

# LEADING SAINTS

## Teaching Youth About the Grace of Jesus Christ | An Interview with Mitchell Taylor

June 12, 2021

00:00:05 - 00:05:02

We live in a world plagued by pornography and people are looking for help winning individual struggles with pornography. They often turn to their church leader for that help. How does the leader help a person overcome the shame of this issue and start seeing positive progress. How can a leader help youth to open up about struggles with pornography. What are some lasting proven tactics. Actually make a difference. In order to help leading saints has created the liberating saints library with more than twenty presentations featuring individuals who have a unique perspective or expertise around this topic. Three of those most popular sessions are available to watch now simply text. The word lead to four seven four seven four seven to start watching now or visit leading saints dot org slash liberating. My name is joy. i'm from chicago. Okay basically yes. I'm not a member of the church. But i got to know the church and The people from the church like occurred and reach at osler in through the podcast and the summit side. Really really appreciate what you've done for. The church has frothed. lgbtq immunity. That's great leading. Saints is a nonprofit organization dedicated helping latter day saints. Be better prepared to lead and we do that through content creation like this podcast which we hope you subscribe to whether podcasting after using maybe leave a review while you're at it check out leading saints dot org. There's thousands of online articles and information about our live events and libraries of content for past recorded events and on and on so definitely join the newsletter. And make sure you don't miss the coming information from leading saints now in this episode. We talk with mitchell taylor now. Mitchell is a unique guest. Think he may be one of the first youth we've had on the podcast now eighteen so i guess legally he's an adult now but a lot of the good work he did was as a youth because he is the author of the book perfected in christ. The good news. Of god's grace and mitchell has done such a phenomenal job at a young age to really understand and articulate the gospel the grace of jesus christ and in my opinion this doctrine the doctrine of jesus christ needs to be taught clearly in concisely and without any any muddying the water with the youth of the church and mitchell as a youth does such a phenomenal job speaking to his demographic and helping them understand that and it is just

phenomenal. You're gonna love this interview mitch's so fun and he's just he's eighteen like he gets it he. He speaks their language and he does phenomenon little job. So here's my interview with mitchell taylor. The author of perfect in christ the good news of god's grace it came as a result of the position of leadership which was imposed upon us by the god of heaven who brought forth a restoration of the gospel of jesus christ when the declaration was made concerning the own only true and living church on the face of the we were immediately put in a position of loneliness alone of leadership from which we cannot shrink nor run away and to which we must face up with boldness and courage and ability today. I am connecting with mitchell up in rigby. Idaho's that what you told me. Yeah that's where. I'm from small town. Nice nice and remind me again as far as your age and were you in life. i'm eighteen i like. I was telling you before. I'm leaving to do summer sales this summer than doing a semester of college than i'm going to be going on mission so that's nice that's cool man it any. I gotta ask. Like is there any hopes or maybe don't want to jinx it as far as where you wanna go on a mission or if i did have to choose either gonna go to hawaii. Because that's where my dad went or australia. 'cause that's where my grandpa went so nice and your raise a pretty traditional latter day saint home right. Yep when jump through all the hoops of of your youth experience i mean. What do you mean. Jump through hoops like this teacher. Step just gone through. Just normal notions of being latter day. Saint yup going to cherish firms akron. All that jazz. Yep yeah so. This is great because we typically don't have a lot of youth on the podcast not that i'm avoiding not having but your age i mean i guess i was the same way. I wasn't necessarily thinking deeply about concepts. Other than i know the churches true and plan on mission and sees general.

00:05:02 - 00:10:08

Maybe more approaches. Which is nothing wrong with that phase of life as you're developing but you've had sort of unique youth experience because you you're already a published author. They up by no. It's crazy. i would never if you told me. When i was like twelve or thirteen that i would have published. A book would have literally been like. You're crazy rich. I can't look. I can't even write a coherent sentence. Yeah i would have been the same way at your age. I just feel come to beat. I was just. I mean just going through the motions right just going to church and then like i've been taught by my dad like they were saved by the grace of jesus christ and like in san meetings in classes. I'd hear that the opposite. And i'm like wait. That's not what i've been taught. And then every single time any of those doctrines were contrary to that. Were taught the spirit. Prompts me and say you need to write a book about this. And i'm like what what why so just pushed that decided. That happened for like years. And i'm like i can't write a book to my dad to write a book. He's literally the author he's wrote like ten bucks let him do it and then like after like finally i'm like okay. I'll do it. I'll listen to listen to the prompting now yen like two and a half years hard work. lots of studying. The book came to be so. That's cool and so you know. I know your dad pretty well. We've we've interacted on various occasions. And he'll probably his voice will make it to this podcasts. At some point because he's such a dynamic leader in his own right so maybe explain that dynamic of being raised with your parents like how did they begin to infuse your mind with these these more profound doctrines or i guess. I don't know if they're profound difference. I mean they are the core doctrine. You know the grace of

jesus christ That usually happen. I million my dad and mom. They both understand the good news. My mom the beginning dinner. But my dad i mean he's champion of grace and of jesus and he helped her understand that. But i've been taught gray since i was like five. I mean just from the beginnings. So i've been taught jesus saves may jesus is my lord and savior. I trust in him one hundred percent he does all the saving. I trust in him for everything i mean. He just comment the thing that he taught me when i was little what's called the pit of sand and just helps to teach the doctrines of justification and sanctification. And it's in my book but so basically all it is is that you're in a mile deep pit and you can't get out. There's just concrete walls concrete. You can't dig try to jump day. Climb whatever you do know avail. You're stuck at the bottom of the pit. And then you come to this point where you realize crap. I can't get out i'm stock. And then that's when you say. God be merciful to me center as the publican in luke and then you look up and you see jesus arm extended saying just accepts me come unto me and then you say lord save me. He picks you up takes you out of the pit and that's what justification is and it's instantaneous. When you accept. Jesus christ and you design your heart you desire to follow him. He justifies you. Which means that. You're perfect in christ. So you meet the qualification of the celestial kingdom the requirements perfection because jesus toting died on the cross who were able to meet that requirement. Not because we earned it or deserve it because jesus loved it so much that he gave his life for us and then after he takes us out of the he leads us over to a ladder. And this is because this is where we all like to confused like works coming to the works. Come in because we don't just get justified and we just sit there and like i'm chilling. Now you know so. He takes us over to the ladder of sanctification and he. He's with us the whole time. We hold hands with him. We climb up the ladder and this is where like repentance and just desiring to become more like god because that's what sanctify -cation is. It's becoming more like god becoming liked him and it's a struggle. We send we fall short. We make mistakes god. Whenever we fall short we fall down. A few rounds. He says that's okay. Let's get back up and let's try again. Let's just keep pushing forward and let's just keep learning growing and becoming. Yes so that's basically what i've been taught my whole life so that's cool and so was it typical like What what are the. What are the settings like as far as just sitting at the table. It's like family home evening or just morning. Devotional just settings like that or me and my dad. I mean like like we would just sit in his office for hours on end just talking about the best ways to teach it. How can we help people. Connect with this like how it makes sense. Because it's gotta be simple. And that's what jesus did he in parables. So we're like let's figure out parables we can use so that people will be able to understand this. Yeah yeah and that's a that's powerful that not only just like going through the motions of reading the scriptures or even talking about doctrines but saying how can we. How can we simplify this. You know how do we put in if you had tell a friend about this. So that they'd be at some level of understanding how that go on that almost everything grain these these doctrines in your mind right. Yeah that's also. My dad taught me as well as like. What's your elevator pitch on grace. You have like thirty seconds to a minute to tell somebody what like the good news is like what is super important. What's so crucial that you need to tell him. In that thirty seconds and to me those two things are justification sanctify cause when somebody understands those two doctrines everything will naturally come.

00:10:08 - 00:15:02

'cause like that's the bane thing that's what i teach in the book is like if people understand these doctrines they'll never be the same like it's just it's powerful so you said earlier. Oftentimes you have these great discussions at home understanding doctrines and then you go to church. Here's something different. And i don't think it was that your your dad was teaching a radical gospel or that people are completely off base attorney. Sometimes just get lost in the communication. So what what are some of those things you heard at church that made you think like well. That's not what dad saying. Well the the most common one. I mean his second twenty five twenty three so if i'm ever in class that i teach like we're saved by grace. There's like you're a teacher or stingy. Yes but after all you can do. And i'm like but they're right in a sense but the way they interpret it. It's wrong because they like. That's one of my favorite scriptures on grace when you truly understand it when you look through it through a lens of grace like it's beautiful. We're saved by grace even after all we do. We still how i interpret. It is that even after all i do. I'm stuck at zero. I'm on ground zero. But jesus christ he brings me up to one hundred percent right and this is not how mitchell interpreted that's elkins store Interprets that he's referencing. The conference talking about sort of putting the right context that even though we do all these things that still didn't save us as the grace right exactly an idea. That's one of the things that i'm teaching my other book. I go through the entire thing of second five twenty five and you just go through. And there's many times in there where he's like. I'm speaking so plainly so you do not areas like making the so simple so you don't mess up so you can understand grace and yet we still do somehow which is kinda funny but is okay. Yeah we're still learning or grow patients with some of those things navy we. We are church because they're well. Meaning you know the one hundred percent and we just have patients and say you know i see differently. Maybe i can get a discussion going to reach deeper understanding learning so anything else. That is typical that you hear when i mean off the mark a common thing we like to do is i mean we emphasize work obedience and slyke ordinances which that's great. Those are good things right. They're required but we gotta remember that without christ there pointless. They don't save us. They can't do anything when they're connected to christ though that's when the power comes right so another common thing it's just we say be good enough or try like you have grace if you try your best just good enough and like i read this article and like he was talking about how he did it. Feel good enough. He didn't feel adequate like he felt like. He felt inadequate. Not good enough. And he was like in that he liked taught. How i got good enough was i started getting good enough and like i know you. Don't just try harder. No you gotta trust more trust in. Jesus morty get that because that's what justification is is that assurance that you can. No i am saved. I'm perfect in christ. I don't have to worry about my eternal standing before god because in. Dnc eighteen ten. That's he says the worth of a soul is great in the sight of god. Jesus already defined your worth your priceless. He gave his life for you. It's over like he's already got you but we still tend to turn to ourselves. Which there's not i mean we don't wanna trust in ourselves because i mean that's fight. Jesus came where it's kinda pointless. 'cause that's what it teaches in galatian to is like if like if christ like if we don't we trust ourselves in christ is dead in vain that's kind of like the just a gift so as jimmy rat but yeah yeah that's awesome so look at your life. You know your peers and whatnot. You know transitioning going through those teenage years Young adulthood leaving a home. Maybe going on a mission be going to college maybe going to the military. I mean there's i mean this. This is a pivotal point and many leaders

realize that like this is a pivotal point. And so sometimes it's easy as the leader default to the work so we know we sorta wink at grace. Like yeah we know grace's there but hey listen like we really gotta make sure we gotta we gotta get great. Yeah yeah let's let's make sure we don't miss. These crucial need that we need. And so what advice would you give to youth leaders. Bishops is far as the doctrine of grace. Well with that with that in mind like how saying like get people. How do we get our youth to read their scriptures. Say their prayers. Go to church. How did we get that like. How do we get motivate them to and it's like no matter how hard we try though to engrave them with works like we shove it down their throat. It won't stay like that's what in the. I'm trying to remember who said it was to have been. I think that like the world worked from the outset in outside. And we're in the Jesus inside out. So the best way you want your youth to stay in the church to get a testimony of Joseph Smith the scriptures whatever it is get them to Jesus because heat and then he does the preach. He'll do the teaching because we like to like.

00:15:02 - 00:20:06

We're the converters. We think we're the converter. So we try to shove works down their throat but it just it won't give lasting results because they're not truly born again they haven't really understood. Who Jesus what he's done and why he did it for them. So I like to see this as I. It's I call it. Symptoms versus the source. So and I like to share my example of flat feet so I have flat feet which means I have no arch in my foot. Like if I'm walking. Like I figured this out like when I went to Hawaii a couple years ago if I walk on a beach my feet are parallel at the sand. Like it's just completely flat like there's no arch. There's nothing because of that. Like we figured that out. When I was like twelve and I dealt with pain in my feet and my ankles my knees and my shoulders and we couldn't figure out what the frick was going on. We had no idea what was happening so we would go to ankle specialist knee specialist feet specialists shoulder specialists like we would fit. Go to everybody and they would give me stretches like a dieters they would give me in search for my feet but nothing was hoping they would give me like a like a short term relief but eventually those symptoms would just come back. And when I was like. I think almost seventeen maybe eighteen and we went to a physical therapist who he approached the. He approached the just the problem differently. Instead of looking at my shoulders or knees or my ankles he went straight to my flat feet. He's like alright. walk across. we just walked towards me and I started walking. Oh that's bad. And he just could tell immediately with my flat feet that either. That's the problem. So he finds the source of the problem. I flat fee and he had a really cool way of diagnosing. My issue he gave me he had put my in this styrofoam thing. So I could have a perfect match of my my mother. Bottom of my foot which arch was not very big. But when gave that to me once I got my inserts after about a week of wear them all the pain was gone. I had no pain in my feet. My ankles my knees or my shoulders. It was all gone. It was a miracle. I was so happy I could go to soccer practice without being able to walk the next day. You know. And that's just how I see with. The gospel is that we need to build a relationship with Jesus if you get them to Jesus because that's the that's the problem they don't know Jesus and they don't understand. His grace is forgiveness and his mercy that he wants to extend to them and once they understand that though naturally want to read their scriptures because they want

to learn more about jesus they want to follow him they have that yearning and just the wanna say their personal because they wanna talk to god they wanna talk to him the church because they wanna worship their lord and savior and just say thank you for what you did for me. I'm so grateful for that. So when you say get them to. Jesus like what does that look like. What are the traits of the application. There yeah i was also wanted that too because in class for preschoolers he's like what does it mean to come unto. Jesus i'm like oh shoot. I've never actually thought about that. And just how. I like to see this as like wall. What did you do to come close to your best friend like you talk to him. You get to know one right. So i mean you learn more about jesus when you read the scriptures he just dive in just learn more about them than just listen talk to him because like i mean he's not just like an entity like that we can't really like seek it to know like he wants us to get to know him and john seventeen three. It says that this is life eternal that they know the the only true god and jesus christ who now ascent like life is about building a relationship with god so just you just instead of just reading your scriptures assistant check them off a list instead instead of just doing it to just get that check mark down. I did it you do it to learn to grow to get to know them. I just put a different emphasis on why you do it because you just forget why. Then it just pointless. Yeah you know. Wouldn't that i've had with the this concept of of you know getting them to jesus or helping them understand. That is in our gospel tradition. We often you know. We highlight the family prayer. Family scripture study like this is these are things that should happen right. The come follow me. I mean there's so many prayer at mealtime and there's there's so many things we model is parents are a household and these are all great but we also have to remember. These are all appendages to the core doctrine of the tone of jesus christ which is essentially grace right and so i often time is apparent of youth leaders are bishops. Could step back in and part of the like when you consider like okay and modeling. All these behaviors which is which are phenomenal in great and they need to be modeled but how are we modeling grace in our life as a parent child relationship or as a youth leader youth relationship and to me. It's almost more crucial for us. To model grace in those relationships aitez condemn recognize it when the savior when god offers them grace. Because a lot of times i would guess in your your demographic and the young single demographic is oftentimes.

00:20:06 - 00:25:04

They don't even know what grace looks like and so they don't know that they should embrace it when they see it so often times. I do this where my six year old boy someday mitchell. I'm sure you'll have an opportunity to raise a six year old boy and then talk about a single buying experience but sometimes it's just a bad day like i. I've lost my temper a few times. Like he's practically let the house on fire and sometimes a newday's At the end the day. I say all right everybody get in get in the car. We're going to get ice cream right. And now naturally it's like wait a minute like you shouldn't give him ice cream because we've reinforced these behaviors. Like neuronal as we eat that ice cream. We then have a discussion about grace like. Do you know that it doesn't matter what you do like i'm gonna love. You gives you ice cream. Larry just gives grace right awesome. And i had a youth leader on branching out on this discussion a youth leader. Email me the other day. He was sort of reaching that frustration. That you

articulated like man. I can't get i'm this stuff. Features corm adviser. How do i get him to read the scriptures in like it. How do i give them to get excited about a mission. Like they don't even bring their scriptures and they just seem like you know indifferent to the gospel. And i basically we we got on. I call had a great discussion. I'm basically said what you can't like. That's not your job to do that. Let's not jesus way either. He doesn't like there's nothing. There's not like some tactic or strategy that so what you can offer them on his in a in a realize i'm rambling here but coming to a point that oftentimes in like in a if you're preschool adviser. It's so easy to sort overemphasize the mission experience right like. Oh let me tell you about my mission. I love my mission. I hope all you guys get a surf mission. Oh look look you know. He just. He just left on his mission. He's in argentina. Like look at this picture. He's loving it right. yeah but rarely do they. Hear what grace sound soundbite. Which is hey guys. Do you realize you could never serve a mission. And i. don't care like generalize. We're going to still be friends like if you don't gone mission Like i'm always still here figure out what what the next step is. Did you know you can actually spiritually progress without emission. Right and a youth leader hearing. That's gonna be like all right now again. What if what if they take that as permission to knock on a mission. But here's the thing is if we don't model what grace looks like they will never know what it looks like when it comes back with. What's going to my additional. We just like whenever like we hear the word grace like you can. Just you can just feel. The people like shows like Just move up like oh that sounds tear. What do you do if you're giving him license to send a no. Don't do that and it's like well. No you were saying the worst thing to do is to not teach grace entirely which is what we've done which is not. That's not good. Because that's why so in my sir i take. I do a survey in my book right and we asked the question. We ask two questions. Do you wanna go the celestial kingdom and if you were to die today would you go to the celestial kingdom and the first one i mean everybody thunderous. Yes i want to go but then once you get to the second question. That's where you get the differentiating answers and only thirty percent. That which is grace. I'm saved by. Jesus i trust in him. He's giving me this gift. And i accept him as my savior. And then the other seventy they have like after all you can do is i owned them and the main one was. I don't know they just don't know and they jus- 'cause we view it as what level of obedience do i need to reach. And we don't know if we've met that level of obedience but it doesn't even like that's just a good good enough because we that's a common thing. We need to good enough right but good enough isn't good enough for the celestial kingdom right it's action that's better than good enough so it's like right. What's that but then when they hear that it discourages them. They're like crap. Well what do i do. Well great let me tell you about grace. Let me tell you about jesus and his great forgiveness that he extends to each of us. But now i just went on a tangent there. I forgot like what was just say. I think we're talking to sort of that version degrade since i see like With the aversion degrees. I see three things three main things i mean. There's many different like differentiating things. But i see three main ones and will the first one like we were talking bonuses. We just don't understand it because we haven't been teaching enough. And then we get misconceptions of it like the cheap grace like it gives us license to send those type of things and then another one is that since because other denominations believe in grace which. Because it's truth. Truth is truth but since they believe in it we come to the conclusion. That can't be true. Because the baptists believe it like in robert millet book. Oh do we believe in race dad. Now that's what the baptist believe. Oh okay thank you but and then the third one is

just. That's what i'm teaching in my Other book is it's a cultural legalism where we focus so much on.

00:25:04 - 00:30:01

Works ordinances obedience that we just bury grace and it becomes the enemy and like what we've been saying like that. When we hear the word grace we just cringe and we all ten stop. It's like oh i gotta go. Fight the battle to be an advocate for works in now but and then the main so the main one whenever i've taught grace or forgiveness to my friends or two or just anybody they'd say oh so i don't have to do anything so i can just sit back relax in jesus has saved me like no but you're on the right track but no let me tell you. Let me teach you something. So i use something called the medical school analogy and it just to help teach that work is required. But it doesn't save you so let's say you're a student and you wanna go to medical school but you understand that. It's going to cost a lot of time effort and money so you you get a job and you start to get the money so you can go you start to study to see what school you wanna go to what you want us major in and then one day you get a phone call from this old man and he says hey. I've been hearing you wanna go to medical school. He like yeah. So how would you like. If i paid for everything. I pay for your schooling housing food. Everything you don't have to pay a dime and then you'd be like awesome. Let's do this right. And what i like to say after and then you go to medical school you go to class and you become a medical so you can get your medical degree right but whenever i teach down like by this man extending this gift which is like grace. Jesus extend grace to us. Is it all of a sudden to make him want to be lazy is he. All of a sudden it'd be like when he gets a phone call. Hey do you want this amazing scholarship. That i can give you and it's gonna make me lazy. I'm not gonna wanna work anymore. You're gonna make me just level riotous life. It's like oh that's ridiculous. Like i got a scholarship from byu provo to go play soccer. I'm not gonna be like nah dude. I was gonna work super hard and try to earn my spot. But now i'm not gonna do it because you're just giving it to me. It's like no. I'm going to want to go to school. I'm to want to get good grades. So i can play soccer. Right it motivates you so like we've just like turned it instead of grace being a motivator. It's like it turns into a de motivator or whatever word but like it just. May we think it's going to make not want to do anything which is like no. It's the opposite when you truly understand. Grace you get invigorated. You're like i want to tell people about this because you understand what jesus what he's giving you. It's amazing is amazing. Grace it's awesome. Yeah oftentimes my own life experiences. I've learned more about grayson and receive that grace like it's so strange. How like i. It's doesn't give me an aversion to command or make me do less them more. It makes you were for demand more comments. I'm like god if you love me so much and you giving me so much like what to do. I want like should i start. Stop eating carrots like new coffee. Should i skip hot chocolate to like an. Obviously you don't want no way that but yeah but the point being. Is that like you when everything's in the right context like you just want to do more because you felt so much love and acceptance from this. Yeah hitter being. You want to be like him exactly. The grace leads to sanctification. That's what i that grace will lead to greater sanctification. It doesn't lead to moral irresponsibility or laziness to greater and fuller repentance. It makes you want to become more and another with the so. I don't have to do anything right. So there's another one.

That just whenever i teach you like well that's too easy. That's so simple like well. That's like 'cause there's like this common for it was like it was like a painting. It was like a picture and it says. I never said it would be easy. I only said it would be worth it. Like like referencing. Matthew eleven twenty eight and thirty one but unlike like if you read that scripture where does he say it's gonna be worth it or hard he says. My yolk is easy. my burden is light. So and that's the beauty of the good news though he's give god is giving us something we can't earn or deserve. We don't deserve it. We don't deserve grace centers. We fall short of the glory of god and yet he still gives it to us because he loves us you know. Yeah yeah and the reality is it is really hard but only for jesus. Christ i ki- he won rice. Yeah yeah he paid the price and it was really hard right like it will. Sounds a diminishing saying that but yeah it was a difficult thing that he did but now it makes it makes our burden light because of jesus christ and i like to say is that god jesus died so we could be perfect christ now and become perfect and become perfect like him later. Some gives us the opportunity to be justified to be to that perfect assurance that i am saved. I'm going to go to the celestial kingdom. Because i know in whom i trusted in the words of neef but i also know that i can become like him eventually. It's going to take a lot of hard work and effort. But i don't have to worry about my standing before god because gre proved that his hands are pierced and his is piercings in his hands.

00:30:01 - 00:35:02

Prove that you know that's awesome one underscore the point you made as far as how we often think we hear grace in its has a very evangelical right like is because they've like totally embraced the doctrine and almost to the point where that's all they talk about right and so sometimes feels like in our tradition like it's either. We can emphasize racer works. You can't do both. Do linear the outright. Yeah but in reality is like no no no. We don't have to pick one or the other we can be just as much the grace church and then say now that you understand grace look how beautiful these works are. They help us become like him sanctification. Yeah that's just what we we can't look we just can't like justify the two it's like we're stuck with like well if i have grace than clearly there's no works it comes that fallacy again that i don't have to do anything. We just have that in our brains like when we hear grace's that oh that's cheap grace. I don't have to do anything like no. That's a false doctrine. Cheap grace's not true grace. So it's just like the main thing that the reason for cheap grace's because of the the legalistic culture of just like like we throw works and ordinances down their throat trying to get that obedience and everything 'cause legalistic toll culture we focus more on. It's like everything is merit and reward. There is no grey snow receiving. You can't see a gift. Everything is earned. You work hard. You get this. It's just a cause and effect. If i do this if i read my scripture say my prayers and get this i get these blessings you know but it's like well now you're you're just throwing throws your like throwing the baby out with the bathwater. You're throwing jesus out he's gone when you focus so much on the law you overlook the law giver which that's the entire purpose of the law is to help bring us closer to jesus to become more like him. How i like how i like to see. The law is that it's an instruction manual of the character and attributes of christ. Is that when we keep the law. Were emulating one of christ's chrysler attributes or becoming more like him. So it's like we don't keep the law to earn the reward or to show how worthy we are. And how amazingly our

because. That's what the pharisees did. And it's not the way we'd rather we do it because in john fourteen. Fifteen if you love me keep my commandments. We do it because we love god and we want to become more like him. That's why we keep the law and we also do it because we're serving others when we keep the laws well and we want to help others. So i wanna ask you a little bit about perfectionism a little bit. Obviously i know we're affected it through christ in just like interacting with you in the different conversations. We've had it's like meant mitchell. You're sort of a freak of nature there's people listening to you and thinking about the high eighteen year old does not talk like that nor does the right books nor does even understand a little justification for things right and so i was a struggle with my niece the other day and she. She's brilliant girl has she's going to to. Byu full ride scholarship. She got like a ridiculous. Act score she just always just doing remarkable work and it's so easy to praise her for that like man. You're soon so great like you're so smart like look at you like you. Just do remarkable things. But i often wonder like i wonder if there's some level of and this is very common for youth right that they sort of find personal identity through their their works in their effort and they are smarter than others in. It's like the obviously improving myself worth. Because i'm doing all these great things. I got the scholarship. I'm doing these things right. And so a part of me wants to say. Hey that's fantastic job another thing you know. It doesn't matter right like yeah we have to get those straight edge or or you don't have to be exceptional for to be accepted right. And she seems like she's pretty mentally stable and those things that i worry about those things so any thoughts as far as obviously with the with the understanding of grace you sort of get away from that thinking of that. Oh it's up to me to identify through my works rise but any thoughts come to mind how to help. You may be a violin. Yeah so i. I deal with perfectionism I i like to do things i try. I got this like it's gotta be per pitch perfect going to be beautiful right. I try and like being authors kind of like writing. A book has helped me to overcome that a little bit. Because it's like the revise everything you have to go. We have to read it thousands of times and it just hurts it hurt my soul because like why can't i get this. Which like with perfectionism. It's like like you're saying it does defy it starts to define you because you want you do these things because i want to be known i do these things so i can just be on the hierarchy level like i got like you were saying. Act score got a scholarship on the way to do all these great things while those that is good like with perfect. that's perfectionism. does it. just dislocates. Jesus out of the equation. It's just you because you just view it as i do. I have to do all these things. I'm on my own. I'm like you're on your own.

00:35:02 - 00:40:01

You're you're it's all up to you if you fall short while sucks to suck. I guess you know but win with perfectionism it can be a really good thing if it's tied to jesus right like if you remember if you remember that regardless of whether i do everything perfectly or if i do fall short i can know that jesus isn't going to like exclude himself from me and say a man. You must stop now. Go repent and then. I'll let you back on my team. Then you can come back and we have a. It's like no. No no no no no no no jesus has with you the entire time he says matthew last verse of matthew. I'm always with you in hebrews. He says i will never leave your for. He's always by your side. One hundred percent of the time so like whenever i need somebody who has perfectionism like

mentality. I'm like hey that's a good thing. It's good to strive for perfection. That's what we're going for right but you got. That's when justification comes in clutch is that you can meet the perfection requirement now through Jesus and you can become perfect later and that's like it just eases like you can just feel that weight off your chest. It's like I don't have to be perfect right now. I'm perfect and Jesus. This is amazing right but then you strive for that perfection not to be like to earn the celestial kingdom. You do it because you just want to become better. Which that's what. We're striving to be right. So yeah that's helpful. And I think just taking opportunity with youth to articulate that dynamic of saying like you know. That's who's done really good on a test before where was Jesus in that. Was that all you or what did Jesus do in that. That effort right and doesn't matter. What the final score is depending on whether Jesus is there for you or not or whether you're worthy are accepted in these things so it's an interesting dynamic for sure next point you put down on your island. His building a relationship with Jesus Christ. We've talked this about our conversation. Anything else we added there. I mean one of my so in my book. Perfect. Christ I at the very end. I share a story. I share a story in Matthew twenty six and it's about this So Jesus at Passover and with his disciples and this woman comes in and he begins like she has alabaster box and begins anointing his feet his head like wiping her hair with his feet to clean them and then the the apostles get angry. They're like dude. Why are you letting her do this. This could have been sold and given to the poor you know Jesus was like whoa guys what she's doing a good thing and this scripture Matthew twenty six thirteen MMA try to say it off the top of my head but he's like wither so ever. The gospel is preached. This story of this woman will be told in memorial of her and that verse like just popped out what wherever. The good news is preached the gospel. Jesus Christ this story needs to be told and like I was talking with my dad. And he's like. I've been teaching the good news for twenty years. I've never taught this story. Like why would Jesus want this. So as I began to study in looking where this with the story is. It's in the same chapter as Jesus atonement. Resurrection and also at the house where they were at you had Simon who was a leper and Lazarus who was raised from the grave began wondering. Why would Jesus want this story to be taught. Rather than Simon. Being healed of leprosy or Lazarus being raised from the dead. Because I mean those seem more important than to be than this woman. Washing Jesus's feet right and then the revelation finally came and it's Jesus can say he can heal your sickness and he can raise you from the dead but his greatest gift is to forgive your sense. And that's what that woman she understood. Who Jesus was. She had a relationship with them. She loved him. She cared about him and she knew who he was. And that's just without relationship thing when you when you can get them to have a relationship with Jesus the symptoms of depression anxiety shame inadequacy they all express because there's no relationship with Jesus they don't they don't have their worth their identity found in him. It's focused on them so in. Oh I made a mistake. My identity goes down. When I don't go to church one week all now. I'm full of shame because now what are people gonna think of me like no. I don't care what others think. I only care what. Jesus thanks right when he will he says to me. You're my child. I died for you. You're worth is found in Christ it's found in his blood that he shed for you right so and that's just like the beauty of the good news is found in. That story is that the gospel isn't just knowledge to be consumed. It's a relationship that strengthens us. Because we just like to view like we go through the motions like we. Do we do these things. And then you know but the reality is like we do these things because we just we love God and we are grateful for what Jesus did for us.

00:40:01 - 00:45:03

And that's what our relationship with Jesus can do. Yeah you know what stands almost been is a listen to your your comments. There is often times when we were helping you build a relationship with Jesus. Christ we default to those behaviors. I read your scriptures. Go to seminary go to church. You know. they'll Sunday school answer. But I love how you sit. The greatest thing that Christ's does and the best way to build a relationship with him is for him to forgive our sins for us to repent right and so to put the emphasis there like that shifts. Everything up because it's more of like China about these behaviors as it is about like the reconciliation of your soul with God with Christ and so the best thing you can do is repent and so this office a better be full. And there's no shame in that and because this is where we're building a relationship with Jesus Christ because my own experience like the deepest connection it's been formed between me and in the savior is like when I was broken and I needed help I had done sightings over Greta. Same right and so if we can help. D shame and stimulated that repentance process it's going to create a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Yeah like what you were saying. Like we find him the most when we're broken when we're in the lowest of lows but then instead when we see our youth or a young adult or an adult who's like going through a tough time instead of like showing them sending them grace and forgiveness and showing them. hey let's look at the scriptures. Let's see what Jesus would do in your circumstance this because he's no respecter of persons. He's the same yesterday today and forever. So what happens here. We can apply to your life and he'll do the same for you and instead of showing them. What Jesus Grayson his forgiveness that he's extends to each one of us when we fall short instead we say okay all right since you're messing up right now won't take the sacrament. We're gonna put a pause on there. Which I want her to a little bit sometimes or go read some. I'm going to conference talks that you need to read. You need to pray more like twenty minutes a day and was just. Give them the list of do's and then don't do these things and then maybe I'll let you take the sacrament again. You know but it's like the thing that we need to be doing is like if they're striving and struggling to become more that's a sign of a broken heart contract spirit of somebody who wants to become better so like with a bishop. They have that power to like restrict the sacrament. I just want them to like just like think. And just like pondering just think is this person. Are they trying to become better. do they. Desire to follow Christ like sure. Yeah they mess up. But then think of Jonah and the book of Jonah. Shall I not spare none of. It's like well if you can't take the sacrament because she's messing up then. Technically you can't either because we all mess up and none of us can take the sacrament. Yes no you want. The sacrament is not a thing like to prove it's like. Oh yeah you see all these people in the congregation. Yep since they're all taking the sacrament worthy and then you see little Joe in the back huddled in the corner like man. I can't take the sacrament. Because I made a mistake and it's like well. Yeah you make a mistake. But it's like let them take. The sacrament invigorates their soul. It helps them come closer to Jesus. That's what we're doing. We're celebrating death and resurrection of Christ. And just what he gives to us. So it's like the sacrament. It just helps. It helps renew our covenants with God. It's just a show God. I mess up daily. But I desired become better and I know that even though I fall short you still love me. You still extend grace to me. You

tell me a. Let's just i forgive you. That's why i died. That's why i have these hands. That's why i had nail princeton my hands like just repent. Don't try to do it again and if you do it's okay i still love you. Just keep striving and struggling to become more like me. I mean if they just understand like they're standing before god doesn't change. It's not like i like to call it yoyo christian. It's like we go from where the not worthy or not worthy or they not wearing you know with justification you stay worthy. You're always perfect. In christ even though you fall short because you're in a covenant relationship with god and that's the good news to right there is that no matter how many times i fall short no matter how many times i don't read my scriptures or i make a mistake god still loves you and he sent his son so that he could have you back with them again in the celestial kingdom. You know i'm glad you bring the the sacrament dynamic. That happens a lot in especially in the context of with you it can be incredibly shaming berry. Misunderstood why this is happening and it can feel like a punishment. Right ackerman now. It's like some viewed as punishment like okay well in order to like satisfied the demands of justice of what you did. I'm not gonna let you take the sacraments like well. Jesus already satisfied the demand that justice chill out dude. Like that's the thing is when we're ever doing in the context of like. Oh well you know. Timmy needs a little time out here. That no no no like christ took the ultimate timeout. We're good there with jesus. He's already done it. He's got that. And i want to be clear that make sure people know that we're not saying there's never appropriate ships restricted in ordinance.

00:45:03 - 00:50:02

I mean there's sometimes there's time where a person's struggling just to find a routine or a rhythm in ordinance covenant keeping life and so there may be time there but if it's ever put in the context of ever understood as a punishment that's where we have right timeout. You need to fully understand. This is not to punish you. Let me talk through this because if you don't bring explanation they're going to default to thing while yeah this because under so long that that's just the default it's like yeah all right. I'm being punished for what i'm doing. It's like mold uses isn't the punisher. He doesn't punish already took the punishment right. He extends grace and forgiveness. So that that enables us and invigorates our soul to go do better. 'cause like I just like 'cause. I've watched some of my friends like they don't take the sack of to what the heck like why bishops that. I can like oak. What and then. I you go talk to him to ask him. Why was like all right. All right did just know. Jesus loves you. You've got this man some. It's alright whenever he does that. Just know that. Jesus loves you and like he doesn't judge you for what you're doing like he looks at your heart. Rate for samuel sixteen seven the lord look on the heart not the outward appearance right so it's just like if you really do desire to follow god and become better. Did your spot on dude. Just keep doing that. Just keep going all right. Yeah i love it. Love it anything else. We've sort of jumped around your a anything. Anything else you'd add. As far as reconciling grayson works. We pretty well covered that. But is there. I mean we've done. Good like with the reconciling. There's one other thing. I like just thought of so. It's like when i first came out with my book. I got a 'cause. I was sending out stuff to like podcast. Try to get on. And they were the first one that reached out to me. And i gave him a book. And i'm like okay. Read through this like and then let's have a discussion. See like if you it's an interview you want to do.

And she called man. She's like she didn't even read the book like if she did she. Skim through it because like her questions she asked were awful and like the main one she asked was. Why do you use evangelical language not like mormon language. I use grace of jesus. Christ jesus christ the atonement. 'cause i don't like just saying the atonement like an neither. Does president president innocent right and because of that like she kind of like pushed me out. I didn't even get an interview. Because i believe what the was believed that i'm saved by grace and i'm like what why it's just jumps back to like the cheap grace like we just don't understand. That works are required. A necessary like jesus doesn't just want you to save you in the just sit on the couch that's pointless that's another thing. I like to say that i came up with is that jesus came up with that. He gave me the revelation. But i put it down on paper. But it's justification without sanctification is pointless and sanctify without justification is impossible so like you break that down so you have justification being perfect in christ. It's like that's not the end. You've just begun your life as a disciple of christ you don't just now i'm good and then he just hold your hands up like a roller coaster and then just go through life and then game safe right bud your justified. So you can become sanctified. It's not that i'm justified done. I'm good no. It's jesus justifies you. So you can become like him. But then the other way around is that. You can't become sanctified without being justified because the requirement is perfection. And you can't become perfect if like we never can make it that far so it's like even hypothetically if like somebody got to ninety nine percent away from perfection. You're no better than little. Joe in the background is at one. Like you're still you're stuck you're still not gonna be able to get into the flesh canaan because it requires perfection right so it's just and that's where justification and sanctification they reconcile grayson works justification. I like it's like it's grace. It's forgiveness is when you accept christ and it's instantaneous. It can happen in an instant. That's how it works. It's like with the man on the cross. I like to see his story. When he's like lord. See me when i die. Will i see you in heaven. And he's like yep you'll be with me in paradise and like how a lot of people interpreted that it's what did you mean by paradise as you mean to spare spirit. Prison like what's gonna happen. You know and. I like to see that story. As that man on the cross he recognized who jesus was no man just says like he called jesus by name as lord and savior like nobody just says that because i mean people have the rich young man he called them. Rabbi i mean you have nicodemus. He also calls him rabbi and then eventually was born again and stuff but that man on the cross he recognized who jesus wasn't he was born again and it's like oh that's deathbed repentance. Says it isn't true. It's like we'll laborers in the vineyard man. Eleven hours are one. It doesn't matter. Jesus assistance his grace. It doesn't matter how many hours you work because you're at work doesn't get you in. Jesus gets you win so you should be grateful that this man at his deathbed accepted.

00:50:02 - 00:55:03

Jesus because when you want the same thing for yourself so it's just when you see like justification as it's instantaneous. You immediately flexible kingdom through. Jesus christ at instinctive occasion i. It's great plus works. Because i mean you can't just like say i want to become a heart surgeon and then you magically become a heart. Surgeon is the same as becoming a god. You can't say. Oh since i'm justified in. i'm perfect. I've now god because you

know. God's are perfect. No Jesus is the reason. Why your perfect so now. You have to strive struggling become to become perfect light Christ but you still gotta remember your perfection comes from Christ. Just because you're perfect doesn't mean your God now so grace is straight up justification and ingrates plus works because it requires Jesus to become like God is sancta vacation. That's awesome man. Love it anything. We haven't said as far as how do we know if we're saved. Ooh I love this fun. Yes so the one. I liked so like in the survey you have thirty. Seventy thirty percent know how we get there. Seventy percent don't so the majority don't like that's my goal. Like I teach every day just so we can chip away at that number until we get fifty fifty. And then we'll get sixty fifty sixty forty seventy thirty. Then we'll swayed around right but the main thing. How I like to teach this is with a beautiful doctrine of that little children are safe. So you say let's say you have little Jimmy. C seven and he tragically dies. So where does he go. Well we know because of doctrines and I and doctrine covenants that he's in. The highest degree of the celestial kingdom like well was little Jimmy keeping all the commandments. Was he doing was doing everything. Does he have all his ordinances done on. My goodness is he gonna make it. Yes because of Jesus. He's alive in Christ right so then you just have another example. Say okay. What if you have. A child is baptized at eight. But then he dies tragically at age nine. Now do we have to all of a sudden wonder. Like oh my gosh was he keeping his baptismal covenant was he keeping the commandments was he reading scriptures every day. Oh my gosh are we gonna lose this poor soul. No he's perfect in Christ. He's justified. he's gonna make if he believes in. Jesus Christ trust in him and he's he's alive and crises perfect out because he's doing all these things but because he's perfect in Christ and I like to me and my dad came up with this the other day and we were laughing so hard. So let's just say you have like this sociopath murder. He would be considered a murderer. He's going around. He stabbing little children when he goes to court and do. Why are you doing this. He's like are you a murderer like no. I'm a savior. I'm helping these kids get celestial glory like I'm killing them before because I was like how we view it's like once you get age eight now. It's like you're on your own hope to do your best right. Like he's killing them before eight so then they get the celestial kingdom. It's like dude. You're crazy band. You're crazy stop it. Stop killing our children. But it's like that's how we view it. It's like we're seven or you're totally fine. You're alive in Christ. it's cool. Then you get baptized and instead of becoming perfect in Christ and justified we view it as now. You're the cleanest one of the room. Now don't make a mistake or your dunzo bill like oh my goodness no no no no shit like it just turns from grace at seven and then once we turn a and get to nine ten eleven. It's like work work. Now do your best. Try your best. Just strive for excellence. But then we totally forget justification. We forget Jesus we just leave them behind in the baptism of fun. He's just in there. Chilling like dude. What the heck. I'm still here except me. Please like because essential about font turns into a sacrament table as we go to. He's there every week. Like lead your back. Let's take care of this again and come back next week. Likely just constant that way so awesome. Mitchell will your ear awesome. You know why. You're awesome. Because Jesus Christ safety that's why you're anything we're missing. Mitchell got a few more questions for you but any point or topic me. I mean just hit along the lines of the just. You are forgiven. Like you don't have to worry like if you're an active latter-day saints or if you're just an active Christian and you strive in str- like if your desire to become more like God. That's what he cares about is as dnc sixty four thirty four. the Lord require the heart and a willing mind. He doesn't say. I require all these ordinances are all these works until you get your viewed like

amazing in my eyes. It's like no. I want your heart. I want you say once he has you. Then that's when he starts to develop us it's like he doesn't wait for us to reach a certain level of obedience and then okay now i can work with you. It's like no. No no. I start with you as little little center over here and you stay center center center and then perfection. So i'm just with you the entire way and just that's why jesus died. It's like we don't have to worry. Like oh with jesus atonement good enough like 'cause like that's how we view like the after all you can do or like we do our best and jesus does the rest and i'm like well just because it rhymes doesn't make this true.

00:55:03 - 01:00:01

It's not the lego movie you know. We're not circle chubias over here but just just know that since christ atoned gives semi and died on the cross. He made it possible for you to be saved right. It's just don't worry about like it's good to be obedient. It's good to go to church. It's good to do those things but instead of doing them to be found worthy in the eyes of god. Just don't because you love him. Don't because that's what jesus does right. That's why i mean. He didn't do things when he was on the earth. Because he's like oh. I need to prove myself to my father. I need to show how amazing like no. He did it because this is my father's will i do this because i love my father and i love my children right. Yeah that's awesome in awesome. So if people wanna get access to the book or find us a where where we're reducing the we haven't said the title enough title. Full title is perfect in christ. The good news. Of god's grace and it is on amazon. It's also on amazon audible. E-book print book or you can email me. I'm we can put that in the newsletter or something my email they can email me and i can send them a book if they just give me their information they can like me ten bucks or something like art just whatever we can do to them. A book called do it won't link to it and make sure that people have access to end and when you read it like if you didn't if you gave the book to someone and and told them in did not tell them anything about the author's age they would assume that a forty year old scholar the book like cell by. Yeah yeah if they don't age they will have no clue and then they go to the back about the author's years. Seventeen frick like dang dude. But then don't go to your children and say hey be like this mitchell kid be him and i'm like no no no no no no no stop it stop it. I'm not what what would you say to like some youth it or maybe you have an interest in writing or visit there. Is this like this wonderful process of writing the where you learn more about what you write about health. Amazing someone does wanna right to what encouragement which again just tone well. I always ask the question. What my dad's taught me. It's like asked the question. God what do you want me to do for what today. What is there what you want me to do. And then you just be still and know that i got some forty six tenths be still listen and then go through your day and then like i received like revelation for my books like while i'm at work in like oh cool. Write that down rufus. I don't forget so it's just right and just remember. Writing is a process takes time. And just like you're just the you're just the scribe. Jesus is the author. He does all the idea brainstorming like he gives all the ideas to you eventually through revelation after you study and everything but you're just described so that's also the thing with whatever you do. You're an instrument in god's hands so like if you don't wanna be a writer. Hey i don't care. I'm not gonna like judge you or something it's like you go find your god god-given go find your god given. What is your god given mission. And then just ask. God god what you want me to do. And he's just

keep searching yearning for that and then eventually he'll give it to you know you'll be like wow this is awesome and then you're just gonna you're gonna love what you do because it's what god wants you to do so mitchell the last question i have for you. You're in a room full of youth and would encourage. Would you give him about the doctrine of grace. Oh man i would. I say my favorite scripture romans five eight while we were yet sinners christ died for us. And it's just like we always get from our leaders to like. We were saying throughout the entire thing. They want us to be obedient. They want us to do all these things right. They want us to go to church. And it's like yeah. I don't geiss. Our leaders aren't here to punish us. They want us to do these things because they love us and because they know what they'll do for us but it's also like remember what jesus did. It's like whenever you make a mistake. Don't be like oh crap. I have to talk to the bishop. I have confess my sins. It's like well if it's that bad mean. Yeah but the bishop it. He's supposed to represent jesus and jesus is full of grace and mercy and is there's a scripture says my arms are they're always open right his arms are always open to receive you so it's like instead of viewing your leaders or jesus as a punisher view as he's a consoler. He's your counselor each there for you and whatever you do it's okay. Jesus unconditional love. And i'd also. I mean i teach them are might say might use the parable of the bicycle. And it's like whenever you fall off a bike at like seven and it's like it hurts right. Yeah but who comes running to your side your parents they come and help you. They bind your wounds and the same with jesus whenever you fall short. He doesn't like runaway or like look through the window and he's like oh my goodness billy why you fall off your bike you idiot. Why would you do that you know. That's not good. Don't wanna fall off your bike. It's like no he runs to your side and he helped we wound.

01:00:01 - 01:01:37

He comforts used as. Hey it's okay. I died on the cross for you. I forgive your sins. it's okay. don't be discouraged. I'm here for you and he's just like just repent and just try your best but don't try your best to be worthy. Try your best because you love me. Right is just and then just the main thing is just just know that jesus loves you. Regard just know that he is by your side constantly. He's always there for you. It's not like he's only there when you're obedient or when you're at a certain level of obedience now he's always there. That concludes my interview with mitchell. Taylor definitely check out his book. Perfect in christ the good news of god's grace of old link to it in the show. So you have that available to you and would you please share this. With other youth that you know or youth leaders or bishops like this is such a phenomenal interview to help articulate the gospel of grace of the doctrine of grace in the communication style of youth. Right and mitchell does such a great job just speaking to them and and tying them clueless and speaking in examples of of their real world so big shutout mitchell the good work he does. There's a mission present somewhere in the world that is going to be blessed by having mitchell in their mission fisher so getting shared this with you and that helps us Get the message out about what we do. At leading saints in echoes people. The more of this content and remember text the word lead to four seven four seven four seven in order to access the three most popular sessions of the liberating saints library.

