

THE GIFTS GOD GIVES

Galatians 4:4-7

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

December 19, 2010 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

1 Peter 1:3 ... His divine power has given us everything we need ...

God gives gifts to us ... the most important gifts, the gifts that meet our greatest needs; gifts that don't come wrapped in gold foil paper with ribbons tied around them, wrapped in blanket.

Please open your Bibles ... Galatians 4. Page 825. Classic Christmas text.

The universe had been waiting. 400 years of silence. When, in cosmic fashion, God spoke through Son. These were tough times ... waiting, watching, CRYING OUT. Universe was groaning.

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

"When the time had fully come" ... Roman Peace, Roman Roads, common language ... The time was right, conditions were perfect. God delivering what we need most, in the form of a baby.

WHAT WE NEED MOST – God has provided, through each person of Trinity.

Don't want to miss it ... Father, Son, Holy Spirit met our three most pressing needs ... 1st Christmas.

Our greatest need is redemption ... we need our value restored. Self-Worth ... Self-esteem.

1. ***"to redeem those under the law."*** Slaves, to sin, no value. No one righteous. The law condemns us. DIGNITY LOST, PURITY LOST ... Paradise Lost ... expelled, destined to a life of slavery. Toil, STRUGGLE. NEED REDEMPTION ... pay the penalty, reclaim lost. Restore SOULS, purpose, dignity, hope and a future, We can't get there on our own, no matter how hard we try (law was created to prove we couldn't). FATHER sent the Son to redeem us. To purchase pardon, free from slavery.

III. RUTH Time of famine ... family of Elkahanah moved from Bethlehem, to Moab, with 2 sons. Naomi and Ruth return. Boaz = kinsman-redeemer, GOEL. Picture of what God has done for us. God NOTICED us. Sent Jesus to rescue us. Reclaim what was lost. Give us back our future.

We are of inestimable value because the Father sent the Son to redeem us.

The Father noticed and traded his son for us.

The second most pressing need we have is to BELONG ...

We all want to belong ... Clubs, fraternity, church, small group, family.

III. anybody in the church who might help me get into the club?

God sent His Son to bring us into His family. He wanted us to be His children. Adopted us.

"you are no longer a slave, but a son ... " JESUS IS THE ONE WHO USHERS US INTO KINGDOM.

We belong because the Father adopted us, and gave us full rights as sons.

The third most pressing need we have is to be COMPETENT ...

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts

God's presence and His power lives in us ... makes us competent, able to do His will.

God noticed, invited us into His family, gave us His Spirit; empowers us to accomplishing His purpose.

III. We have a strategic place, a job to do. The gifts of the Spirit. Use the gifts to serve Him. Every part of God's creation has an indispensable purpose.

We are made competent by the Spirit who lives in us.

SO, HOW DO WE KNOW that we've received the gifts God has given.

"... the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit of God us testifies with our spirit that we've been redeemed, that we belong and that we possess the riches of His grace.

The Spirit within us cries out, that's how we know we belong to God.

Conclusion:

REJOICE ... you were worth Him sending His Son,

REJOICE ... you belong to God, you are His child ... having received His Son.

REJOICE ... God has given you a strategic place, and the power to accomplish all He has called.

May the Spirit in us, cry out in praise to God for hearing our cries and answering our prayers.