

**Message Outline**  
*Teaching Tradition:*  
*A Big Screen (It's a Wonderful Life)*  
**Galatians 4:4-7**



**Intro:** Exploring traditions of Christmas that teach us the truth about Christ...

- In 2021: a Beat (Handel's *Messiah*), a Ballet (Nutcracker), a Book (Dickens *A Christmas Carol*), a Big Screen (*It's a Wonderful Life*).

**It's a Wonderful Life Plot**

- George Bailey and Bedford Falls...
- A man who dreams big but always seems to put other people's welfare before his own...
- George's rock bottom...
- An angelic rescue (Clarence)...
- Happy ending: George realizes life's value and the community rallies support...Hark the Herald Angels Sing!

**Wonderful Themes in It's a Wonderful Life**

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**Movie Clip:** "Divine" rescue by "jumping in"...

- A lesson on Christmas and Christ's "leap" from heaven to earth for rescue...

**Read:** Galatians 4:4-7

v.4a—The timing of the jumping...

- Prophetically, politically, pragmatically...

v.4-5—Son with two descriptors...

- "born of a woman" significance...
- "born under the law" significance...
- Jesus' redeeming for adopting...

v.6—Part of the assurance is the relationship...

- "Abba, Father"...paternal closeness...

v.7—Inheritance to come...

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Love



<sup>1</sup> Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph's descendants like  
a flock.

O God, enthroned above the cherubim,  
display your radiant glory

<sup>2</sup> to Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.  
Show us your mighty power.

Come to rescue us!

<sup>3</sup> Turn us again to yourself, O God.  
Make your face shine down upon us.  
Only then will we be saved.

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God of Heaven's Armies,  
how long will you be angry with our  
prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed us with sorrow  
and made us drink tears by the  
bucketful.

<sup>6</sup> You have made us the scorn of  
neighboring nations.

Our enemies treat us as a joke.

<sup>7</sup> Turn us again to yourself, O God of  
Heaven's Armies.

Make your face shine down upon us.  
Only then will we be saved.

-Psalm 80:1-7 NLT