



**SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10**

**TITLE: You Are Not A Failure**

“I’m a failure.” Those were the words of a man who sat across from me in my office.

“Why do you say that?” I asked.

“Well, I’m divorced. My kids don’t want to talk to me. And I’m in a dead-end job. I hate it. That’s why I’m a failure.”

“Well, I can see why you’d say that. Life seems to be a mess. But does God view you as a failure?”

He looked up at me and said, “What?”

“Does God view you as a failure?”

“Probably?”

“Are you a Christ-follower?” I asked. “Have you repented of your sins and turned to Christ as Lord and Savior?”

“Yes.”

“Then Christ views you as a masterpiece.”

I kid you not, he got a funny look on his face and said, “Shut up. He does not.” And that’s when I shared with him this passage from Ephesians 2: “[God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.](#)” (Eph. 2:8-10, NLT)

You see, Friend, I don’t know what you’ve done. I don’t know what your sins are, pre-Christ, or post-Christ, but if you are truly saved, you are a masterpiece.

God graciously saves us and picks up the spiritual broken pieces of our lives, and restores them into something beautiful.

Now, this doesn’t mean we live without consequences. Surely we do. Hebrews tells us, whom God loves, He disciplines (Heb. 12:6). So God does allow us to experience consequences, but I’m convinced His loving-kindness and mercy are ever present, even in the midst of the consequences and discipline.

So, this gracious act of making us a masterpiece does not give us permission to sin. That's what Paul declares in Romans 6:12-23. But at the end of the day, when we are part of God's family, we do not live to earn God's love. We live through God's love. God's love and view of us never change, no matter what we do or do not do.

So today, if you are feeling like a failure or a loser, remember, God loves you. When you are His child, He says, "Wow. You are my masterpiece."

So here's my challenge for you today: Quit trying to earn God's love. God is not your earthly mother or father. God is not your earthly employer or a Facebook administrator. God is God. Therefore, what God declares is so. God says you are His masterpiece. Stop trying to earn His love, but instead live from it. Live through it. Live in it.

When we embrace and live out the transformation God provides, we will win the day.