THE SOOTHING MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS:  
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

1. God’s Timing Is All Right  
2. God’s Wisdom Is All Right  
3. God’s Blessings Are All Right

I do not know how it is/was in your house, but I have always been amazed at the way mothers are able to soothe their children. When my kids had hurt feelings or hurt knees, my efforts to soothe did not seem to work. **Well, you’re not bleeding,** and **Who cares what that person said,** do not stop tears but mothers methods do. Mothers just seem to have a way of soothing the hurts and fears of their children.

God, who is far more tender than a mother and far more caring than a father, has that same knack for soothing the hurts and worries and fears of his children. We are his children and we are gathered to listen to his Word. As the Word of God before us takes us back to Christmas, let's focus our attention on the soothing message of Christmas. It soothes our worries and hurts by promising us: **EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!**

Our text is part of Paul's letter to the Christians living in the province of Galatia. At the time this letter was written, things were not all right. Paul had come to that area on one of his missionary journeys. Some people there, Jew and Gent alike, had received the Gospel message with joy. How good it felt to know that they were freely forgiven by God's grace through Jesus. How good it felt for the Gentiles to know that God loved them too, not just the Jews among whom Jesus was born. But then troublemakers came into the area. They sowed the seed of doubt. They were saying it was not salvation by grace through faith. You had to live like an Old Testament Jew. The attack was really on Jesus. Whether they realized it or not, these troublemakers were saying that Jesus was not good enough.

In his letter to the Galatians, God had the Apostle Paul soothe the worries of the believers there by showing them their faith in Jesus - only Jesus - was all right. The portion of Galatians that is our text takes us back to Christmas to prove that God has everything right. The first Christmas proved God’s timing is all right. **But when the set time had fully come, God sent his son.**

Why did God wait so long to send the Savior after he promised one? Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, they all must have wonder what God was waiting for. Why didn't he send the Savior? The time was not right. Only God knew just the right time to send the Savior into the world.

Since we live with the gift of hindsight we can see how Alexander the Great's conquest of the then-known world where everybody wanted to be Greek and learned the Greek language, a common language for all to use, was part of that right timing. We can see how the Pax Romana, the peace provided by the Roman Empire was part of God's timing. We can see how the roads built by Rome to move her soldiers but in peace time that provided easier travel was part of that right time. But even if we could not figure that out we know God's timing is always right. Christmas proves it.

And so Christmas soothes our fears over God’s timing. There are many things that can happen during the life of a Christian that make you question God's timing. The loss of a job. The death of a loved one. A setback or disappointment with a personal goal or a plan for the church. We wonder. We question. We can agonize or get frustrated.

But like a loving mother with her children, Christmas comes in and soothes us. **Shhh! Everything will be all right.** God's timing is all right. You can trust him. Just like he would not
send his Son until the time had fully come, God works in your life allowing things at just the right time, blocking others until just the right time, letting trial or hardship last for only the right amount of time. When your weakness wants to make you scream, How much longer God?
go back to Christmas and be assured: God's timing is all right.

Be assured that God's wisdom is all right too. 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. Have you ever wondered what went through Mary's mind, especially in those first years, when she had to get up in the middle of the night to feed him or change him or attend the helpless baby's needs? I wonder if the one who in faith asked, How can this be? about the upcoming virgin birth and how she pondered the shepherds' visit in her heart, late at night, looked at a very normal looking and needy baby boy and asked again, How can this be? How can this little boy be my Savior? I also wonder if, when the devil and the demons realized that God's Son had taken on human flesh, that they howled with glee, lambasting the foolishness of God in making his Son vulnerable to their attacks. God's wisdom was in question. Why have his Son become man? Because God's wisdom is all right.

Look at the conundrum caused by sin. The wages of sin is death, being cut off from God and his goodness forever. But the ones guilty of sinning are the ones God loves the most - people. What was he to do? Imagine you are the judge in a courtroom. The charge is treason; the penalty is banishment from the country. The guilty parties in front of you are your children. What to do?

In stroke of wisdom beyond our comprehension God found a way. He provided the perfect substitution. His one and only Son, true God, yet born of a woman, true man. Born under the law, subject to it like all true humans, yet able to keep it perfectly as true God. Brilliant! What the devils called foolish and simple human minds strive to comprehend was the only way for God to be perfectly loving to people and perfectly just to the law at the same time. God's wisdom is all right. Christmas proves it!

Have you been guilty of questioning God's wisdom recently? Perhaps in the area of your health or the health of a loved one? Maybe in how God allows sin or wickedness to seemingly have success. Maybe you have grown frustrated waiting for the Gospel to do its work in the life of your family, friends, or fellow church members and you want to give up and let the natural work righteousness in all of us take over. Maybe it seems that trying to live the godly life does not work. It is the unbeliever, the cheater, the one with no morals who gets ahead. Shhh! Go back to Christmas. See what God did there for you and me. Something we would never have come up with. God's wisdom is all right. Christmas proves it and you can trust it. When you get tired or frustrated doing things God's way, when you are tempted to doubt or give up, go back to Christmas. It proves God's wisdom is all right.

God's blessings for you are also all right. Let's return to what happened at Christmas: So that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his son into our hearts to shout, Abba, Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

At some point right around now parents can find themselves urging their children to actually play with some of their new Christmas gifts. It seems we find it very easy to forget the gifts that we have. Here we are reminded of some blessings we should not forget. We have the full rights of sons, that means we are considered to legally be God's full children. We have the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts, that Spirit allows us so see God, not as an angry judge for all our sins, but as our Abba, or, dear loving Father, our Dad. And since we are sons, we are heirs, ones who will inherit the kingdom of God. God's blessings are all right!
Let the truths of Christmas convince you of that for the little blessings of life. At times we can become convinced that we need a certain blessing to be happy. Maybe that blessing is in the form of a certain someone, maybe it is the desire for more money, maybe it is some ability or skill we think we need to do better at work or be more popular at school. Shhh! Christmas says. God's blessings are all right. He knows just the right ones to give at just the right time and just the right ones to keep away when they are no good for you. And the most important ones he has already given you by giving you Jesus. Let the gift of God's Son sooth you. Everything will be all right. That is the soothing message of Christmas.

Pretty soon all the Christmas trees will be out on the curb or stored away in boxes. The lights and decorations will be down. The music off the air. Now I am not sure how you feel about the commercial aspects of Christmas but November 1st was just about 4 weeks to early for me to have that all started. On the other hand, is it ever too early to focus on the spirit message of Christmas and is that something we would ever want to put away? Not at all! Not in a world marred by sinned, messed up by inequity, filled with hurts and disappointments. Not when it stands as undeniable proof that everything will be all right. Why? Because God says so. That is the soothing message of Christmas. Amen.

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