

# Romans







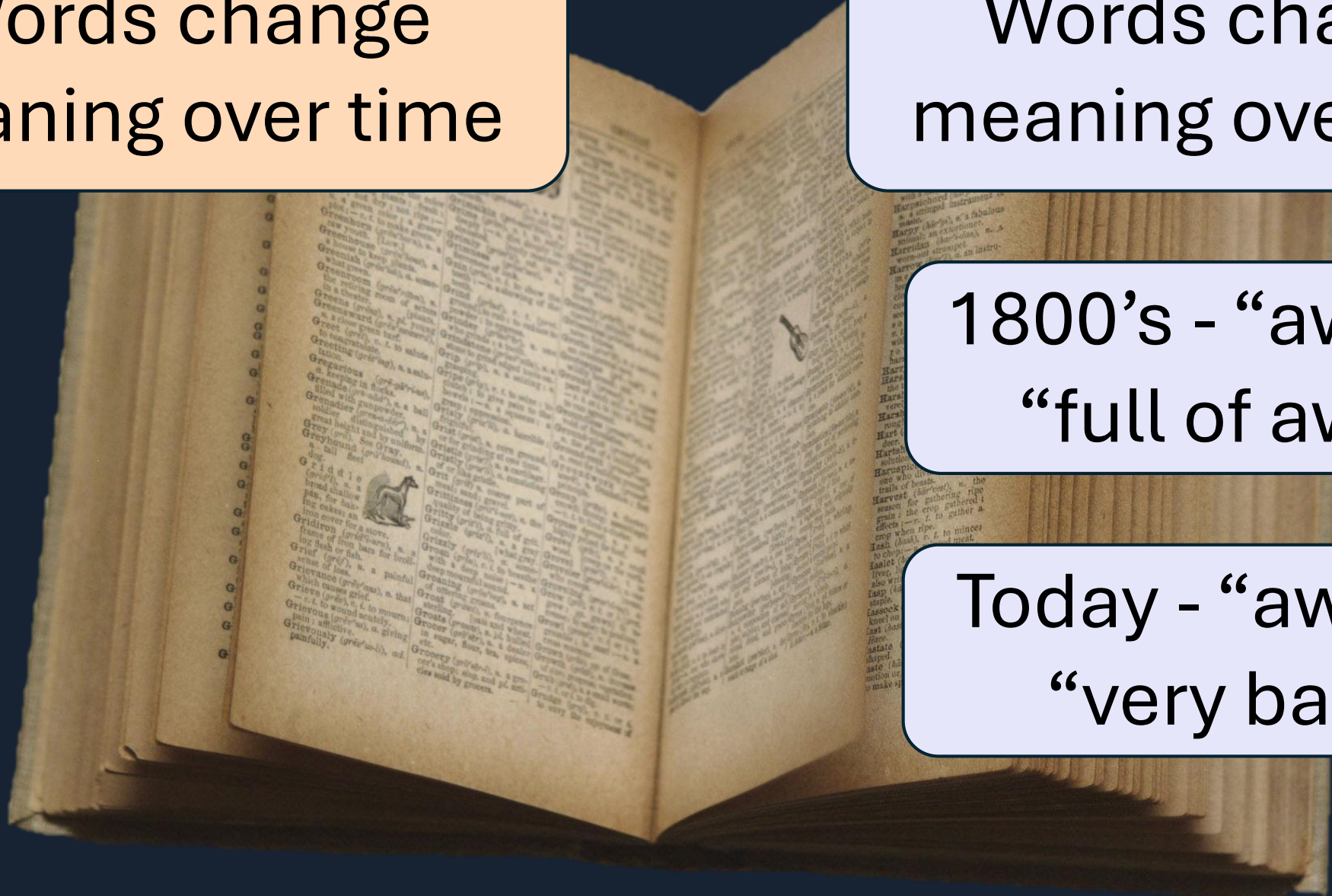
Having “fun”?

Words change  
meaning over time

Words change  
meaning over time

1800's - "awful":  
"full of awe"

Today - "awful":  
"very bad"





# English Words: American vs. British Meanings



Chips  
please



# English Words: American vs. British Meanings



That's  
quite  
good!



Two words we  
need to get right!

nine

9

SIX

“Flesh”:  
“Body? Physical desires?”

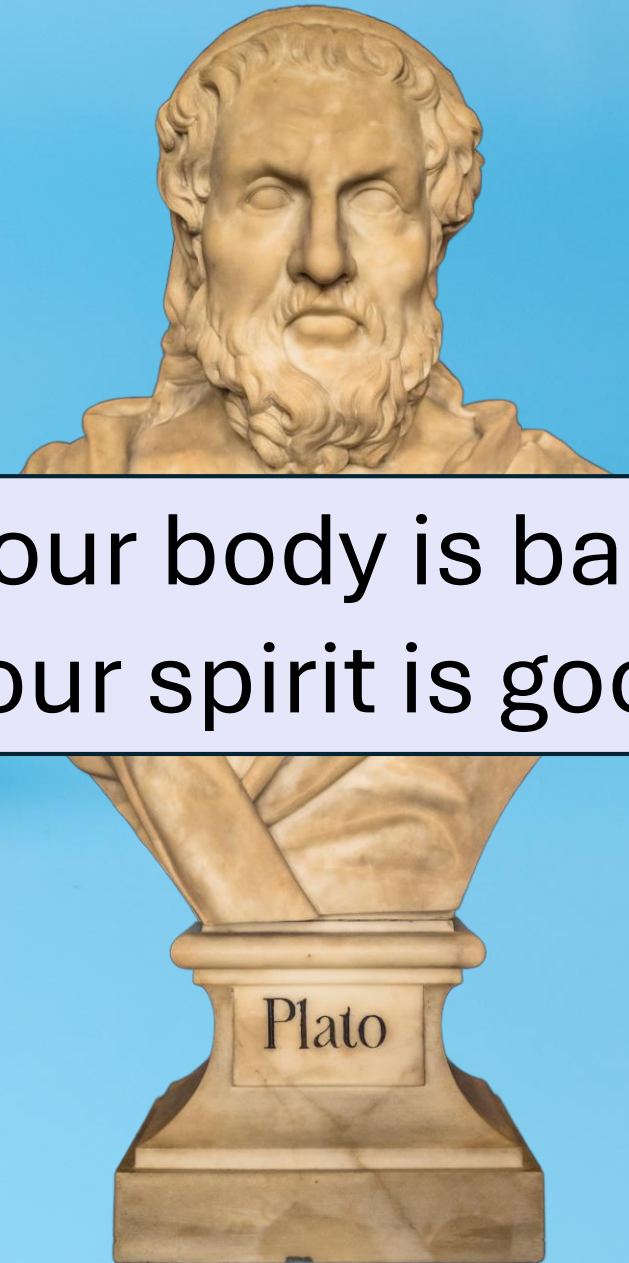
“Spirit”:  
“Soul? Non-physical part?”



Get these *wrong*  
and...

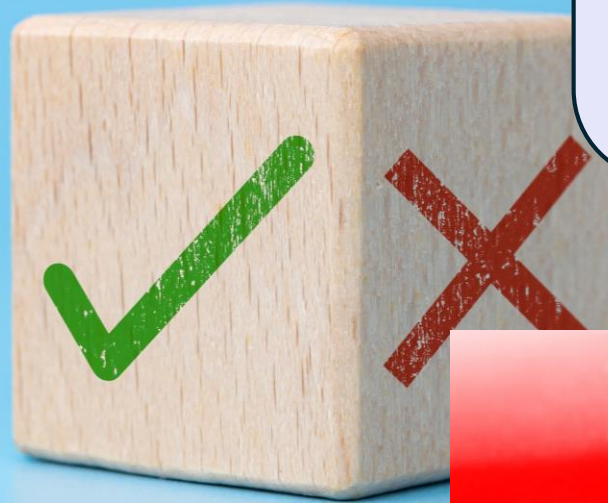


Your body is bad;  
your spirit is good



Get these *wrong*  
and...

Physical things  
are evil;  
spiritual things  
are righteous



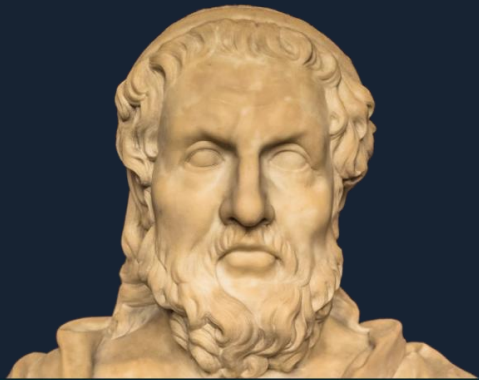
*kos* relating to *k*  
**Gnosticism** / 'n  
GNOSTICS (see u

Get these *wrong*  
and...

Escape the body  
to be holy



# That's NOT what Paul means AT ALL!!!



Plato

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GNOSTICS (see v



1

The Foundation: Romans 8:1-4

2

The Definitions: “Flesh” “Spirit”

3

The Chiasm: Romans 8:5-8

1

The Foundation: Romans 8:1-4

Rom. 8:1

There is therefore now  
no condemnation for  
those who are in Christ  
Jesus.

Rom. 8:1


Οὐδὲν ἄρα νῦν  
κατάκριμα τοῖς ἐν  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

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**κατάκριμα** τοῖς ἐν  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.



Both are  
true!

Legally: You're  
declared righteous

Experientially: You  
have life and peace

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Rom. 8:1

Οὐδὲν ἄρα νῦν  
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Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.



Tom Wright: Don't miss  
out on the life-giving  
aspect of no  
condemnation!



Rom. 8:1

There is therefore now  
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Jesus.

Rom. 8:1

Οὐδὲν ἄρα νῦν  
**κατάκριμα** τοῖς ἐν  
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Rom. 8:2

For the law of the Spirit  
of life has set you free  
in Christ Jesus from the  
law of sin and death.

Rom. 8:2

ὁ γὰρ νόμος τοῦ  
πνεύματος τῆς ζωῆς ἐν  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ  
ἠλευθέρωσέν σε ἀπὸ τοῦ  
νόμου τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ  
τοῦ θανάτου.

Law of sin  
and death  
(Adamic  
system)



Law of the  
Spirit of life  
(Messianic  
system)

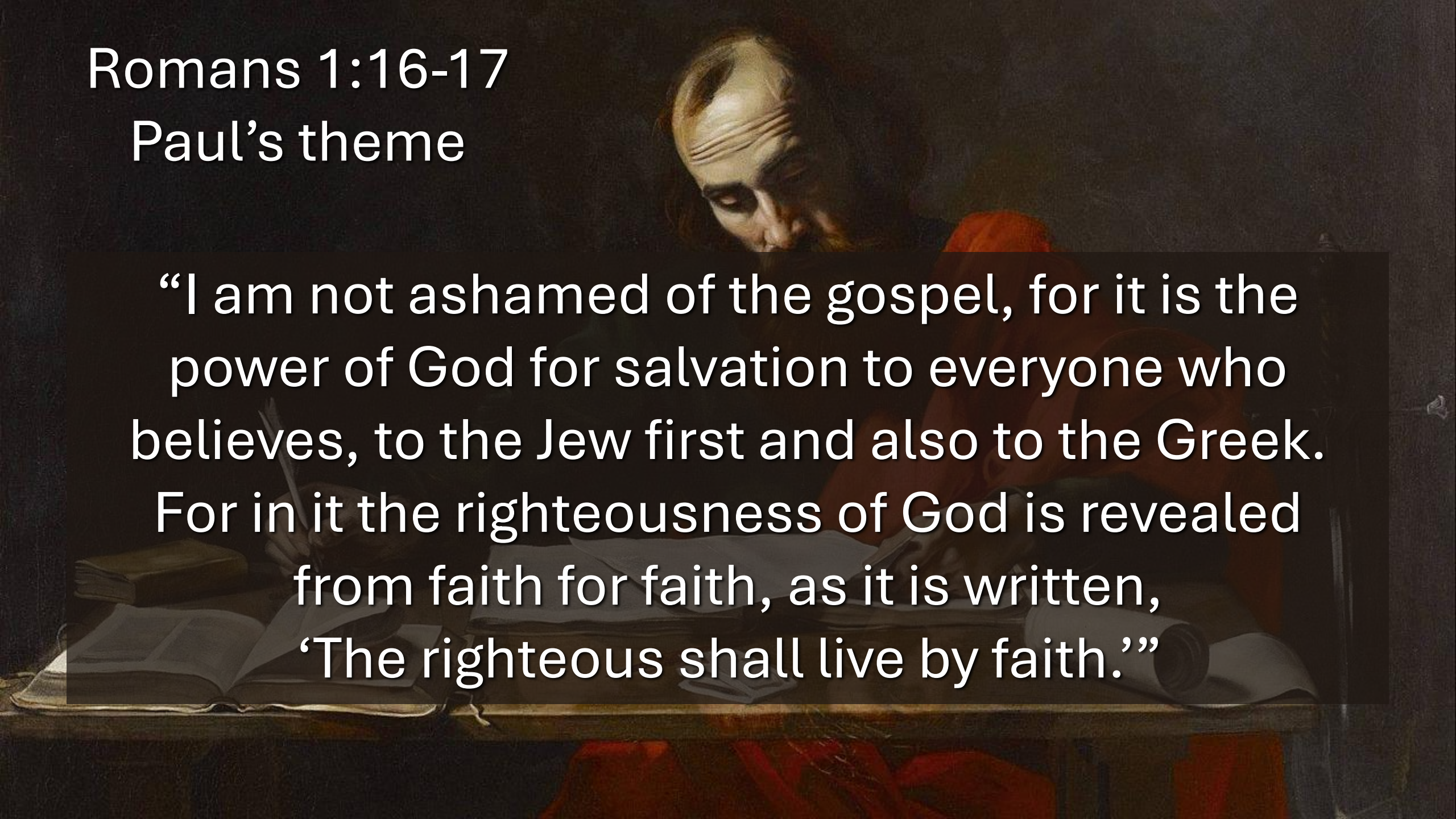
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τοῦ θανάτου.

*ēleutherōsen* • Verb form (aorist) stresses  
(ἠλευθέρωσέν) • the completed action

A painting of a man, likely Paul, writing at a desk. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a red garment. He has a beard and is looking down at his work. On the desk in front of him are several books, scrolls, and a quill pen. The background is dark and indistinct.

Romans 1:16-17

Paul's theme

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

Rom. 8:2

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Rom. 8:3

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom. 8:3

Τὸ γὰρ ἀδύνατον τοῦ νόμου ἐν ᾧ ἡσθένει διὰ τῆς σαρκός, ὁ θεὸς τὸν ἑαυτοῦ υἱὸν πέμψας ἐν ὁμοιώματι σαρκὸς ἁμαρτίας καὶ περὶ ἁμαρτίας κατέκρινεν τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ἐν τῇ σαρκί,



You can give  
me perfect  
instructions



I can  
understand



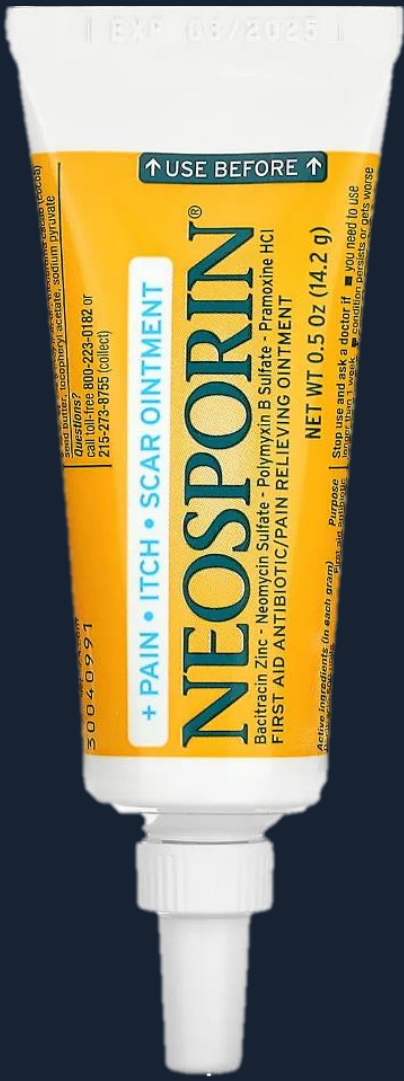
But I still  
can't do it!

Rom. 8:3

For God has done what the law, weakened by the **flesh**, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

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*permpō* •  
(πέμπω) •

To dispatch someone usually for purposes of

πεςπ,

communication

Rom. 8:3

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Rom. 8:4

in order that the  
righteous requirement  
of the law might be  
fulfilled in us, who walk  
not according to the  
flesh but according to  
the Spirit.

Rom. 8:4

ἵνα τὸ δικαίωμα τοῦ  
νόμου πληρωθῇ ἐν ἡμῖν  
τοῖς μὴ κατὰ σάρκα  
περιπατοῦσιν ἀλλὰ κατὰ  
πνεῦμα.

*plēroō*  
(πληρόω): To fill or fulfill



God's goal –

**NOT:**

Lower the standard

Excuse our failure

Pretend  
righteousness  
doesn't matter

God's goal **WAS:**

FULFILL what the  
law required

1

The Foundation: Romans 8:1-4

2

The Definitions: “Flesh” “Spirit”

Rom. 8:4

in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

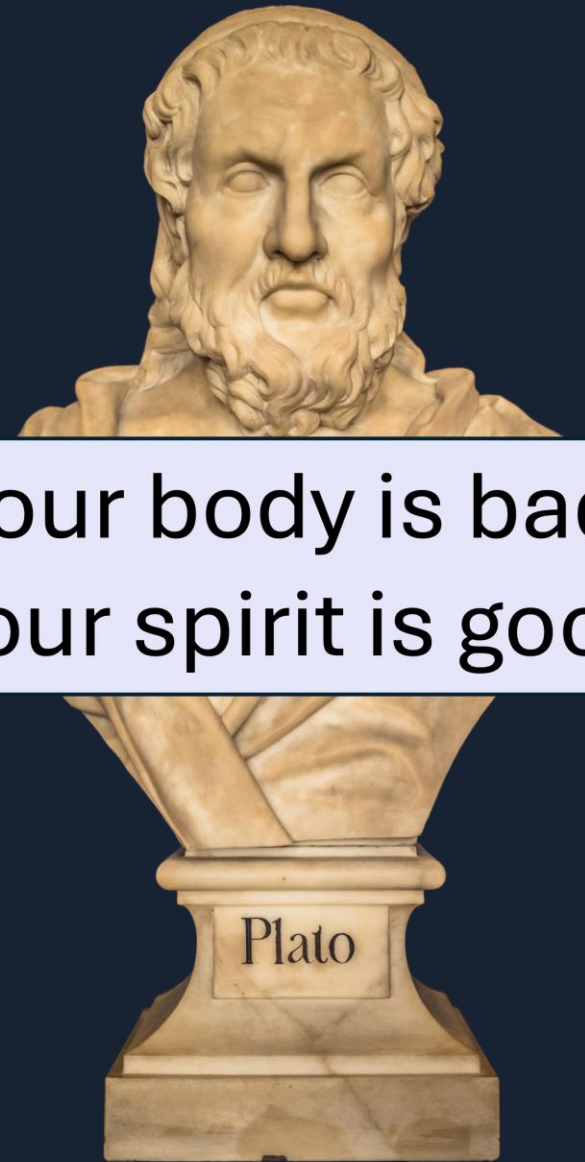
Rom. 8:4

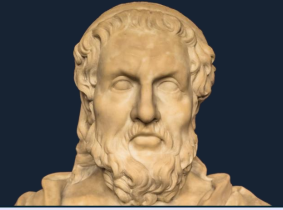
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*sarx*  
(σάρξ) : Flesh



Your body is bad;  
your spirit is good





Your body is bad;  
good

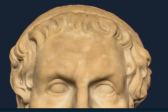
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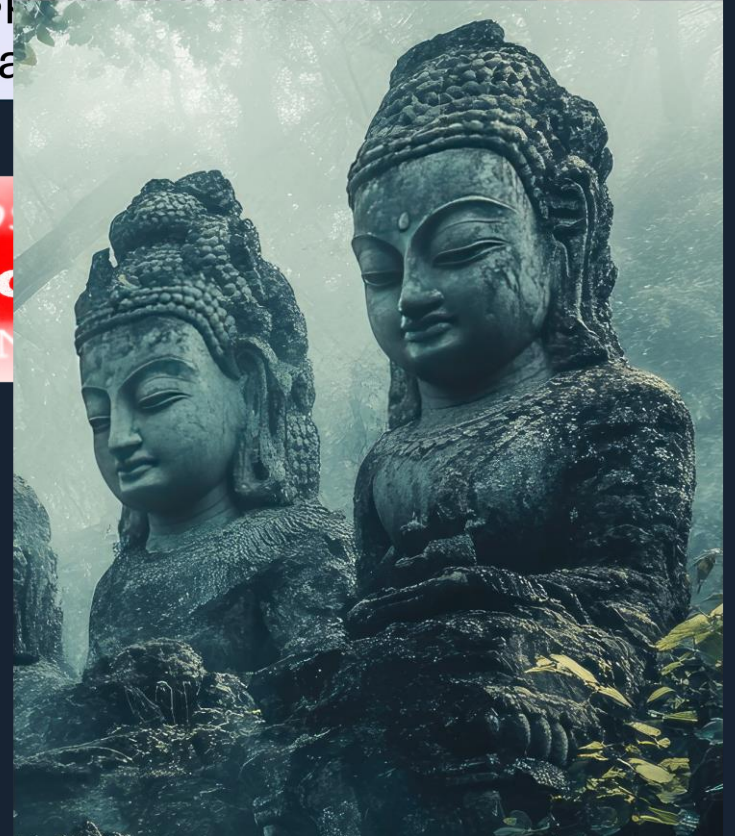
Escape the body  
to be holy

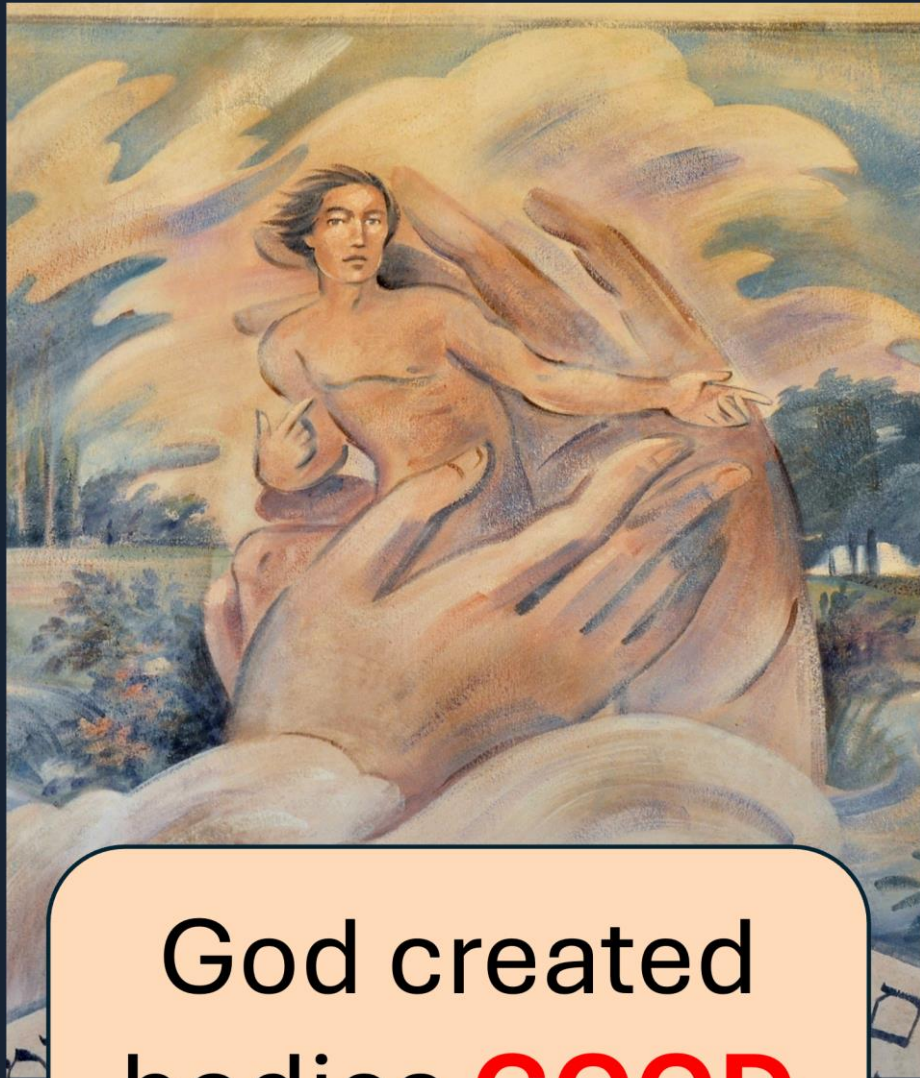
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spiritual things  
&



Plato

ko  
Gno  
Gn





Physical things are evil; spiritual things are righteous



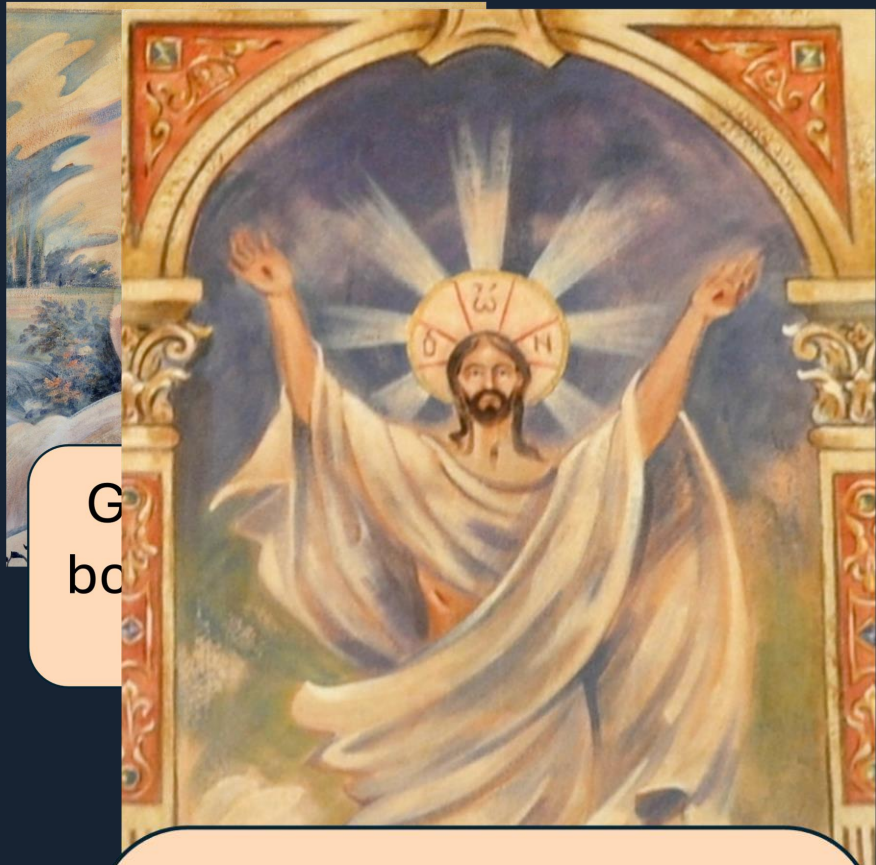
Your body is bad; your spirit is good

*kos relativ*  
**Gnosticism**  
GNOSTICS (see 1

Escape the body to be holy

God created bodies **GOOD**  
Gen. 1:31





G  
bo

Jesus was  
resurrected  
**BODILY**  
Lk 24:39



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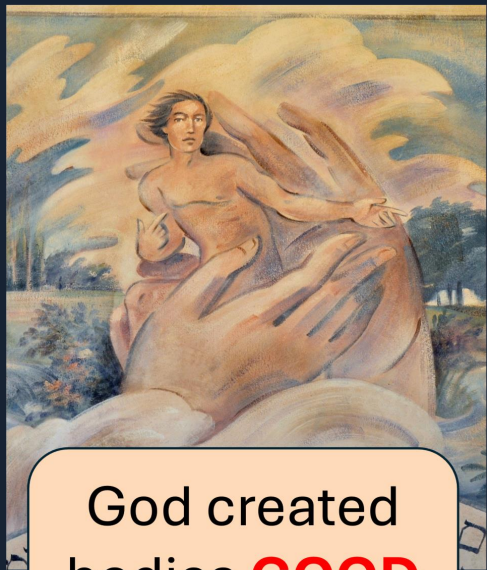
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We will be resurrected **BODILY**  
1 Cor. 15

*kos relating*  
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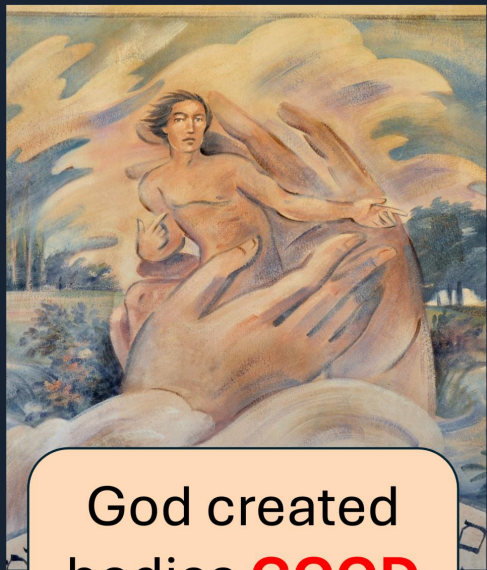
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The goal isn't  
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body but  
**redeeming** it!

*kos* relating  
**Gnosticism**  
GNOSTICS (see 1)

Escape the body  
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God created  
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Gen. 1:31



Jesus was  
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Lk 24:39



**NOT** Physical  
desires or  
needs

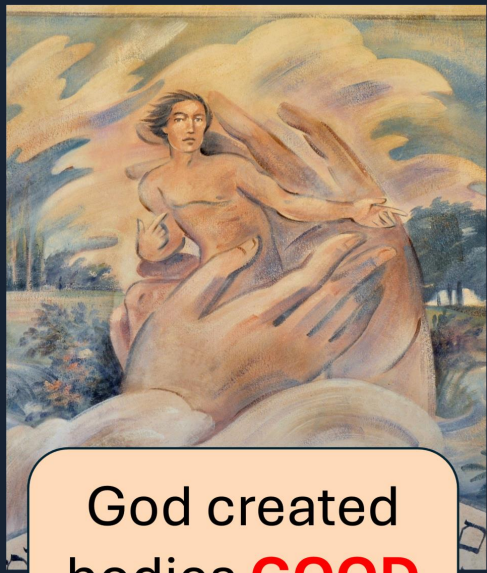


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The goal isn't  
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These can be **used** by  
the flesh, but aren't  
inherently sinful



God created bodies **GOOD**  
Gen. 1:31



Jesus was resurrected **BODILY**  
Lk 24:39



**NOT** dividing physical from spiritual



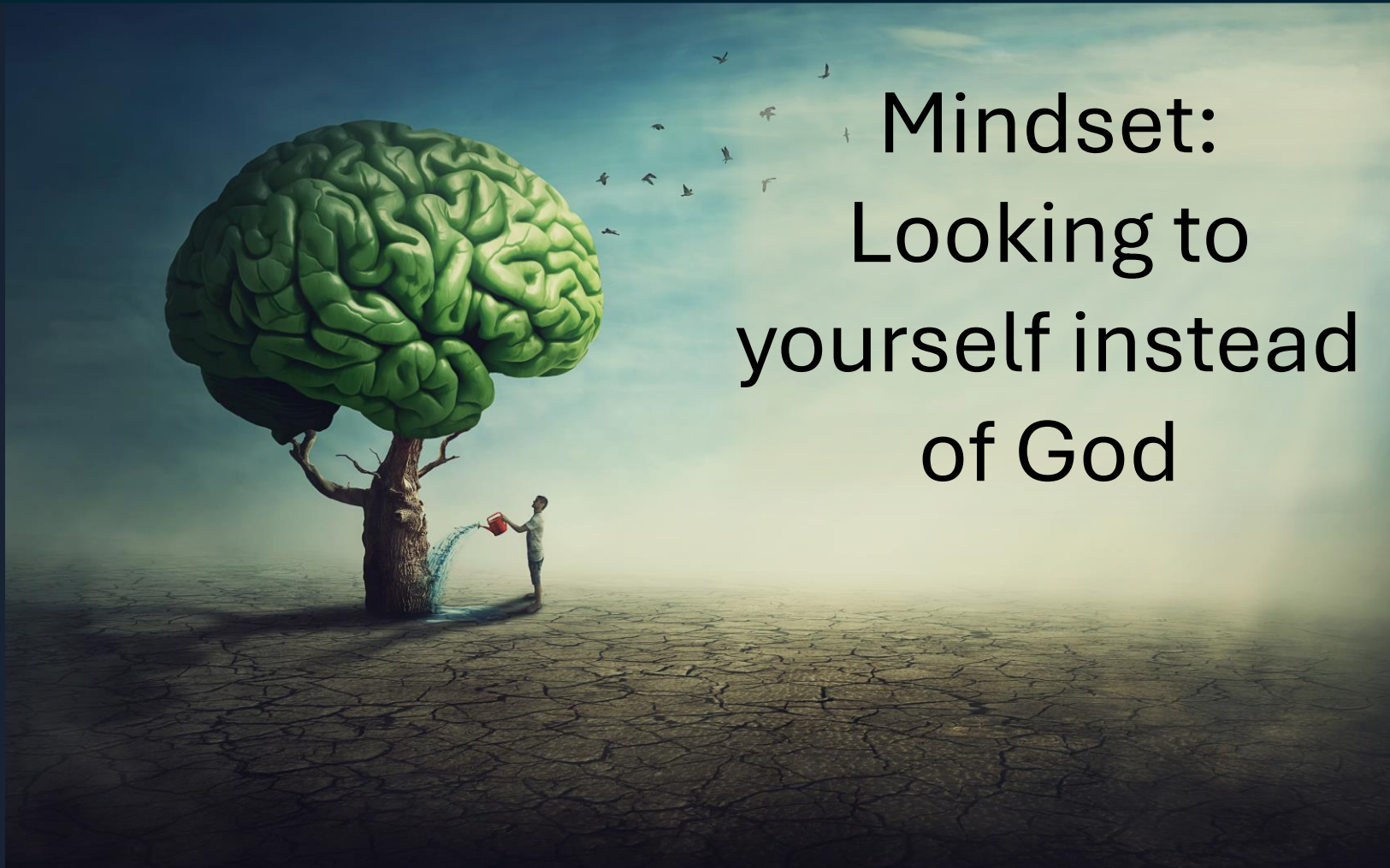
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The goal isn't escaping the body but **redeeming** it!

"Flesh" (σάρξ) in Romans 8 means:  
Life oriented away from God,  
lived in reliance on human ability  
apart from God's Spirit,  
existence characterized by self-  
sufficiency and rebellion against God.



"Flesh" (σάρξ) is not what you are  
(a body), but how you live (an orientation)!



Mindset:  
Looking to  
yourself instead  
of God

"Flesh" (σάρξ) is not what you are  
(a body), but how you live (an orientation)!



Disposition:  
Independence  
from God

"Flesh" (σάρξ) is not what you are  
(a body), but how you live (an orientation)!

Operating  
system: Running  
on human  
power instead of  
divine power



"Flesh" (σάρξ) is not what you are  
(a body), but how you live (an orientation)!



“Flesh” can  
seem very  
religious!  
(Phil. 3:3-6)



Envy (entirely internal)

Anger fits  
(Emotional)

Works of  
the flesh  
(Gal. 5:19-21)

Enmity, strife, jealousy  
(Relational)

Sexual  
immorality  
(Physical)

Idolatry  
(Religious)

Rom. 8:3

For God has done what the law, weakened by the **flesh**, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

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ἵνα τὸ δικαίωμα τοῦ νόμου πληρωθῇ ἐν ἡμῖν τοῖς μὴ κατὰ σάρκα περιπατοῦσιν ἀλλὰ κατὰ πνεῦμα.

*pneuma*  
(πνεῦμα) : Spirit

Think of "Spirit" (πνεῦμα) as:  
Life empowered by God's Holy Spirit,  
existence characterized by dependence  
on God, living in the new reality of  
resurrection power.





“Spirit”:

It's not **what** you are  
(disembodied soul),  
but **how** you live! (Led  
and empowered by God

“Spirit” (πνεῦμα) as:  
God's Holy Spirit  
(most uses in  
Romans 8)



“Spirit” (πνεῦμα) as:  
Your human spirit

NEVER just the  
“non-physical  
part of you!

Close text to you  
the meaning  
(R's]βi5t'9, 10)



Why does  
this matter?



If you understand:

“flesh” = self-reliant orientation

“spirit” = God-dependent life

You'll read Romans 8 as:

“Stop relying on yourself;  
start depending  
on God!”

If you read:

“flesh” = body and  
“spirit” = (non-body)

You'll read Romans 8 as:

"Suppress your body,  
cultivate your soul."



The question isn't: Is this activity physical or spiritual?  
The question is: Am I relying on myself or on God?



1

The Foundation: Romans 8:1-4

2

The Definitions: “Flesh” “Spirit”

3

The Chiasm: Romans 8:5-8



Tom Wright  
identifies a  
“chiasm” in  
Romans 8:5-8

Rom. 8:5

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Rom. 8:5

οἱ γὰρ κατὰ σάρκα ὄντες  
τὰ τῆς σαρκὸς  
φρονοῦσιν, οἱ δὲ κατὰ  
πνεῦμα τὰ τοῦ  
πνεύματος.

Rom. 8:6

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:6

τὸ γὰρ φρόνημα τῆς  
σαρκὸς θάνατος, τὸ δὲ  
φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος  
ζωὴ καὶ εἰρήνη

Rom. 8:7

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom. 8:7

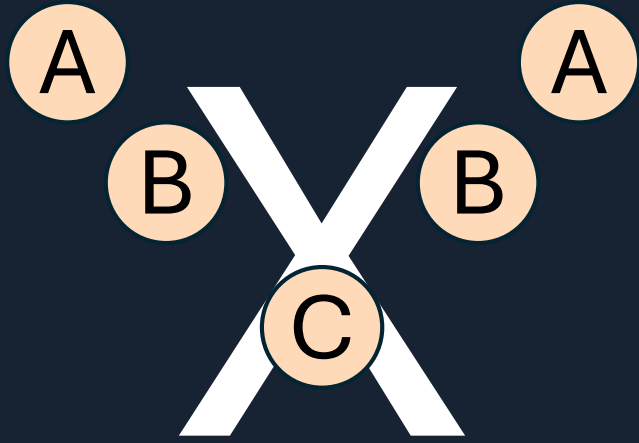
διότι τὸ φρόνημα τῆς σαρκὸς ἔχθρα εἰς θεόν, τῷ γὰρ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑποτάσσεται, οὐδὲ γὰρ δύναται.

Rom. 8:8

Those who are in the  
flesh cannot please  
God.

Rom. 8:8

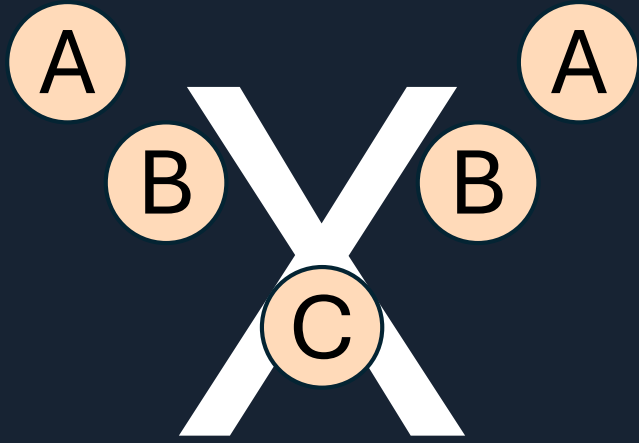
οἱ δὲ ἐν σαρκὶ ὄντες θεῷ  
ἀρέσαι οὐ δύνανται.



A Greek “Chi”

A “chiasm” is an ancient literary device where ideas are presented in one order, then repeated in reverse order

A - B - C - B - A



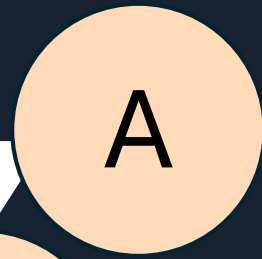
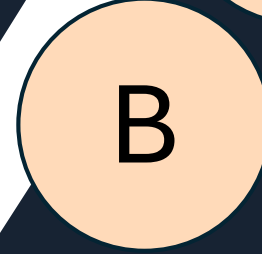
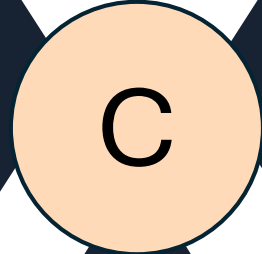
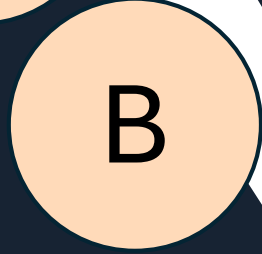
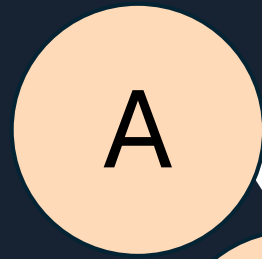
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A - B - C - B - A

A - 2 kinds of  
people (8:5,8)

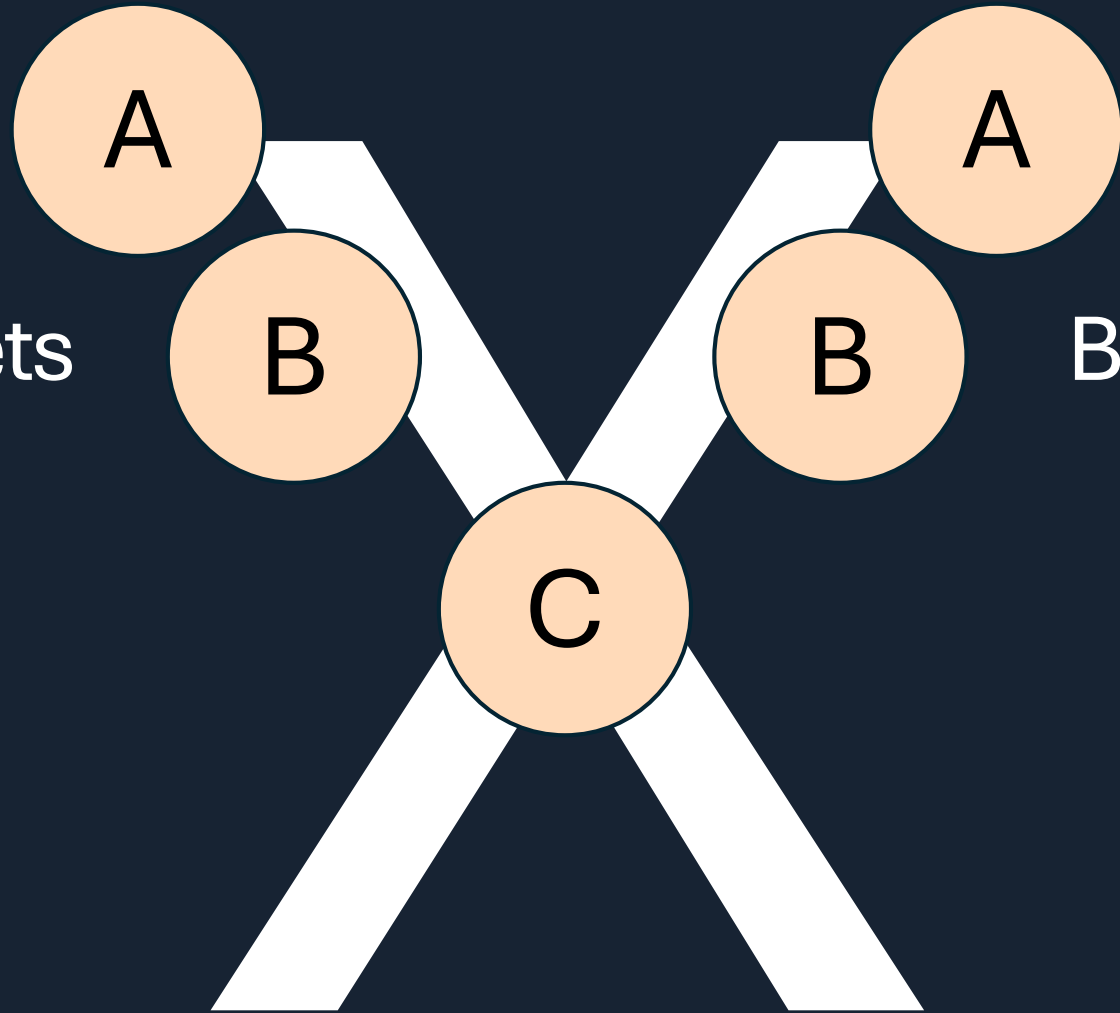
B - 2 Mindsets  
(8:5, 7)



A - 2 kinds of  
people (8:5,8)

B - 2 Mindsets  
(8:5, 7)

C - 2 Outcomes  
(8:6)



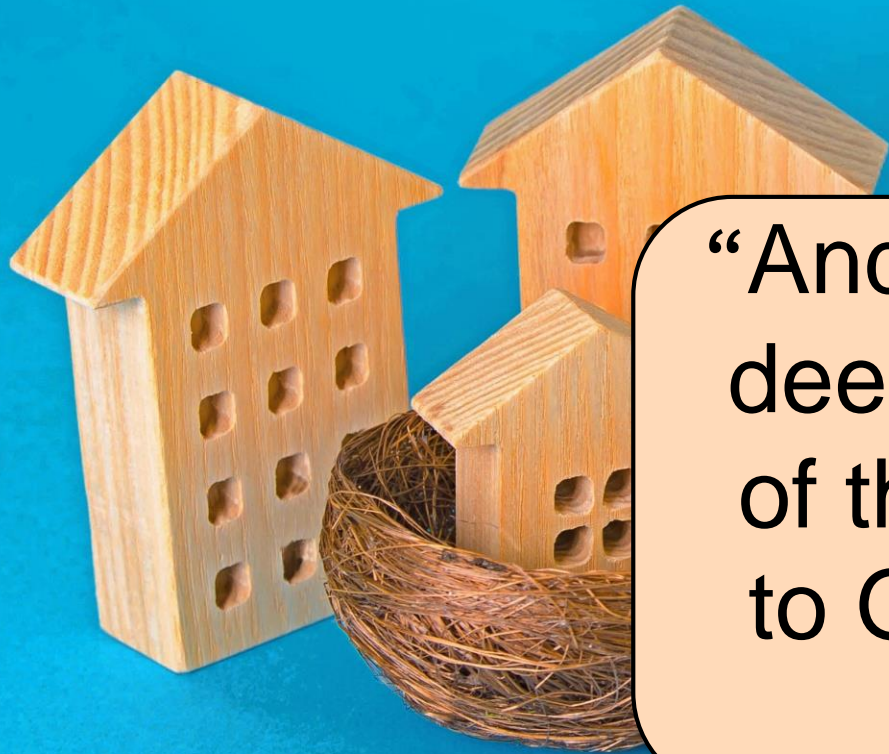
Rom. 8:6

For to set the mind on the **flesh** is death, but to set the mind on the **Spirit** is life and peace.

Rom. 8:6

τὸ γὰρ φρόνημα τῆς **σαρκὸς** θάνατος, τὸ δὲ φρόνημα τοῦ **πνεύματος** ζωὴ καὶ εἰρήνη

# Points for Home



Don't ask "Is this physical or spiritual?"

Ask "Am I relying on myself or God?"

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"

(Col. 3:17)

# Points for Home



Check your mindset!

“Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit”  
(Rom. 8:5)

# Points for Home



Stop serving God in  
flesh-mode!

Flesh-mode "cannot submit  
to God's law" and "cannot  
please God" (Rom. 8:7-8)

Pray: "Spirit, empower me  
to do what I cannot do in  
my own strength"

# Romans

