

**EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK**  
**WEEK 12 Leader Study Guide**

Why Christ's Perfect Life is Good News

**-Welcome!**

**-Intro: Thanks for being here! Revisit last week's points**

**\*\*point everyone to PODCAST! [Fcamx.com/gospeldrivenathlete](http://Fcamx.com/gospeldrivenathlete)**

*\*Exchange numbers or invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

**INTRO:**

*Hi, and welcome to Every Track Every Week. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am involved with Texas FCA Motocross through \_\_\_\_\_. I've been involved with FCA MX for \_\_\_\_\_ years and my favorite thing about the ministry is\_\_\_\_\_.*

*This week's discussion is based upon episode #84 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete" titled, "Why Christ's Perfect Life is Good News". This week, we are going to look at how Christ's life and death are vital for our justification (right standing) before God. While often the importance of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross on our behalf is clearly communicated, many times the necessity and importance of Christ's perfect life is never even mentioned. This week we want to look at why the life Christ lived was equally as important as His death and actually gave His death ultimate significance for us today. This is a profound topic that ties all the way back in to our discussion on the covenants and that has direct and real impact on our lives as Christians.*

**-Ice Breaker Question: Have you ever had a brand new bike? If so, what was your favorite thing about it?** (this is intended to draw out the fact that with a new bike everything is working as it should... no malfunctions, everything works perfect. Kinda like the perfect obedience of Christ that we will be looking at here).



**Question 1: If Jesus had just shown up on the scene right before He went to the cross... like if He literally came to earth as a full-grown man, instead of being born of a woman, and growing up just as we do... and then still died the same death on the cross, would that have been enough to accomplish salvation for us? We can ask it another way- Is the death of Christ all we need to be saved?**

**\*ANSWER:**

1) Yes and no. Christ's death is definitely all we need for satisfaction of the wrath of God for our sins. By trusting in His death in our place, we are trusting that Christ has taken the punishment that our own personal sins deserve.

2) But that is only half of the equation. Christ's death does away with the debt we owe, but it doesn't do away with God's requirement of perfect obedience. We must meet this requirement- either on our own, or through the accomplishment of another.

3) Without Christ's perfect obedience to the law of God, we would simply be left with a blank slate (wiped clean by Christ's death), but would then be required to uphold the Law perfectly on our own.

4) Jesus sums it up in Matt 22:37-40 like this, "And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'" This is what is required of us, if we are to be reconciled to God by our own actions. Jesus isn't simply giving guidelines for our Christian life here. He is laying out the full and exacting burden of the Law. Love and obey God with 100% of your faculties for all of your life. If you can do this perfectly, you will merit eternal life, based upon your own merits... based upon your own perfect upholding of the Covenant of Works. Of course, this is impossible for us to do on our own. We simply cannot do it. We need the perfect obedience of another to be counted as our own. This is the conclusion that God's Law leads us to... the same conclusion that the Law given by Moses on Mount Sinai lead the Israelites to in the Old Testament.



5) While part of God's sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is to create in us ability and desire to love God and neighbor more and more, this desire and ability is always imperfect, and thus, inadequate in its efficacy to save us.

Since we cannot do it, it is 100% vital that someone accomplish this for us, on our behalf. This is what Christ did through His perfect obedience. By grace, through faith, we are given the reward of Christ's perfect obedience, as if it we had earned it on our own. Christ's perfect life is credited to, counted as, our own.

**-Question 2: What did Christ accomplish by His perfect obedience?**

**ANSWER:**

1) As the death of Christ fully satisfied the justice of God, the perfect obedience of Christ purchased for us reconciliation and an eternal inheritance for us in the kingdom of heaven, where upon its full consummation, our perfected souls will be united with our perfected bodies (these very bodies we have now, only perfected) in the new heaven and new earth.

2) To say it another way, Christ's substitutionary death paid the debt that we owed and His perfect obedience earned for us eternal life and reconciliation that we didn't deserve.

3) Christ's perfect life accomplished full obedience to the Covenant of Works (the same covenant that all men are born being required to obey perfectly). In the most astounding act of grace imaginable, God offers Christ's obedience to, and accomplishment of, the Covenant of Works to all who would place their trust and hope in Him. Simply by faith in Christ's accomplished work, do we obtain this perfection. And that is the best news, because on our own, we are unable to bear God's wrath or uphold God's law.

**-Question 3: How should these facts drive our attitudes, our actions and our lives?**

**ANSWER:**

1) The reality of Christ's accomplishment of perfect obedience for us, on our behalf, credited to us as our own, should lead us to rightly value Christ's life alongside of His sacrificial death. Both were equally as necessary. If Christ had only accomplished one or the other, we would be left holding the bag to accomplish what He did not. Thankfully, He is not half of a Savior. Rather, all of our hope, all of our assurance, and complete satisfaction of the requirements of God are found in Him alone.



2) These realities give us great rest. He has accomplished ALL of what we are unable, and yet required, to accomplish. Resting in these realities give us great confidence and assurance of our standing with God, based upon Christ's accomplished work and not our own. These things will undoubtedly lead to us loving God and loving neighbor more, out of gratitude for what He has accomplished for us, but they also keep these actions of ours from becoming the measuring stick or barometer of our salvation and right standing with God. Christ alone is how we are measured. His sacrificial death and perfect obedience is the sole foundation for our relationship with God.

**-Lets pray.**

