

Preached on 2/19/23 at GBC - Ruston

"God Sent Forth HIS SON, PT.1"

Gal.4:4,5

The more I looked at and considered Vs.4, the more convinced I was concerning what we have a tendency to put too much emphasis on – **THE FACT WE HAVE BEEN REDEEMED**. While that is extremely important to us as sinners, I believe the **EMPHASIS** should all be on the **ONE** who did the **REDEEMING**, as well as the **cost of the REDEMPTION** and deliverance of God's elect sons and daughters. Christ said: "*And I, if I be **LIFTED UP** from the earth, I'll draw all [men] **unto me***."(Jn.12:32) Paul spoke of the **PERSON** and **WORK** of Christ as the **REDEEMER** in this fashion – "*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*"(II Cor.4:6,7) Paul has made it very clear throughout this epistle that the **PURPOSE** of the law **was never** to cause God's chosen people among national Israel to look to the **LAW** as a hope or cause of justification, but was a schoolmaster for a set period of time to bring them to Christ **ALONE** as their **ONLY HOPE** and **CAUSE** of justification and salvation – "*Now I say, [That] the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors **until the time appointed of the father**. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.*" **We left off with this last Sunday:** How long was God's church among national Israel "*under tutors and governors*" and "*in bondage under the elements of the world*", i.e. **UNDER THE LAW**? Paul's answer: "*until the time appointed of the Father.*"

Look at our text for today – "*But when **the fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.*" From the very beginning of time, the entirety of human history was waiting for the manifestation or revealing of God's Son, the Savior and Redeemer of His chosen people. All God's redeemed have been looking and longing for the appearance of the **PROMISED SEED** since God promised Him after Adam's fall as our representative in the garden – "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*"(Gen3:15) Eve expressed this hope at the birth of her first son – "*And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, **I have gotten a man from the LORD**.*"(Gen.4:1) **Listen to Simeon** – "*And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel**: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, **before he had seen the Lord's Christ**. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*"(Lk.2:25-32) This **REVELATION** of God's Christ happened **EXACTLY** at the appointed and purposed time of the Triune God – "*But when **THE FULNESS OF TIME WAS COME**.*" Christ's being sent by the Father and actually coming in time wasn't an afterthought or a **PLAN B**. When the fulness of the time was come, when every preparation had been made which appeared necessary to Infinite Wisdom, "*God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.*" I like what **James Haldane** wrote in his commentary concerning **WHO GOD SENT**, i.e. "***HIS SON***" – "Adam is

called the Son of God, for he was created in his Maker's image; Israel is called the Son of God, from their carnal relation to Him, on whose account they had been separated from the nations; believers are described as the sons of God, from their spiritual relation to Him who dwells in them by his Spirit, and in whom they are created anew. But Jesus is the only-begotten of the Father, God's OWN Son, and as really partaking of the Divine nature as a child partakes of the nature of its father. He is called Immanuel, God with us. Every name and title which belongs exclusively to the Almighty, is given to Him, so that it has been well observed, that, if Jesus be not God over all, the Scriptures give us no revelation of God." This sending of His Son has to be considered and interpreted in light of **WHY** He was sent, which is the subject of Vs.5 – "**to redeem them that are UNDER THE LAW.**" The Triune God did not place the **REDEMPTION** of His elect in the hands of angels, the freewill of man, or to "**works of the law**". To "**redeem them that are UNDER THE LAW**", it required **THIS GLORIOUS PERSON**. The Holy Spirit by the hand of Paul **CLEARLY** defined the Christ required for this everlasting work – "**God sent forth His Son.**" **THINK ABOUT THIS:** If "**God sent forth His Son**", the **SON** existed **BEFORE** He was sent, proving His eternal Godhead. That's why we read **Proverbs 8** in the "Call To Worship". The Scriptures make it clear that the **SON** who was sent by the Father was truly God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit – "**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.**"(**Phil.2:5-7**) The immensity of this **WORK** required One who was Divine to accomplish it, seeing **MAN ALONE** could not accomplish it. We sing this verse occasionally in one of our hymns: "**Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the awful load of sins that none could bear but the incarnate God.**" **Listen to Christ's prayer** – "**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**"(**Jn.17:3.4**) In our text, Paul declares Christ is the Son of God, sent from heaven. Yet the **SAME PERSON** who was sent by the Father was "**made of a woman**", meaning He assume our nature. The word translated "**made**" means 'to come into existence, to begin to be, or to receive being'. Christ's **HUMANITY** was not of the seed of Adam,i.e. **MAN**, but the seed of the woman. Though Christ's humanity was born just like ours, He was conceived and created in the womb of a woman (**Mary**) by the power of the Holy Spirit, expressing the almighty power of God in His mysterious incarnation, wonderful conception, and birth. This was prophesied by Isaiah – "**Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**"(**Isa.7:14**) I find it interesting that the Spirit didn't move Paul to refer to her as "**the virgin Mary**", as if there was something special about this woman that bore our Lord. He moved Paul to speak of her in this manner – "**made of a WOMAN.**" The miracle of Christ's incarnation and conception had **NOTHING TO DO** with Mary, but everything to do with the necessity of **HIS SINLESS HUMANITY** being brought into existence. Men have been caught up with Mary as if she has some sort of saving power or efficacy, when she herself needed redemption and salvation just like every other sinner. Mr.Gill wrote this concerning the Son "**being made of a woman**" – "whose seed he was from the beginning said to be; of a woman, without a man; of a woman, a virgin, as was foretold; and not only made and formed in her, but of her, of her flesh and blood, of which he took part; and which denotes the low estate and great humiliation of Christ, **and shows that as sin came into the world by the woman, the Saviour from sin came also the same way**". But Paul pointed out something else concerning the One sent in the "**fullness of time**" – "**MADE UNDER THE**

LAW". This statement is a reference back to **Gal.3:23** – "*But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*" Christ the eternal Son of God, who could rightfully claim to be exempt from every sort of subjection to the law, seeing He wrote the law, willingly became **SUBJECT** to the **LAW**. This isn't just talking about the ceremonial law, but the entirety of the Law of Moses. Why did Christ willingly become subjected to or "*under the law*"? Christ became subject to the Law in **our place or stead**, as **our Surety and Substitute**, in order to obtain freedom for us. In the Sermon on the Mount Christ said: "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*"(**Matt.5:17,18**) Our Lord didn't only perform one or two works of the law, i.e., He wasn't only circumcised, or presented in the temple, or went up to Jerusalem at the appointed time, or only lived civilly under the law. Christ suffered **ALL THE TYRANNY** of the law. Paul has already said that this glorious **PERSON** "*was made a curse for us.*" **Martin Luther wrote:** "For the law set upon Christ, and so horribly assailed Him, that He felt such anguish, as no other on earth had ever felt the like. This His bloody sweat doth sufficiently witness, His comfort ministered by angels, that mighty prayer that He made in the garden, and that lamentable complaint on the cross. These things He suffered, to redeem those who were under the law." Christ wasn't made a teacher of the law, but an obedient disciple of the law, that by His obedience unto death He might redeem those that "*were under the law.*" **Let me read you a couple more passages and we'll close** – "*For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*"(**Eph.2:14-22**); "*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*"(**Col.2:13-15**); "*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*"(**I Pet.3:18**)

Our comfort and security as sinners by birth, by nature, by practice, and even by choice, **CAN NEVER** rest on the arm of the flesh or our obedience to the Law, but on Him alone who "*magnified the law and made it honorable.*" I always keep this verse at the forefront of my mind: "*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*" We've talked about the **GLORIOUS PERSON** of our Redeemer this week, and Lord willing, next time we'll talk about the **WORK** He accomplished for us and that works effect on all those He redeemed.