

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK: 17 Leader Study Guide

What Must I Do to be Saved?

-Welcome!

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

****point everyone to PODCAST! 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 #66 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete", titled "What Must I Do to be Saved?" and we are going to be attempting to answer that exact question- "what must I do to be saved?". As athletes, we tend to want to earn everything we have and unfortunately that translates over to how we want to be right with God. We think we should, and can, earn our standing with God, but the Gospel tells us something completely unnatural to what we are used to.

This week, we will look at some of the most common ways that we try to justify ourselves before God, how all of those ways are contrary to how God saves us in the Gospel, and ultimately how understanding that there is nothing we ourselves can do to be saved, aside from trusting and resting in the accomplished work of Christ, ultimately drives us to love God and love our neighbor more and more.

-Ice Breaker Question: What is the nicest thing someone has ever done for you?

Question 1: So, this is a pretty direct question to start off with right off the bat- What do I actually have to do to be saved?

Answer:

1) You have two options by which the bible says you can be saved:

- a) Obey God's law perfectly. (since this isn't possible, this is only a theoretical way to be saved)
- b) Fall on Christ. Rest in his work. Rest in His accomplishment.



2) An illustration of option 1 (obey the Law of God perfectly) in the Bible is found in Matthew 19:16-22, where we see Jesus interact with a rich young man in the story known as the Rich Young Ruler.

¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

3) An illustration of Option 2 (rest in Christ's work on your behalf) is found in Luke 18:9-14.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed^[a] thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Pharisee (whose external life looked pretty good and was likely filled with many good deeds) in his arrogance thought that his own work and actions should earn him favor and salvation. The tax collector had a full understanding that he was sinful and deserved death for his thoughts, words, and deeds and fell on God's mercy for salvation and Jesus said that it was he that went away justified.

4) To be saved God's way, you must believe, trust, and rest in what Christ accomplished in the gospel alone. This is so much more than Jesus just dying on the cross. It is understanding that his life and death were necessary for your past and present sins and that at the cross a great exchange had to take place.

Christ bore our shame after living perfectly.

It is rare to hear many people talk about Christ's life because salvation has been compartmentalized into a one-time event where the goal is to get people to pray a prayer called "the sinners prayer" and then, unfortunately, from there the rest of the Christian life is often spent trying to live up to the grace that you were given, rather than resting in Christ's accomplished work. This is why Christ's life is often seen as unnecessary for most people in their Christian walk. Christ's life is rarely talked about because inward/ personal reform and progress has wrongly been made the focus...

We are clothed in Christ's work (this is how God sees us) and are free to rest in that reality. We are free from the requirement to uphold the law perfectly because Christ upheld it perfectly for us and can now strive to uphold the law out of gratitude for what has been freely accomplished for us.

Romans 3:21-31



“but now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith...It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Question 2: Where do I find assurance (confidence) that I am saved?

Answer:

1) Christ’s work is the foundation of our assurance.

2) You want to know how you can be sure you are saved? Here is what you do. Admit you are sinful in every part of who you are and you are prone to wander, prone to fall, slow to believe. Cry out to God “Lord I believe, help me with my unbelief.” Realize that even despite your weak faith and fallen flesh that God still has delivered you from the hole that you’re in and will uphold his promise to sustain you. Isaiah said that a bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not put out. He is so gracious and when you’re laser focused on the gospel you start to get this. And as this one-way love rocks your world and you realize how unique this gospel message is you start to become thankful. And guess what, the thankful heart is the key to all sanctification in our Christian life. It is what drives us to holiness. What you start to realize is that full assurance can never come from anything you do because you never actually pull it off. Even as a believer you still fall short and blow it daily, and even with new Godly desires you still drag around a carcass of death.

Romans 7 says, “who will free me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

3) You want to be sure that you are saved? Simply believe, rest in what Jesus did. The key difference between someone who is saved and someone who is not, between someone who is sure and someone who is unsure is where their eyes are. Are you looking to the gospel as your only hope saying “nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.” Or are you constantly introspecting, checking yourself to make sure you’re sanctified enough to keep God happy.

4) The progression comes from an understanding of our GUILT, realization of God’s GRACE, and then a life lived out of GRATITUDE to God.

GUILT. GRACE. GRATITUDE.

Step 1- Realize you’re guilty (which you don’t need scripture to know- you know it naturally).

Step 2- Look to God’s grace which is revealed in Scripture in the gospel (believe and rest in the gospel).

Step 3- Rest in the right thing (Christ) and not yourself. Then you will find peace.



Ironically, it's like a constant loop because you start really loving people and being thankful to God and loving God which just makes you surer that you're his and it's really an amazing thing.

Question 3: How do we tend to naturally think we are saved?

Answer:

1) It is man's natural tendency to revert to a legal method of salvation. To try to be saved by some input of our own... some cooperation of our own... We want to earn it. No one wants a last place trophy... we want to work hard, train hard, and EARN the first-place trophy. This desire carries into our attempts to be saved.

"All men are wired for law-keeping not gospel-trusting. Man is addicted to a legal method of salvation. Even after becoming a Christian by believing the gospel, our hearts are still addicted to salvation by works. Our tendency is to quickly drift back into a performance mindset (Gal. 1:6). We don't understand grace. We find it hard to believe that we should get any blessing before we work for it. This legal spirit is present even in the most mature saint.

It is not easy to overcome our legal disposition while we are in this world. Despite our best efforts, self and self-righteousness revive again and again. This is why we must repeatedly turn to the gospel again and again. "

-John Fonville

This happens because Adam was created as a perfect law keeper with Gods image. Because he sinned he propelled his offspring into sin as well while still being an image bearer. This includes the conscience. It is natural for us to attempt to appease our conscience by putting forth effort and doing something.

2) The gospel is very unnatural. This is why it should be what we revert back to as frequently as possible because it is counter-intuitive.

Question 4: Why does it matter?

Answer:

1) We have to get this right for the sake of our Christian sanity and for the sake of the world. We will never truly love sharing a gospel that is confused with law and hangs a millstone around our neck.

2) The gospel is a beautiful thing and it comes straight from the heart of God. It is gods message to the world that despite the fact that we are fallen, he has descended to meet us and redeem us. He has given us the spirit and begun the work in us now and will perfect it in the resurrection.

Question 5: How should these realities inform our attitudes, our actions, and our lives?

-Let's pray. We will meet right here next week! Same time!

****point everyone to PODCAST! Fcamx.com/gospeldrivenathlete**

