

Theme: With perfect wisdom and power, the Lord prepared the world for the coming of His Son. Now He works to prepare hearts and lives to receive Him. That work continues as He prepares us to live in “the fullness of time”.

Background & Introduction

I. *In the Fullness of Time* (chronos) Galatians 4:4,5

A. The right time

1. The promise

- Expressed through time

2. Fulfilled in time

- a. Jesus enters the world at the *right* time
 - A time fixed by the Father
- b. Everything is in place for His coming
- c. Much remains hidden from us

B. The right man

1. God’s Son

- a. Not by birth
 - Always existed – always will
- b. Sent forth his Son
 - Sent out from Himself
 - Very special birth

2. Born of a woman

- a. In our world, in our way
 - A very common birth
- b. Became a man
 - Fulfilling Genesis 3:15

C. The right word/job

1. Born under the Law

- a. Obligated to keep it
- b. Willingly submits to the penalty of the Law

2. To redeem us
 - a. At just the right time
 - While we were still sinners (Romans 5:6-8)
 - b. Born to deliver us
 - A people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2)
3. To adopt us
 - To be made co-heirs with Christ

II. For the Fullness of Time (kairos) Ephesians 1:7-10

A. The Wisdom of God

1. He sends the Word
 - by which the world was made
 - by which the world is redeemed
 - by which the purposes of God are fulfilled
2. Jesus is the *plan* for the fullness of time
 - For salvation, restoration/redemption, eternal life
 - For judgment, destruction, eternal death

B. The *mystery* made known

1. Not just the rescue of Israel
2. Salvation to the ends of the earth
3. A *perfect* deliverance
 - God Himself will take away our sins! (Isaiah 43:11)

C. For a perfect union

- To unite things on earth
- To unite things in heaven
- To unite heaven and earth

III. Living in the Fullness of Time

A. A Time of Decisions

B. A Time of Preparation

C. A Time of Peace

Conclusion: It is the right time to experience the fullness of time – in the Kingdom of God.