

Subject: *When God Became a Man*

Scripture: *Galatians 4:4-7*

Christmas is a special family time, and it is a time to celebrate our place in God's family. One of the rich blessings of salvation is that God adopts us into His own family. God sent His only begotten Son to earth so that He would have many sons and daughters with Him forever. His heavenly Son was given so that many earthly sons could be received. In this text God shows us three things that were accomplished when God became a man.

1. THE INCARNATION OF THE SON

Let's dig in and look at this one thing at a time.

- Christ came at God's perfect time

It was the fullness of time. It was exactly the right time religiously. After the Babylonian captivity, Israel was cured once and for all from idolatry. The OT was complete and there had been 400 long years of silence with no further prophetic word from God. Some people were ready for their long-awaited Messiah. It was exactly the right time culturally. Through the influence of Alexander the Great and his empire, Greek was a common language in the world and was used in writing the NT. It was the right time politically. Christ was born in a period of time known as the *Pax Romana* or Roman Peace. It was a time of relative calm and stability. People could travel freely on the magnificent system of Roman roads.

- Christ came in God's perfect way

Jesus was God's Son sent from heaven. This refers to His deity. He was co-eternal and co-equal with the Father. He was made of a woman. This refers to humanity and His birth of the Virgin Mary. He was fully God and fully man, yet without a sin nature.

- Christ came under God's perfect law

He was made under the law. This refers to Christ's humility and obligation to submit to God's moral Law (The Ten Commandments). He obeyed every demand of God's perfect law both inwardly and outwardly. He came to do the very thing we would not and could not do.

2. THE REDEMPTION OF SINNERS

- We are under the authority of God's law

Like it or not, we are all under the obligation to obey God's moral law. Someone may object to that, they may think it is unreasonable, or they may not even think it matters. But that doesn't change the fact we are all under God's law. It's like the law of gravity. You may not like it, you may deny it, but that doesn't change it. And just like the law of gravity, nobody is exempt from God's moral law.

- We are under the penalty of God's law

We are not only responsible for doing God's law, we are guilty of breaking it. We have all broken God's law one way or the other, either in action or in attitude. The law says to have

no other God before us. We must love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. The law says to make no graven image of God. We may not make a false god with our hands, but we make a false god with our minds when we think wrong thoughts about God. We make a god to suit ourselves. And down the list of commandments we could go, and we have broken them all.

James 2:10 *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

- We are set free from the penalty of God's law

Because of Christ's deity and humanity and because of His humility to obey God's law, He was able to fulfill His ministry of redemption. Jesus came to pay the penalty we owed for breaking the law and in doing so He set us free. As one of our songs says, "Jesus came to reclaim ruined sinners." But that's not all.

3. THE ADOPTION OF SONS

This is the highest privilege of all. It would be amazing just to have our sins forgiven and our souls set free from bondage and guilt, but God went a step further. He takes us and makes us children in His own family. The Bible calls this adoption. Paul is only writer in the NT to use this word which means "the placing of a son." In adoption God gives us the special position of being a son in His family. As God's sons we are blessed in two special ways:

- We have God's presence

Just as God sent His Son to us, He sent His Spirit to us. We have the Spirit of Christ in our hearts so that we call upon God as our Father (Abba = Daddy, a term of endearment). We now have a close personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. God's presence is personal and it is permanent. Our heart is not a hotel; it is a home.

Romans 8:14-16 ¹⁴ *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* ¹⁵ *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* ¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*

- We have God's provisions

We are no longer considered servants under a Master, but we are sons of the Father. As such we are entitled to all the privileges of God's children now and for all eternity. We are heirs of God. As a woman was reading an article about a famous and wealthy man who died and left an incredible estate to his wife and family, she began to cry. A friend noticed that she was upset and asked, "What's the matter, you weren't related to him." She replied, "That's why I'm crying." As a child of God we will never lack for anything He thinks we ought to have.

Psalms 84:11 *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

That is a promise for this life and the life to come. As heirs of God we have a share in every thing God has, and He has everything. What does it mean to be an heir of God through Jesus Christ? The Bible tells us what it means.

Revelation 21:3-7 ³ *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.* ⁴ *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.* ⁵ *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.* ⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.* ⁷ *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The Son of God became a man so the sons of men might become the sons of God. Jesus came to earth so we might go to heaven. Jesus came to suffer and die so we might live forever and suffer no more.

John Newton wrote that great old hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Before he was saved John Newton lived a very wicked life, but when he was 23 he was cried out to the Lord for mercy and was saved. He never wanted to forget the depths of sin from he came from and how the Lord reached down and saved him by grace, so John Newton wrote these words above the mantel in his house: ***Deuteronomy 15:15*** *And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee.*

We all need to remember where we were as sinners condemned by God's law and how Jesus came and sought us and bought us with His redeeming blood and where He has brought us. By God's grace we are the sons and daughters of God.