

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK 20: Leader Study Guide Do Versus Done

-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 #70 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete" titled, "Do Versus Done." This week, we are talking about what our primary focus should be as Christians. Should our focus be on what we DO? Or should it be on what Christ has already DONE for us? The world tells us to work on ourselves, to put our focus on being better or doing better, but the gospel tells us something different...the gospel tells us that it is the message of God saving sinners like us, through the person and work of Jesus Christ, that is our best and only hope, and it is this message that drives our assurance and growth as Christians. Consequently, this message of the gospel should be our focus! We are going to dig into this this week!

Ice Breaker Question: What's the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

Question 1: In the Christian life, what is most important- what we do, or what has been done for us?

Answer:

1) What Jesus has already done for us is most important. If we put the focus on "what we do" it will always end in failure. If we believe what the bible says, then we have fallen short of what is required of us, and the only thing that can bridge that gap or atone is what Christ has done for us, not what we do. We are covered by Christ and justified only by our faith in Him and again, what he has done.

2) In order to for our works to save us, we would have to do or follow the



law PERFECTLY. Obviously, this is not possible for us.

--The Heidelberg Catechism addresses our good works:

-Question 62. *“But why cannot our good works be the whole, or part of our righteousness before God?”*

-Answer 62: *“Because, that the righteousness, which can be approved of before the tribunal of God, must be absolutely perfect, and in all respects conformable to the divine law; and also, that our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin.”*

Question 2- Do you think that is what is most often taught?

Answer:

- 1) Get feedback from group here, but no, many churches and leaders teach or put a focus on what WE do (in most experiences)
- 2) It seems that there is a culture of self-improvement or looking inwardly to find a way to be better, do better, and feel better about yourself and perhaps, your moral “standing” with God.

Question 3- Why do you think most of the instruction the average Christian gets in popular evangelical churches is directed towards what the Christian is supposed to do/ think/ feel, rather than what has been done for them?

Answer:

- 1) It is natural for us to want to work on ourselves or do better and it seems like this is often taught by a lot of churches as the primary focus.
- 2) We are wired to strive to better daily and perhaps be obedient. It is the ways the world operates and how the world views religion as well. The problem with this once again is that we are putting the focus and work on OURSELVES rather than Christ and his work.
- 3) We naturally want to improve and get better, but if we put our focus on the gospel and rest in what has been done, then our good works will be a result of this.
- 4) We will always feel the downward (or inward) pull, the pull to do it ourselves, this is why it is important to hear the gospel consistently and focus on what Christ has done.

Question 4- Is what we do important at all, then?

Answer:

- 1) Sure it is. Scripture tells us it is – James 1:22-24 says, *“But be doers of*



the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.” **the key to understanding this text comes in the verse that follows. V25 says, *“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”* This “Law of Liberty” is referring to God’s Law... and while Laws are typically thought of as things that restrain us... the law of the speed limit keeps us from being able to go as fast as we want... this perfect law of liberty is a law of freedom (and not restraint) because the law of God ultimately sets us free by driving us to Christ who alone can free us from sin. The Reformation Study Bible says on this verse, *“Having been justified, we then find God’s law to be the law of freedom, for we are truly free only when we do what is pleasing to the Lord”.*

2) We just have to be mindful and constantly reminded of the fact that our actions are simply outworkings of who we are, because of what Christ has done for us and that our actions do not merit us any favor (favor is unmerited... it is grace).

3) When our focus is on what Christ has done, we will be motivated by the gospel, by God’s grace, and by love.

-Question 5: How should these facts inform our actions and our lives?

Answer:

1) We are saved solely by resting in the fact that Jesus has obeyed the law perfectly and paid the penalty of sin for us on the cross. We don’t have to try and pull it off on our own.

2) When Christ said it was finished, he meant it.

3) We need to be hearing the gospel consistently. The gospel alone informs our lives, our actions, and ultimately sanctifies us. If we aren’t consistently hearing the gospel, we will begin to look inward once again, trying to pull it off on our own accord.

For more depth on this, listen to the podcast – Gospel Driven Athlete. Ask us questions, reach out!

-Let’s pray.

