



SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:11-13, John 3:16, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 2:8-10a, Hebrews 12:6

TITLE: You Are A Masterpiece

Have you ever been afraid that your actions would leave you “left-behind”? As a child, I really was scared about this. My parents divorced, so I constantly felt like, if I wasn't good enough, or well-behaved, that maybe I'd be left alone. There was one summer, where my mom dropped me off at camp for a day, and I chased after the car crying, thinking, “Oh no - maybe I've done something wrong, and now she won't come back.” Well, I will tell you, she did come back, because her love was unconditional. You see, any type of disobedience would not change her faithfulness to me.

Today, if you feel like your behavior is going to leave you abandoned by God, Paul has a message for you in 2 Timothy Chapter 2:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, He remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim 2:11-13, ESV)

I love this passage - verse 13 says it all – “if we are faithless, He remains faithful”.

There are a few things I've learned about God, as I've walked with him for over 30 years. First, when we are saved, God will never repeal that gift of Salvation. That's why, when you read passages like John 3:16, that declares that God sent Jesus, so that we might “have eternal life”, it's not a temporary life; it's eternal life. So there's nothing we can do as Christians to lose our Salvation through Christ.

Secondly, we know that we will struggle with sin. That's why 1 John 1:9 (ASV) declares, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” You see, Christ died for all of our sins, but we as people in a relationship with God, we must confess them to Him. We must recognize our sinfulness and restore the relationship.

Third, Ephesians 2:8-10a reminds us that God doesn't love us because of what we do, but because of what He did through His Son. By grace, we become Gods masterpiece. You see, when God sees us, He sees a work of art, and there is nothing we can do to shatter the statue, or

deface the painting. What God has made clean, and what God has declared as a masterpiece, can never be undone by our actions.

But we also cannot forget that Hebrews 12:6 (NASB) reminds us, “[whom The Lord loves He disciplines](#)”. There are consequences for our sins, because God loves us. And yet, we know that God's grace is sufficient. In fact, for His children, He pours out grace upon grace.

Today, if you are struggling with your lack of faithfulness, God says, “You're forgiven. Come back to me. You are my masterpiece; let's work this out together.”

My challenge for you today is this: remember, God loves you no matter what. You never perform for God's love; you perform from it. Today, confess your sins, ask Him to help you move forward, and embrace the reality, that you are His masterpiece.