

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK WEEK 23: Leader Study Guide

Three Uses of The Law

-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 #100 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete" titled, "Three Uses of The Law." This week, we are going to be building on last week's discussion on God's Law. Last week, we defined the three types of God's Law- moral, civil, and ceremonial- and discussed how, while the civil and ceremonial laws pointed towards the coming of Christ, and that because He did in fact come and actually fulfilled all of these laws, the civil and ceremonial are no longer binding. However, we discussed that, the moral law (most commonly summarized in the 10 Commandments and Jesus' summary of the Law when He says, "you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you must love your neighbor as yourself" is still binding. For the unregenerate, God's moral law summarizes what it takes to merit salvation (i.e. perfect, personal, perpetual obedience- perfectly loving God and our neighbor for all of our lives). For the Christian however, the moral law takes on a different function. Specifically, God's moral law takes on what is known as "the 3 uses of the Law". This week, we are going to look at what those 3 uses are, and why it is important for us, as Christians, to understand.

-Ice Breaker Question: Have you ever gotten really really lost? How did that happen? How did you get to where you were trying to go?



-Question 1: Picture yourself driving down a city street. In the middle of the street you have a turning lane, and at the edges of the street you have a curb, and on the outside of the curb you have sidewalks, and on the other side of the sidewalk you have buildings. One of the main functions of those curbs are to keep cars on the road and off the sidewalk, or out of the buildings, where the cars would hurt the people there. The first use of the law is that it serves as a “curb”. Can you think of any ways that God’s Law could function as a curb?

***Answer:**

1) The main way God’s Law serves as a curb is that it restrains society from being as corrupt as it could be. Don’t kill. Don’t steal. Don’t try to take your neighbor’s wife... these are things that are beneficial to all people whether believers or unbelievers.

2) This use of the Law is common to all of mankind, both believers and non-believers.

-Question 2: What are some ways you can see that the Law serving as a “curb” could be beneficial to society?

***ANSWER:**

1)According to Romans 2:14-15 God’s Law is written on all of our hearts (both believers and non-believers), *“14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.”* Without God’s law written on our hearts, since our corruption is so deep and touches every part of our humanity, the world would be overrun with evil.

2) If all of humanity didn’t have a “built-in” sense of right and wrong, this world would be in a state of utter and continuous chaos.

Question 3: When you’re getting ready in the morning, what is it you look into to make sure you’re all ready to go... that your clothes match... and that you don’t have any of your breakfast still stuck to your face? (A mirror, right?) The second use of God’s law is that it



serves as a “mirror”. What ways can you think of where God’s Law could serve in this way?

***ANSWER:**

1) God’s Law serves as a mirror in that it shows us how unrighteous we really are. When we look into God’s Law (as into a mirror) we see just how far off the mark we are. When the full weight of what God requires (personal, perpetual, perfection) is pressed down upon us, we see that we aren’t pulling it off. When Jesus says in Matt5:48, that “*you must therefore be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect*”, He isn’t being dramatic. He is saying that we actually **MUST BE PERFECT**. Completely and totally perfect for our entire lives. When we look into the Law understanding that this is what God requires, if we are honest with ourselves, we see just how unable we are to do this. From there, we are then driven to the realization that we need a Savior to come and makes things right for us... we need a Savior to satisfy our debts and achieve this perfection on our behalf. We need Jesus.

2) This reality that we aren’t pulling this deal off ourselves, drives us to our need for a Savior- The Savior Jesus Christ. When we see that we are corrupt and unable to please God fully by our own personal actions (because they are tainted with sin, regardless of how good they look from the outside...), we are left with the realization that our only hope is for a righteousness that comes from outside of ourselves. God provides this by His grace, through the vehicle of faith, in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

-Question 4: Why is it important that we view the Law in this way?

ANSWER:

1) Understanding that the Law serves as a mirror serves a lot of vital roles. It keeps us humble, it crushes our self-righteous tendencies, and most importantly it helps us understand the depth, beauty, and necessity of what Christ has done for us.

-Question 5: If you’re getting ready to drive across the state to a track you’ve never been to, what kinds of things do you use to help you find the best route? A GPS is probably what most of us use any more... some of us may use a map... some of us have never even owned a map. The third use of the law is that it serves as a “guide” for the Christian life. Not quite like the turn by turn that a GPS gives us,



but the same principal. What ways can you think of that God's Law serves as a guide for the Christian life?

ANSWER:

1)As a guide, the Law teaches us how to love God and how to love our neighbor. Because, as Ezekiel 36:26 says, God has replaced our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh (hearts that actually desire to please Him), God's Law becomes more and more beautiful to us and we have an ever-increasing desire to obey God's Law out of gratitude and love.

2) God's Law shows us specifically what sin is and drives us to conviction for and a hatred of that sin.

3) In essence, the third use of the Law teaches Christians how to lead our lives in the way God designed them to be led- worshipping Him rightly and loving our neighbor well. This involves conviction of sin and clear direction on how we should live.

4)The Westminster Confession of Faith in chapter 19.6 puts it this way, "Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God, and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin, together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of His obedience. It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin: and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve; and what afflictions, in this life, they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof threatened in the law."

Question 6: How should these realities and truths drive our attitudes, actions, and lives?

-Let's pray.

