



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, 08/28/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 2:211**

**TITLE: The Game Is Rigged**

This past July, I took my kids to Universal Studios where we had a vacation of a lifetime. We went on rides, ate ridiculous foods, and had the opportunity to play carnival games. But here is the problem with these games. They’re rigged. You can pay high dollars for the opportunity to win some cool prizes, but the games are rigged. They are designed to make you lose. But yet, we all play them.

You know, we do the same thing when it comes to salvation. We all begin playing the game of religion with no hope of winning. What am I talking about? Listen to Paul’s words as he declares, “the game is rigged.” Paul writes:

“When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature” (Col 2:11, NLT).

Now, let’s just put it out there. It’s odd for Paul to talk about physical circumcision. For those of us with boys, we know this is just standard operating procedures after a boy is born. They cut away the foreskin. We don’t think this is going to save their souls.

But to the Jewish people, circumcision meant one of two things: One, it offered salvation by granting membership to the covenant nation. The second simply reflected an outward expression of an inward need and reality. The latter is the biblical view. God has always been more concerned with the heart than religious activity.

But the false teachers in Paul’s day were teaching legalism. This teaching that Christ came to seek and save the lost, but you still need to pull your own weight. Still get physically circumcised or else your salvation falls short. This was and is still false.

Paul declares in Ephesians 2:8-10:

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 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.”

It’s Christ alone who saves. It’s a gift. Christ cuts away the sinful coating of the heart and makes us a new creation. It’s not us. It’s all Him.

So this is my challenge for you today: Stop playing the game of religion. It's rigged. So ask yourself, "What am I doing today that is not out of love for Christ and instead of an act of salvation insurance?" Trust me; Pastor Nat struggles with this too. I tend to play the "just in case" card instead of obeying Christ out of my love for Him.

So today, identify where you're playing the game and ask God to change your motivation. Good works are the natural result of our salvation. And motives do count. So go win the day in His power and for His glory. Do this, and you will win the day.