



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, July 28, 2023

Scripture: Romans 6:23 / Romans 11:6 / Ephesians 2:8

TITLE: Too Good to Be True?

“That’s too good to be true.” That’s what I said when a friend said, “Hey. I just won a free trip to the Bahamas. And guess what, I get to give away another trip for free as well! Do you want it?” I said, “A free trip to the Bahamas? That’s too good to be true. Nothing is free.” Due to the pandemic, my friends have not yet made it to the Bahamas, but I am anxious to hear how free their free trip was. Now, if it were a free soda or a sandwich, I might take it with little questioning. But when it comes to the bigger things of life, free is just unbelievable, and too good to be true.

But what about the biggest thing of all: our eternal destiny? Can that be bought? Earned? Or is it a gift? Here’s what the Bible has to say about it in Romans 6:23:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Whoa. The wages of sin are death. Our sin means death. Yes, physical death eventually, but spiritual death - that man was estranged from God. Paul would say enemies of God. David would say, from the moment of conception, we are born with this sin nature. That sin nature is a guaranteed spiritual death sentence. But as Paul said here in Romans 6, *the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus.*

But if this is a free gift and it's available, why are people trying to earn their way to God? Why are they so confused in their religious persuasions? Why are we so broken? Well, Romans 3 says that no one seeks after God. They aren’t looking to please God; they are looking to please themselves. They’re doing life and religion their way, on their terms. It’s like running on a treadmill. They’re going nowhere fast. But they did it their way.

But could this gift of salvation really be free? Consider Paul’s words in Romans 11:6:

And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For, in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

Paul said, “Look, Salvation is attained through Jesus Christ. That’s it. You can’t buy it. You can’t win it. You can’t earn it. It’s a gift. It’s undeserved—no ifs, ands, or buts.”

Paul says it another time in Ephesians 2:8,

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

It's a gift. Period. Stop trying to earn it. It can't be bought. God offers it. The question is, will you receive it?

I think the Bible keeps pressing this point because it goes against our very nature and against what we are prone to believe. But Salvation – peace with God - comes through Jesus Christ alone, as a gift through faith.

So here's my challenge for you today: Go deliver this good news. Your friends, family members, and connections are performing for the approval of people, and it's exhausting. They're doing the same in their religious activities, but it's meaningless. It's sure to fail.

God's gift of Salvation is open to anyone. But God asks us to deliver the Good News. Find one person that you will deliver it to today.

In the comments below, share their name, so we can pray for their response in faith to this wonderful gift.