

及至时候满足...

*But when the time
had fully come...*

加拉太书
Galatians 4:4-7

引言 Intro:

今天的经文可以给它一个标题叫“与圣保罗一起过圣诞节”，因为经文述说神在特定时间将他的儿子差到这个世界来。

Today's reading could be titled "Christmas with St. Paul," because it tells of God sending his Son into this world at a particular time.

保罗叫这特别的时刻为“时候满足”，就是神差他儿子来到世间的合适时间。

Paul calls this special moment “**the fullness of time,**” the time that is right for God to send his Son into the world.

神的儿子被差到世界来的方式是与我们每个人的方式一样的：通过人类的诞生 – “**为女子所生**”。

How the Son enters the world is the way each of us does: through a human birth – “***born of a woman***”.

在今天早上的经文中，保罗特别强调神的儿子被差到世上来的结果，那就是使我们可以得着儿子的名分 – 为神所领养。

In the text this morning, Paul's special emphasis is on the results of God's Son being sent into the world. The Son is sent into the world so that we might receive adoption as children of God.

这圣诞节的另一面，在12月25日的活动热潮中很少会被提到。

This other side of Christmas is rarely mentioned in the flurry of activity on December 25.

今天早上我们一起来看耶稣的
诞生怎样跟我们得着儿子的名
分息息相关。

This morning, we will see how **the
birth of Jesus** is closely related to
our receiving adoption to sonship.

A. 孩童与奴仆 (加 4:1-3) a child and a slave (Gal 4:1-3)

加拉太书的信息主要保罗对一群被称为**犹太主义者/犹太派**的假教师错误的教导的回应。

The message of the Book of Galatians is mainly Paul's response to the erroneous teaching of a group of false teachers called the ***Judaizers***.

这群假教师到处向初信主的基督徒说信靠基督还不够，必须加上受割礼和遵守摩西的律法才能真正的为神所接纳。

These false teachers went around telling new Christians that trusting in Christ was not sufficient. They must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be truly accepted by God.

到底律法在神与人的关系中扮演了什么角色？

What was the role of the law in the relationship between God and man?

让我们聆听保罗的讲述：

Let's listen to what Paul has to say:

保罗认为**神对亚伯拉罕的应许**是先于律法的，并且是在律法之上。

Paul argues that **God's promise to Abraham** precedes and takes priority over the law.

律法已经达成了它的目的，就是扮演监督人的功用，具有约束罪恶的权力，
却缺乏权能使我们从罪中得自由 (加 3:21-22)。

The law served its purpose, holding a custodial function with the authority to restrain sin, ***yet lacking the power to liberate us from sin*** (Gal 3:21-22).

在**基督来临之前**，律法一直是我们的管束者 (加 3:23-24)。

The law served as our disciplinarian **until Christ came** (Gal 3:23-24).

但**现今在基督里**我们得着自由，被称为义，并**因信**成为神的儿女 (加 3:25-26)。

But **now in Christ** we are set free, justified, and made children of God **through faith** (Gal 3:25-26).

这不分犹太人或外邦人、为奴的或自主的、或男或女，一概都领受相同的恩典。

It matters not Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, all receive the same grace.

我们都在基督里都成为一了，是神的应许的继承人 (3:27-29)。

we are all one in Christ and heirs to God's promises (3:27-29).

在第4章中，保罗阐述成为**后嗣/继承人**的涵义。

In chapter 4, Paul expands on what it means to be an **heir**.

让我们看**加 4:1-2**:

Let's look at *Gal 4:1-2*:

加 4¹ 我说那承受产业的，虽然是全业的主人，但为孩童的时候却与奴仆毫无分别，
2 乃在师傅和管家的手下，直等他父亲预定的时候来到。

Gal 4¹ What I am saying is that as long as an heir is under age, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate.

2 The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

当继承人还是孩童的时候，他们“**与奴仆毫无分别**”，因为他们自己和他们将要继承的产业**都在监护人和托管人的手下**，**“直等他父亲预定的时候来到”**。

While heirs are still minors, they are “**no different from a slave,**” for they and the property they will inherit **remain under the control of guardians and trustees** **“until the time set by his father”**.

加 4³ 我们为孩童的时候，受管於世俗小学之下，也是如此。

Gal 4³ **So also, when we were under age, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.**

保罗说我们的情形也跟犹太人一样。

Paul says we are in the same situation as the Jews.

犹太人是受律法管辖，我们外邦人却在世俗小学的奴役之下。

While the Jews were controlled by the law, we gentiles were enslaved by the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

这世俗小学是什么呢？

What is this

elemental spiritual forces of the world ?

加 4⁸ 但从前你们不认识神的时候，是
给那些本来不是神的作奴仆；

Gal 4⁸ Formerly, when you did not know
God, you were slaves to those who by
nature are not gods.

“那些本来不是神的”

= 取代神的偶像

“those who by nature are not gods”

= idols that take the place of God

保罗说，在耶稣基督还没有来到世间之前，无论是犹太人还是外邦人，我们就像领不到遗产的未成年继承人一样：与奴仆毫无分别。

Paul is saying that before Jesus Christ came to the world, whether Jews or Gentiles, we were like underage heirs who couldn't access their estates: no different from a slave.

B. 及至时候满足 (加 4:4-5)

**When the set time had fully come
(Gal 4:4-5)**

我们什么时候才能领取神为我们预备的产业呢？

When can we receive the estate
God has prepared for us?

神的儿子耶稣基督来到世间的时候

**When the Son of God Jesus Christ
comes to the World**

加 4⁴ 及至时候满足，神就差遣
他的儿子，**为女子所生**，且**生在律法以下**，

**Gal 4⁴ But when the set time had
fully come, God sent his Son, **born
of a woman, born under the law,****

加 4⁵ 要把律法以下的人赎出来，叫我们得著儿子的名分。

Gal 4⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

他有什么特别？他为什么而来？

What's so special about him?

Why did he come?

(a) 他是神的儿子

He is **the Son of God**

神不是差天使或天使长，而是他自己的儿子耶稣基督来到世间。

God did not send an angel or archangel to the world, but his own Son, Jesus Christ.

因为只有神的儿子才能完成神要成就的工作。

Because only the Son of God can complete the work that God wants to accomplish.

也因为只有神的儿子最能代表神，有神的权柄。

It is also because only the Son of God can best represent God and has the authority of God.

(b) 为女子所生

born of a woman

不是从天上掉下来，或从地下钻出来，
或从石头、树木、动物变出来。

Not dropping down from the sky, or
coming out of the ground, or transformed
from a stone, a tree, or an animals.

他须要像人类一样出生，这样他才能够代表我们人类，担当我们世人的罪。

He needs to be born like a human, so that he can represent humanity and bear the sin of the world.

也因为他 是神的儿子，他才能一人担当世世代代万人的罪。

And because he is the Son of God, he can bear the sins of all people for generations.

(c) 生在律法以下 **born under the law**

因为他要成全律法，代表我们满足律法的要求。他完美的遵守了律法。

Because he wants to fulfill the law, representing us in meeting the demands of the law. He kept the law perfectly.

律法的功能是叫人知罪，却不能除罪。

The role of the law is to make us conscious of sins, it can never take away sin.

罗 3²⁰ 所以凡有血气的，没有一个因行律法能在神面前称义，**因为律法本是叫人知罪。**

Rom 3²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of our sin.**

**(d) 把律法以下的人赎出来，叫我们得
著儿子的名分 (加 4:5)**
**to redeem those under the law, that
we might receive adoption to sonship**
(Gal 4:5)

耶稣来是为把凡相信他的人从律法的要求和诅咒的束缚中买赎出来。

Jesus came to buy all those who believe in Him out of bondage to the requirements and the curse of the law.

但是，基督救赎我们并不是让我们自己到处流浪。

However, Christ didn't redeem us just to set us free to wander on our own.

他来救赎我们，使我们可以**被收纳/领养**为神的家里的人。

He came to redeem us so that we can be **adopted** *into God's family.*

说到领养孩子，我们华人一般上都觉得领养来的孩子跟养父母的关系没亲生的孩子亲。

When it comes to adopting children, we Chinese generally think that the relationship of adopted children to their adoptive parents is not as close as the biological children .

在印度的比哈尔邦，有一个叫**奥古斯丁·朱巴库马尔**的人。

In Bihar, India there is a man named **Augustine Jubakumar**.



他领导一个宣教机构，翻译过来名字叫**福音回声差会**。

He leads a missions organisation called **Gospel Echoing Missionary Society**.
(Gems).

奥古斯丁牧师和他的妻子有四个亲生子女和四个领养子女。

Pastor Augustine and his wife have four biological children and four adopted children.

以下是其中一位养女的故事。

Here is the story of one of the adopted daughters.

当她还是个婴儿的时候，她被弃置在火车轨道上要让火车碾过 -- 但是火车来晚了，所以孩子被扔到了城市垃圾堆里。

When she was a baby, she was placed on the train tracks to be run over – but the train was late so the baby was thrown onto the trash heap in the city dump.

一群野狗来咬掉了她的一支手臂。

Dogs came and chewed off one of her arm.

然后那些狗开始吃她的脚趾。

Then the dogs started eating her toes.

婴儿流血濒临死亡。

The baby was bleeding near death.

有人抱起婴儿，用一条很脏的毯子将她裹了两天，然后把孩子带到了福音回声差会的医院。

Someone took the baby and wrapped her in a very dirty blanket for 2 days and then brought the baby to the GEMS hospital.

她的手臂被截掉，她被护理恢复健康。

Her arm was amputated and she was nursed back to health.

奥古斯丁牧师和他的妻子收养了这个孩子。


Pastor Augustine and his wife adopted this baby into their family.

今天(2019年), 这个小女孩14岁了, 生活过得很好。

Today (2019) this young girl is 14 years old and doing great.

来源 Source:

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/100370/love-by-dr-fred-w-penney?ref=TextIllustrationSerps>



神领养我们，视同己出！

**God adopts us and
treats us as his very own!**

约 1¹² 凡接待他的，就是信他名的人，他就赐他们权柄，作神的儿女。

John 1¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

其实，第5节的意思是我们不但被收养为神的儿女，更是他的嗣子，每一个都是成年、有资格享受父神的恩福的儿女。

In fact, verse 5 means that we are adopted not only as God's children, but we are his heirs, each of us is a grownup and entitled to the blessings of the Father.

透过信靠基督，我们不但避免了
须要无止尽遵循律法来积功德，
却又毫无逃脱我们的罪过的希望。

Through faith in Christ, we not only
escape the need to endlessly keep
the law in order to earn merits, and
yet with no hope of ever escaping
our sin.

C. 靠着神为后嗣 (6-7)

God has made you also an heir (6-7)

加 4⁶ 你们既为儿子，神就差他儿子的灵进入你们的心，呼叫：「**阿爸！父！**」

Gal 4⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, '**Abba, Father.**'

神差遣圣灵住在他每一个被收养/得名的儿女的心中。

God sends His Spirit to live in the hearts of every one of *his adopted sons and daughters.*

保罗在这里称圣灵为他儿子的灵。

The Holy Spirit is referred to here by Paul as ***the Spirit of His Son.***

如果你 不是皇帝的儿女，你可以来到他的面前，称呼他“爸爸”或“父亲”吗？

If you are not one of the emperor's children, can you come before him and call him “daddy” or “father”?

不，绝对不行！

No, absolutely NOT!

因为我们领受了神儿子的灵，所以我们可以跟着耶稣亲切的呼叫神为“**阿爸！父**”。

Because we have received the Spirit of the Son of God, so we can do as Jesus did in calling God intimately “**Abba! Father.**”



这是何等大的恩典啊！

What a grace this is!

加 4⁷ 可见，从此以後，你不是奴仆，乃是儿子了；既是儿子，就靠著神为後嗣。

Gal 4⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

保罗在加 **4:1-3** 说未成年的继承人和他将要继承的产业是在“师傅”和“管家”的手下被看管。他在权力上与奴仆没有什么分别。

In **Gal 4: 1-3**, Paul states that the minor heir and the whole estate he is going to inherit are subject to his “guardians” and “trustees”。 He is no different from a slave in terms of power.

及至时候到了，就是继承人成年之后，他就能得到他继承的产业。

When the set time has arrived, that is the heir has reached adulthood, he would then be able to obtain his inheritance.

因为耶稣基督的降临和我们信靠他在十字架为我们成就的救恩，神不但使我们成为他的儿女，而且是可以领受天上各样属灵福气的后嗣/继承者。

Because of the coming of Jesus Christ and our faith in the salvation that he has accomplished for us on the cross, God not only makes us his children, but also **heirs to every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.**

保罗呼吁我们不要倒回去过做律法的奴仆的生活。

Don't go back to that life of slavery to the law, Paul tells us.

顺服主，和**依靠他丰盛的恩典**来经历得胜的生活。

Submit to the Lord, and rely on his abundant grace to live a victorious life.

结语 Conclusion:

请听保罗的挑战：

Listen to Paul's challenge:

加 4⁸ 但从前你们不认识神的时候，
是给那些本来不是神的作奴仆；

Gal 4⁸ Formerly, when you did not
know God, you were slaves to those
who by nature are not gods.

加 4⁹ 现在你们既然认识神，更可说是被神所认识的，怎麽还要归回那懦弱无用的小学，情愿再给他作奴仆呢？

Gal 4⁹ But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

2019年就将结束，很快的我们又要进入新的一年。

2019 is drawing to an end, and soon we will enter a new year.

新的一年，你要依靠自己的力量遵守律法来生活吗？

In the coming year, are you going to live by keeping the law on your own strength?

还是你要**顺服神的主权**，**依靠他的恩典和怜悯**，**天天亲近他**来经历在基督里得胜的生活？

Or, are you going to **submit to God's Lordship**, **rely on his grace and mercy**, and **draw close to him day by day** to experience a victorious life in Christ?

自己的意志力
律法
Own willpower
Law

信靠、顺服
神的恩典
Trust, Obey
God's grace

