

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Galatians 4:4)

"God's timing is perfect..." If I had a dime for every time I've heard that phrase or used that phrase – Know what I mean? But seriously, have I, have you heard that phrase so often, used it so often, that we almost never think about the ramifications of what it means? I mean we just hear it, accept it, and move on.

But stop! Because doesn't Christmas makes that phrase worth thinking about – especially in light of what led up to that first Christmas...

- ◆ Long before that first Christmas, people would hear the voice of God through the prophets of God – Who would communicate his heart: justice, mercy, compassion, holiness and love...
- ◆ Honestly, most people knew the world was broken, that people were broken and there was a longing for God to step in and bring sense to a senseless world...
- ◆ God promised He would do just that through the prophets – He told them of a coming Savior, Redeemer and King. Imagine the people's joy and hope to know God was going to do something so wonderful...
- ◆ Problem was, there came a time when the prophets just stopped talking because God wasn't really communicating through them on a large scale – In fact, there were 400 years of silence from the prophets ... 400 years!

So, how would you have felt if you lived in that period of time of a promise made from God that had not yet come true? What if someone said to you, "*God's timing is perfect...*" You may have responded, "*Maybe for God it is, but for me I'm not so sure.*" When God goes silent, we often think that something is wrong – we think that God's sense of timing may be a little off...

And we would be wrong.

In that 400 years of silence, much happened (not the least of which was the rising of Alexander the Great who enabled most of the known world to be acquainted with the Greek language, as well as the rise of the Roman Empire that paved travel routes around the known world). The significance of this had everything to do with God's timing, and His Sovereign activity over the kingdoms of men to serve His own purposes. When everything was in place – an expectant people in Israel, a language for the message to be understood, and travel routes ready for the messengers of the good news - Christ came. And it was at just the right time.

So, Christmas is a great reminder. It's a reminder that God has not forgotten us. It's a reminder that He is Sovereign over the affairs and kingdoms of men. And it's a reminder that His timing is always, without fail, 100% perfect – even when He doesn't let us in on what He is doing.

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ IS All!

Pastor Mark