

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.” Galatians 4:4,5.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Time! It is a commodity that we are constantly assessing. It is a commodity that requires flexibility and adjustment. So often we must shift our schedules as time and priorities intersect and sometimes collide. It creates anxiety within us.

In these next brief weeks, most people will be pressed for time. The pressure of expectations for various events will crowd our schedules. Shopping, baking, cooking, concerts and company parties will all creep into the calendar. So often it seems we rush just to be caught at the next stage of our journey. While we have created “time-saving” devices, there is a constant decrease in leisure time for people! Today time is the most precious and costly commodity we can gain.

Many people will complain about being held up at traffic lights, in check-out lines, waiting rooms, and door-crasher openings. I am one of those. I know that I often get antsy when I am required to wait for something I want now. Few people like to get stopped at traffic-lights. They can seem interminable! I have measured the wait time involved at traffic lights. Generally most traffic lights change within a minute. Some of the longest changes take just over two minutes. Sitting there, just tapping one’s fingers can make that period seem forever (especially when we are rushing!) But it is only a minute. How quickly I can waste that minute or 50 minutes at other trivial tasks!

Time is very much a part of our existence. It infuses every aspect of our life. It is part of creation. Time is also a utility that God employs in his revelation of salvation. “When the fullness of time had come,…” is how the scripture reiterates this concept. We hear those words and recognize that God has acted at precisely the right moment. Salvation and God’s fulfillment of it is not a rash idea conceived by God and then acted upon. Instead we read those words and understand that God has been gestating his plan and the characters needed for its revelation. It is not fast-food service, with a product that is ultimately detrimental to its consumer. God’s plan of salvation is slow-cooking, where every ingredient is carefully selected and nourishes the recipient.

Advent is a time for us. It is a time of waiting and watching. It is a time of reflection and penance. It is a time to call us to remember and be stewards of time. All this happens exactly when horrendous demands get placed on our precious time in a season that has been made into hustle and bustle. But Advent also leads us to Christmas. There God births the real revelation of the fullness of time. The baby born in Bethlehem is God’s stooping down, even being bound by time in the taking on flesh and becoming one of us.

Advent can be a pause in the rush. We can use it to invigorate our souls and minds with God’s living Word, remembering God’s ultimate promise that was revealed in time through Jesus as the Christ; the forgiveness of sin and our adoption as God’s children. We have a heritage and inheritance that is forever. Take time for Jesus this Advent and Christmas.

In Christ forever, Pastor Kevin.