



SERIES: FEBRUARY – MARCH FAITH IN REAL LIFE

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 03/03/2022

Scripture: James 2:23-24

TITLE: Salvation Insurance

Many of my e-mails as a pastor have been, and continue to be, on the assurance of salvation. People wrestle with what their part is for salvation. I mean, it'd be great if God really did it all but that just doesn't seem right or fair. I mean, can we buy some salvation insurance just to hedge our bets?

James has the answer, and it may surprise you. This is what James said in James 2:23-24.

And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

As you can see, James is continuing his work on faith in real life. He's been making a clear case that saving faith works. A faith that is void of life transformation is not saving faith.

He has illustrated this in several ways. Most recently, it's with the actions of Abraham. And here, James references Romans 3:4 and Galatians 3, where he recognizes that Abraham was saved by faith. His faith was counted to his spiritual ledger as righteous.

And this made Abraham a friend of God. But I know what you're thinking. "Nat, don't miss verse 24. James clearly is negating salvation by grace through faith alone. He said, "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."

James is not schizophrenic. He does not have multiple personalities. And he is surely not negating Paul's many writings against legalism. The wording and Greek mean people's actions prove the reality of their declarations of faith, both to others and to God.

It was Augustine who seems to understand this by saying, "Paul said that a man is justified through faith without the works of the law, but not without those works of which James speaks."

We have no greater friend than God. In reasons we will never know, He saves us and transforms us purely as a gift. And this gift changes everything for today and eternity.

So here's my challenge for you today: Let God know how much you love Him. When we really ponder the scandalous nature of God's grace, it should stop us in our tracks. All we have is by God's grace. We couldn't save ourselves, so He did it for us.

We need to be thankful. We should show and tell God how much we love Him and His friendship.

With God as our best and closest friend, there is no other choice but to win the day.