Galatians 4:4-5 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.

I don’t know if I mentioned this in a sermon a while back or if it was just something that I mentioned in Bible Class, but since I am in the habit of repeating myself on a regular basis, here goes. Not too long ago I was cruising along on my motorcycle. It was actually on one of the back roads coming into town. As I was riding along, all of a sudden I spotted a caterpillar, one of the big hairy dark ones, moving across the road. Now by the time I spotted that caterpillar and thought about reacting to the caterpillar, that caterpillar became a part of the road and tire landscape. In other words, that caterpillar got run over. At that point, my mind unleashed a flood of thoughts and theological considerations.

Now, to the casual mind, everything that I just mentioned as happening was coincidence. I just happened to be there on the motorcycle, that caterpillar just happened to be at that spot of the road and the tire and caterpillar met and that was that, pure coincidence. But that is not where my mind went.

My mind immediately thought of how Jesus tells us: **“Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”** I know, you want to say, “Okay, so sparrows and hair are counted!” Dear people, I can assure you that these words tell us that everything, every creature, every nuance of life is in the hands of God to serve his purpose and his will in every way. Just let the marvel of that sink in.

Think of all the things that had to be, that had to take place to make it so that my three inch wide tire managed to run over a two inch long caterpillar in the vast expanse that the world is! Or that hair that you found on your comb or on the bathroom floor, think of the majesty, the marvel of God that that hair at that moment should come out and be found at that exact time! Think broader, every worm caught by every bird, every bug snatched by every bat, every leaf that falls from every tree, and every caterpillar run over: none of that happens without God’s knowledge and consent. Beginning to sense the awe and majesty of God?

In our Catechism we get reminded of this power and awe of God in the words of the Lord’s Prayer. In the first four petitions Luther in his explanations to those petitions puts into great perspective the majesty and marvel of God. He taught: *“God’s name is certainly holy by itself…”* That means we don’t make God real or holy, or true or anything, this is of God himself! Next petition: *“God’s kingdom certainly comes by itself, even without our prayer…”* What goes on in God’s kingdom has more to do with the power and will of God than with anything you and I do. Every person whose name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be saved with or without us. God is in charge not us. “*God’s good and gracious will certainly is done without our prayer…”*God’s will, his holy desire for every aspect of life cannot and will not be altered by you or me or any number of people engaged in prayer. Seriously, do we really think we are going to change the path and direction of God in anything? Go back to that caterpillar. There wasn’t a thing I could have done to not run over that thing. Conclusion: God’s will was done! And finally *“God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked…”* Things are going to happen just the way God wants it to. You will eat or not eat, sleep or not sleep, have that shirt or not (I hope you realize that the expressions of this truth can go on and on) all of it is in the hands of God and his grace and love. In each case, Luther is emphasizing that we either grasp the awesomeness of God for ourselves or we do not. It is really the difference between faith and not having faith. Make no mistake, it does not matter what or when but only that we give God the glory and honor because He is God!

Now put all of that into grasping the wonder of the words before us. Our theme will be: **GOD'S SON HAS COME.**

Who is Jesus Christ? When you consider that Jesus is the heart and core of our Christian faith you begin to see the utter importance of this question. Answering this question with the whole truth of God will help us to keep Jesus as the foundation of our faith. For that matter, realize that Christianity is so divided because this Christian question has been answered falsely or only with half-truths. So again, "Who is Jesus Christ?"

The best way to answer that question is to turn to our text. Our text has the answers that we need. The first answer that we need is found in that opening phrase, **"But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son."**

Do you know what that tells us? Jesus came at the design of God the Father. When God knew that history was right, when God knew that circumstances were perfect, God sent His Son. Jesus was no fluke. Jesus was no accident of history. Jesus came in fulfillment of God's plan of salvation. Every government, every person, every nuance of life was completely ordered and assembled by God in just the way He wanted it so that Jesus came at just the right time. And recognize that Jesus came to help us clearly see that His whole life and work of redemption was a part of what God the Father intended from the very first sin. God was in charge. God is still in charge. God calls the shots, even in the time frame for sending Jesus, for our good and the fulfillment of his plan of grace. This phrase help us to see the complete power of God in what goes on and make no mistake it is always the way it is in every circumstance of every second of life. God is calling the shots.

The next phrases help us to learn about Jesus more specifically. **"God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law."** Here are some real solid truths. First, Jesus is God. We are told here, that He is God's Son and when studied fully in the Bible clearly this reference to God's Son is to the fact that God himself would come on behalf of his people. Thus we understand that Jesus is true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity. In Jesus the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form. When you talk God you must talk Jesus or you are missing the point. The importance of this is that we know that Jesus as God has the power and ability to keep and carry out his promises.

This Son of God was **"born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law."** These words tell us that Jesus is a true man. Jesus emerged at a point in history. Who of us doesn't have a birthday? Jesus was born of a woman? Who of us doesn't have a mother? Jesus was born under the law? Who of us is not under the law of God? What these phrases are telling us is that Jesus is just like you and me. He is a human being.

There is a great deal of comfort in knowing that Jesus is a true man. When you and I go through some problem or stress and it seems that no one understands what we are going through, then turn to Jesus. He went through it all. He suffered temptations. He endured hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow, anger, joy and even death. He went through all of that and more to be our Savior. He has endured what we endure. He has faced what we face. He has done this to be our Savior and an ever present help in trouble.

Here is the truth of Jesus. He is true God and true Man. That is a mystery beyond our full understanding and yet it is a fact. In one person we have the infinite God and finite man linked. Jesus is both divine and human in one being. He is the perfect mediator between God and man which is exactly the position he set out to fulfill.

Yet there is more. Our text says, **"God sent His Son…in order to redeem those under law."** Do you understand the utter import of those words? Those words tell of salvation by grace. Those words say that Jesus came as the redeemer, our redeemer, the one who would buy us back from our bondage to sin and our slavery to the devil. We all know how Jesus redeemed us. The perfect life he lived on our behalf. The perfect suffering, death, and damnation he endured as punishment for our sins. His perfect resurrection as proof of our salvation. His perfect ascension where he rules over all things on our behalf.

This fact of redemption is so important to grasp. If Jesus only came to show us how to save ourselves then what was the point of his suffering and death? If Jesus only came to "jump start" us and then we have to do the rest, then what was the point of the resurrection? It is so important to clearly grasp that what Jesus has done is complete and sure. Nothing is left up to us for if we could have saved ourselves or assisted in our own salvation then there was no point to Jesus. In Jesus we are redeemed! Our sins are forgiven. We have been clothed with God's righteousness. Heaven is our home.

The end benefit of what Jesus has done is also shown in this passage. The last phrase says, **"God sent his Son…that we would be adopted as sons."** These words tell us that we have been fully taken into God's family. No longer are we orphans or strangers to God. God has made us his children. Everything that is of God is promised to us his children.

How important that we grasp the marvel of this promise of God. The word used here indicates a new family relation with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities that come with that relationship. Luther says of this word, *"He speaks of the "Spirit of adoption" to show in what way we became God's children, and to exalt the grace of God. We are not children of God by nature, not by descent, nor because of our merits, but alone because of the gracious adoption by God as children in Christ."* The very words used here emphasize that grace is how we are saved.

Grace makes us the children of God. Grace gives us a spirit of God. Grace gives us new hearts and minds in Christ that rely on Jesus as Lord and Savior. The things I do I do by the grace of God. The faith I have I have by the grace of God. The blessings I get I get by the grace of God. The salvation I inherit I have by the promise of God and His Son through grace.

Now could you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" He is true God and man. He is our redeemer. He is the one who has given each of us the adoption of sons. Here is the truth of God. Here is a truth that tells us salvation is not about trying. Salvation is about relying. Relying on Jesus our Lord and Savior. Relying on his work and his promises. Relying on his grace that gives us the full rights of sons. This is our faith and our sure hope. Amen.