT

God's plan thru Jesus:

Eph 1:10

10 This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.

GNT

God had a plan and still has a plan.

Rev 22:7

7 "Behold, I am coming **quickly!**

Quickly: (tachy) -without delay, soon, by surprise, suddenly.

Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Blessed - to be happy.

John uses the same two words again in verses 12-15:

Rev 22:12-15

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Gal 4:4-5

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

To Redeem: (to buy back, as if buying a slave to set him free)

Jesus purchased us as sons of God!

Gal 4:6-7

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Trinity: **God** sent the **Spirit** of His **Son**!

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- since we are sons
- then we are also heirs of God.

Are you awaiting your inheritance?

What can we expect for the future?

Rev 21:11-12

11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

The Lord Himself will light the new Jerusalem:

Rev 22:5

5 There shall be no night there: They (us) need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Rev 22:1-2

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

We will be in the very presence of the one who saved us:

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Regardless of what I or anyone else says about what awaits us, Paul said that:

1 Cor 2:9

9 But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

We may become discouraged or angered by what we see in this world.
Don't lose heart because our redemption draws near.

There is much to look forward to.

Heaven will be a place of "No mores!"

Rev 21:4

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Fears for the Church

8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those (or you were slaves to those) which by nature are not gods.

9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? (Everyone worships something)

Deut 4:19:

19 And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Who or what will you worship!

They put themselves into bondage:

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

BTW,

- the bible does not recognize
- the existence of other gods,
- but it does speak of others as false gods.

They're called "dumb idols."

- The Galatians continually went back to the sabbath,
- and to other holy days and to Jewish rituals.

Sometimes believers

- stop making progress in their walk
- and become complacent.

Other believers take the gospel and run with it!

When D.L. Moddy loved sharing the gospel with others.

When Paul arrived in Galatia the church was much like Moody,

- but soon they turned to another gospel.

Paul once stated that there was coming a time

- when people would not endure sound doctrine.

The Lord said in the book of Hosea, my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Doctrine is intended to lead people to Jesus. Acts 2 says they gave themselves steadfastly to the apostles doctrine.

I typically don't read manuals to assemble:

Too many people today have lost interest in the manual, the bible.

They don't want to know the author.

The Galatians were doing well until the Judaizers came along,

12 Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.

Again, Paul addresses them as brethren, a term of endearment.

1 Cor 9:22

22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Who would dare tell someone, “become like me, for I became like you.”

This wasn't the first time Paul said something like this. 1

Cor 11:1 - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

In Acts 20:17 he said to the Elders of the church of Ephesus, “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,”

You know my lifestyle, my character, my example!

We each have to practice what we preach

Moody said it best when he said: “Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.”

Will others recognize we are Christian?

13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.

We don't know what the infirmity was, but he does say in 2nd Cor 12 that a thorn in the flesh was given to him which caused some suffering.

The Psalmist said in:

Ps 119:67

67 Before I was afflicted (oppressed, humbled) I went astray,
But now I keep Your word.

Then he wrote:

Ps 119:71

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted,

That I may learn Your statutes. (law, ordinance, decree)

Isn't it better to be afflicted and walking with the Lord than to walk astray

Ps 119:75

75 I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right,
And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

Thank God for His afflictions that keep us from sinning against Him.

14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

The truth doesn't always feel good.

True friends don't always offer kisses

- but are willing to inflict pain when necessary.

King Solomon said

Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful"

It may be necessary at times for friends to hurt us in order to help us.

Wiersbe says:

When we exercise wisdom, we recognize that the correction of a true friend is not an attack. The pain we feel is not that of a knife that is stabbing us. It is like a surgeon's scalpel: it creates a wound and inflicts pain in order to repair or remove some damaged or diseased part of our character. It hurts in order to heal. The one who lovingly uses it is not our enemy, but a true, faithful friend who is simply fulfilling his or her spiritual duty. This friend is *faithful*; he or she genuinely loves us and can be trusted. The person who cannot be trusted is the one who offers only plentiful, insincere kisses—praise and flattery.

David prayed that God would give him

- the necessary grace
- to accept the wounds inflicted on him
- from his friends.

Ps 141:5

5 Let the righteous strike me;
It shall be a kindness.
And let him rebuke me;

It shall be as excellent oil;
Let my head not refuse it.

For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Gal 4:17 They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

Zealous - (to boil).

In a good sense it can mean “to desire earnestly”

In a bad sense it can mean “to envy or to be jealous.”

The Judaizers didn't care about the Galatians, they simply wanted to proselytize them and remove them from the gospel.

18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, 20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

Paul once had a great relationship with the Galatians.

When the Galatians went down a path of legalism and chased after the law, their relationship changed.

The Galatians became upset with Paul when he lovingly told them the truth. Don't expect to keep all of your friends when you tell them the truth.

Jesus said to the spiritual leaders,

John 8:39-40

39 Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God.

Jesus told them the truth and they sought to kill Him. Paul had become their enemy because he told them the truth. Paul still treated them as his little children.

If you need to speak to someone about something that may be hurtful, or may be perceived as such, pray first.

If you're on the receiving end, remember that correction of a true friend is not an attack.

Prov 18:24 a man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks close than a brother.