

Miracle: *God Moves*  
Galatians 4:4-5

The fullness of time had come. The idea in this phrase is that “the time was ripe”. The world stage was set and everything happened on cue – just as God had providentially ordained. God had prepared the world for just this moment in time. From an earthly perspective, the setting was perfect. Rome was in power and government was on a universal scale like never before. The *Pax Romana* and the transportation system (with five major highways) made it possible for the gospel to spread freely. Linguistically, Greek had spread to the common man, influencing culture, commerce and philosophy – allowing for the written word to be proclaimed and understood. And spiritually, Israel was looking for her Messiah. But from an eternal perspective, the perfect time had come for the fulfillment of long anticipated prophecies. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2 would finally come to fruition, for God would send forth His one and only Son.

It’s vital to recognize that Jesus was not “made” – He was sent forth from God. Jesus, the eternal God, had always resided in the Presence of God the Father. This fact reinforces Jesus’ deity. At God’s perfect time, He sent forth Jesus to unfold His plan of redemption. Born of a woman, Jesus would miraculously enter time as a baby. The eternal Son existed long before He was ever deposited into a Bethlehem manger. Fully God, He became fully man, for only God can conquer sin, death, and hell, and only man can substitute for man and die a man’s death. Jesus, as God, has the power and resources to redeem us. Jesus, as man, has the right and ability to redeem us.

Jesus was also born under the Law. In His coming, the prophecies in the Old Testament were finally fulfilled. And in His earthly life, the Sovereign of the Universe subjected Himself to God in obedience to the Law. He did so perfectly, without sinning. Perfect God. Perfect man. Perfect righteousness.

And by these miracles of God and His Son, Jesus was sent “to redeem those under the Law.” To “redeem” means “to buy out or buy back.” It is the picture of a slave being ransomed out of a slave market. Jesus bought us out from under the bondage of works and law. As believers, we are no longer slaves to performance based living and fleshly effort. We were bought at the highest price of Jesus’ shed blood, but not just for the sake of being a free slave. We were bought to be adopted into the family of God.

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### **Growth Questions for 12/13 – 12/20**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. Describe a situation in your life where the elements of timing seemed impeccable. What happened and how did the situation unfold?
3. How have you seen God move in the last few weeks and months in your life, in the life of the church, and in your community? Was there an obvious plan as to how these events unfolded or did they seem to simply 'come together'?
4. Galatians 4:6 states that Christians are adopted as sons and daughters of God. What implications about living flow from being a child of God?

### ***Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go*** ***Living on Mission***

1. Take time this week to pray for the following...
  - Thank God for opportunities to bless others this Christmas season.
  - Ask God to move in the lives of non-Christians over the next few weeks and to redeem them from being under the law.
  - Ask God to open doors for the church to express the Gospel with sincerity and authenticity throughout the *Miracle* Series.

### **Loop Update**

- Christmas Eve Worship Gathering – 12/24/09
  - 5:30pm – 6:15pm, Holiday Inn Martinsburg
  - Complimentary Professional Portraits
  - Special gift for Children
- Bible Reading Plans – 1/1/10
  - B90X – Church at Martinsburg's 90-day challenge to read the entire Bible!
  - 365 Day Bible Reading Plan available at [www.martinsburgchurch.org](http://www.martinsburgchurch.org)
- Transition to Sunday Morning on 1/10/10
- Community Groups start week of 1/18/10
  - 5 Groups offered
  - Sun/Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs

***...to proclaim the Gospel and reach those far from God.***

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