



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 08/05/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:7-8

TITLE: What’s Your Life Sentence?

What do you want your life sentence to be? Hopefully, not life in prison, right? I don’t want that! But that’s not the kind of life sentence I am talking about. It’s all about legacy. If you were to craft a life sentence, your future legacy statement, what would it be? We could craft many versions of a meaningful and motivating life sentence.

The Apostle Paul provides a simple but meaningful one of a dear friend in the ministry. What is that life sentence? Let’s turn to Colossians 1:7-8 (NLT) for the answer:

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Did you hear that life sentence? You may have missed it. That’s okay. I missed it too. Paul says, “Epaphras, Christ’s faithful servant.” What a meaningful and revealing life sentence for us today.

Epaphras is a [faithful servant](#). What’s so important about this? I mean, no one would want to put “faithful janitor” or “faithful server” or “faithful street sweeper.” Friend, “Faithful Servant” is probably the highest honor a person can give when it’s attached to whom you are serving. As the letter of Colossians rightly teaches, we are servants of Christ.

This is why this designation and life sentence really matters: First, it identifies the rightful Lordship of Christ. Many today embrace Christ’s Salvation but deny His Lordship. Friend, you cannot take Christ as you want Him. He is God, Lord, and Savior. Period. Jesus Christ is Lord overall. We’ll really see this concept in the days ahead. But when we focus on our service to our King, we recognize His Lordship.

Second, it makes our life and service not about us, but about Him. We are mere instruments or conduits for His work and His message. People applaud the pastor or the CEO of a ministry, but it’s not about them. It’s about the Savior. We are simply tools that God uses for His glory.

Third, though it’s not about us, our relationship to the King matters. We are not mere servants or slaves to King Jesus. We are adopted sons and daughters. We are His ambassadors. We are commissioned light-bearers and messengers of the one true Gospel. This position of His servant is a high and powerful calling. You were called on purpose and for a purpose. Just don’t forget who called and enabled you: Jesus Christ.

We are called to be faithful servants of Christ. It's my prayer we embrace the call.

So here's my challenge for you: Write your life sentence with Paul's writing in mind. What is it you want to drive your daily living? What is it you want your family, friends, and church family to say about you each and every day?

Share your life sentence below. We want to celebrate it and encourage you to live it out.

It's my prayer, regardless of the nuance of your life sentence, that we will live as faithful servants to our King. When Christ is magnified in our service, we will win the day.