

## **A Theology of Christmas**

### **Galatians 4:1-7**

#### **Introduction**

Good morning, Lighthouse. Are you ready for the Word of God this morning? Christmas time is almost upon us and I'm sure you've got all your shopping done and plans made.

Sometimes we can get wrapped up in the cultural norms in the holiday and lose sight of what our focus ought to be. I don't need to preach about what Christmas is truly about because I think you already know it. It's about the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The focus for today's message is more on why we should celebrate it and the reasons for it.

There seems to be a new push regarding Christmas though among believers though. Not so much that with the commercialism side of Christmas but the fact of even celebrating Jesus birth at all on December 25th or any day. Social media has enabled a lot of things some for the better and some for the worst. Some of the reasons cited is Don't celebrate Christmas because Jesus' birth wasn't on December 25th. More that carries on is that its pagan influenced, and believers ought to not partake in pagan practice. Another objection is the Bible never tells us to celebrate His birth - Therefore don't celebrate it at all.

Some of these objections make a fair case. So, let's discuss them.

1. We understand Dec 25th is not the official proven date of Jesus' birth. This date was established in the 4th century. There's been several theories about why the date, but nevertheless, it's not a proven date.

2. Those celebrating Christmas in the world are often influenced by the commercial side of things, but these things in the cultural were brought up after establishing it's about Jesus' birth. You can celebrate Christmas without allowing the commercialism to rule over you. The pagan

origin arguments with Christmas being an alternative to the Roman Festival of Sol Invictus don't have enough data to support the Anti-Christmas agenda.

3. To argue because it doesn't tell you to celebrate it is to commit the fallacy Argument from Silence. It can go both ways: It doesn't tell us to celebrate it so therefore don't do it. The Bible doesn't say not to celebrate it, so therefore we should do it.

A rule of thumb when it comes to following the Bible for your faith and practices, if you don't have a direct command, you then rely on Scripture principle. Are there Scripture principles in making a big deal about Jesus' birth, Him coming into the world? Oh absolutely.

To start, Romans 14 has been one of my go to passages to guide me in making decisions in things not directly commanded.

Romans 14:5-6; 14 (5) One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. (6) He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. (14) I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

You are free to celebrate Christmas and you free not to celebrate Christmas, if you are going to, then be convinced and know why you will and vice-versa. Do it as unto the Lord.

Here are some principles in which I choose to celebrate with my family and my church family.

1. His birth was celebrated.

Luke 2:13-14 (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The angelic host celebrated Jesus' birth with praise, setting an example for how we can respond to this momentous event. Celebrating Christmas allows believers to join in the angelic chorus of glorifying God for His gift of peace and salvation.

## 2. It opens opportunities to share the Gospel:

Luke 2:17-18 (17) And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. (18) And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The shepherds shared the good news of Jesus' birth with others, leading to amazement and wonder. Celebrating Christmas provides an opportunity to proclaim the gospel and share the story of Jesus' birth with those who may not know Him.

## 3. It gives us an opportunity to teach future generations:

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Celebrating Jesus' birth is a way to teach children and future generations about the significance of the incarnation and God's redemptive plan. Through traditions (giving, themes etc...), songs, and Scripture, we pass on the truth of God's love and salvation. To try to restrict and prohibit where the Word of God gives freedom is called legalism.

Colossians 2:16: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"

Now that the sermon within the sermon is done, let's read out text this morning. My personal favorite passage in relating to Christmas:

## **Scripture**

Galatians 4:1-6 (1) Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; (2) But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. (3) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: (4) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

## I. Humanity Desperately Needed a Savior, 1-3.

### A. The Heir of a Child, vv. 1-2.

(1) Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; (2) But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

1. Paul uses an analogy of a child heir who technically owns the estate but has no authority to use or enjoy it until he comes of age.
2. In Roman culture, wealthy fathers often appointed guardians and trustees to manage their children's inheritance until they reached maturity. During this period, the child had no more rights than a slave or servant. In the Roman mindset, there was no specific age when the son became a man. It happened when the father thought the boy was ready.
3. The Galatian region being primarily Gentile, they would certainly relate to and know exactly what Paul was talking about.

### B. Comparison to our spiritual state, V. 3.

(3) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

1. Elements of the world is the word for elementary - the ABCs of the world.  
Whatever it was, we were enslaved to it.

2. Before Christ came, humanity was like the child heir—enslaved under the law and unable to enjoy the fullness of God’s promises. For Jews, this meant being bound to the Mosaic Law, which revealed sin but couldn’t provide true freedom. The previous chapter calls the law our Schoolmaster.
3. For Gentiles, it meant being enslaved to pagan religions or worldly systems.

## II. The Savior coming at His perfect timing, v. 4

### A. The Fullness of Time, v. 4a.

(4) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

1. This phrase emphasizes that God sent Jesus at the perfect time in human history. It was neither random nor coincidental, but part of His sovereign plan.
2. Historically: When Jesus came:
  - a. The Roman Empire provided a unique environment:
  - b. A time of relative peace, allowing for easier travel and communication.
  - c. Common Language: Koine Greek, a widely spoken language, enabled the rapid spread of the Gospel.
  - d. Jewish Messianic Expectation: Many Jews were eagerly awaiting the Messiah, based on Old Testament prophecies.
3. To many Jews, they may have seen it as late especially with many things they endured through the centuries. Yet, God doesn't think like we do. He calls it His perfect timing.

### B. God Sent His Son.

1. Jesus was "sent" - This shows us that His birth is not when He came into existence. – Jesus is the 2nd member of the eternal Godhead.

John 1:14-15 (14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (15) John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

2. Jesus being born approximately 6 months after John makes this statement significant. This is why we use the term incarnation - God the Son adding humanity - not losing any divinity.

### C. Born of Woman

1. He wasn't a spirit or divine figure merely appearing to be human—He was born into the world like us, but not an ordinary birth. He fulfilled the prophecy of being born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. Also His humanity - His seed comes from His mother - woman. This echoes the promise from Genesis 3:15 - The seed of the woman to crush the head of the serpent.
3. We inherit our sinful flesh and nature from our dads - Jesus not having a earth father means He would be born without a sin nature. - So, wives, you can blame your husbands on why the kids do what they do.

### D. Made under the Law.

1. Jesus was born into the Jewish covenant and lived under the Mosaic Law.
2. Unlike us and the rest of mankind He perfectly fulfilled the law and became the only one capable of redeeming those bound by it.

Matthew 5:17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

### III. God's Gift to Mankind, v. 5.

#### A. To Redeem v. 5a.

(5) To redeem them that were under the law...

1. Redeem is talking about a purchase, but it's not just a general purchase. It's a compound word consisting of ek - (out of) and agarazo- (buy). Implying you belonged to something else and now belong to another.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

2. You were bought with the something of high value.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (18) Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

3. The blood of the lamb represents Jesus' death. Jesus' death paid the price to free people from the power of sin and death, and from the eternal penalty of their sins. At that transaction, believers are removed from Satan's kingdom and placed into Christ's kingdom.
4. Christ was born for the purpose of setting people free. No longer under the curse of the law, but under grace.
5. Not only did He set you free when you trusted in Him to save you. He also adopted you as His own.

#### B. To Adopt v. 5b.

...that we might receive the adoption of sons.

- 1 Adoption (huiiothesia) means being granted full legal status as a child of God, with all rights and privileges.

2. In Roman society, adoption was a legal process that granted the adoptee full rights of inheritance and familial belonging. In Christ, as His sons and daughters we have an inheritance.
3. Jesus, the Son of God, became like us, lived a perfect life in fulfilling the Law, laid down His life for us so that we could become children of God.

C. To give you His Spirit, v. 6-7.

(6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

1. His Spirit in our hearts confirms our sonship.
2. We are His, and He is ours. You've been privileged to address your God as your heavenly Father. - Abba Father.

### **Conclusion**

This Christmas, if you belong to Christ, you have a lot to celebrate. He came at just the right time. His birth and His life led to all the rest of what we have in Christ. If He didn't go to the cross and if He didn't rise again then we'd really have not much reason to celebrate His birth. It would just be another dead man's birthday. But our God defeated the grave - 3 days and 3 nights later He rose again - Proving exactly Who He claimed to be and securing our salvation.

This is ought to be our focus this coming Christmas - Keeping Christ in Christmas and not adding more mass. Isaiah 42:8 is another guiding principle in your celebration:

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." It's easy to love the baby in the manger, but do you love who that baby grew up to be? I'd love to see those who don't know Him as Savior get saved this season. That'd be worth celebrating too and easy to remember. If the Lord grants it, I have a lot of years left here. I for one will use these seasons to point my family and people to Jesus. Merry Christmas Lighthouse Baptist Church.