

# Romans



Have you ever noticed how two people  
can look at the exact same situation and  
see it completely differently?

What do you see?



Blindfolded:  
Doesn't smell:  
"It looks like a clear, colorless liquid,"  
"The glass is completely empty!"  
"A large amount of water is on the way!"

Same facts.  
Different perspectives.  
Different responses.



Gardener:

“Perfect! My plants  
will thrive!”

Same rain.

4 completely different reactions  
based on perspective



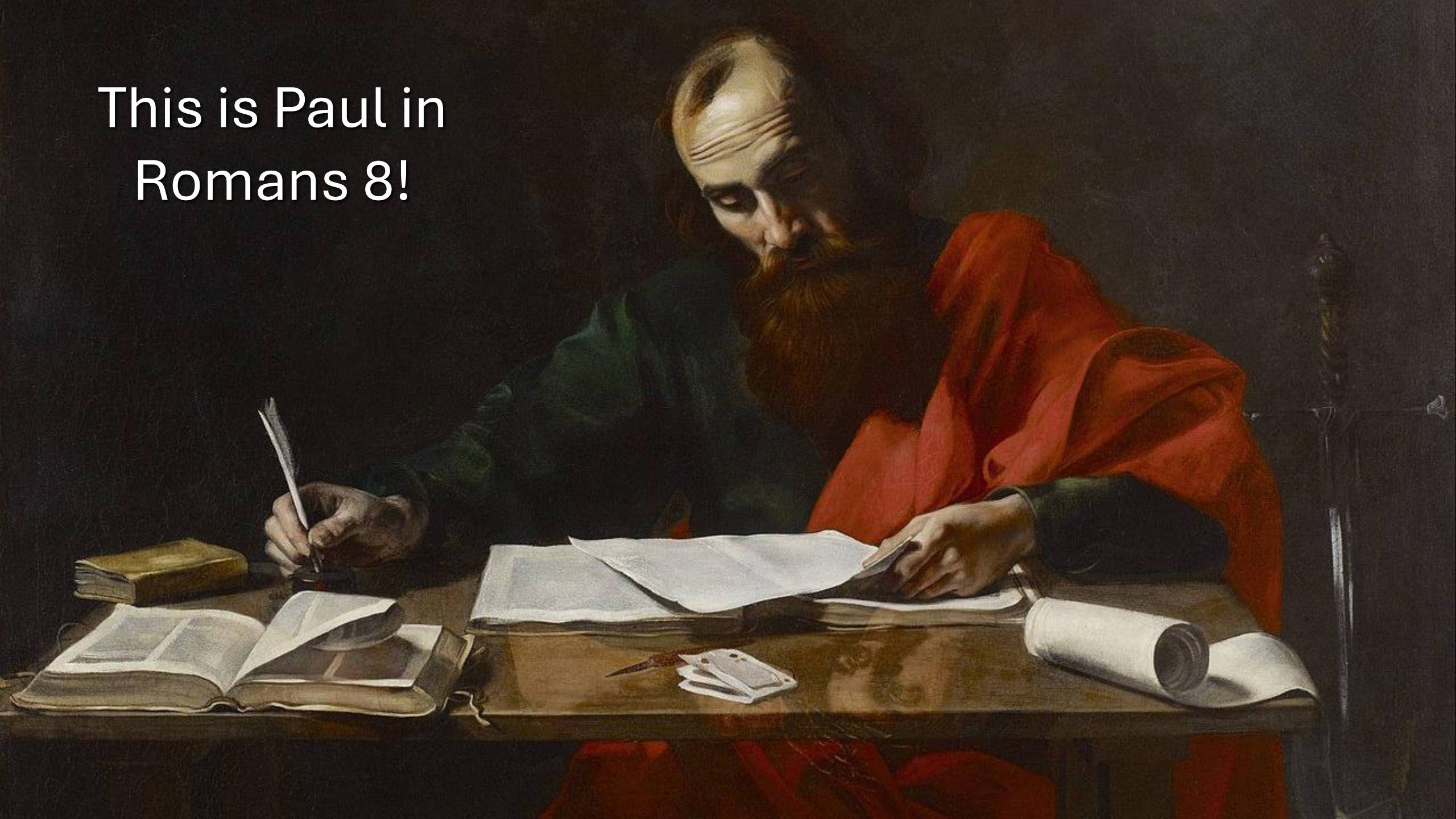
PED XING

Albion St

ONEWAY

Same evidence.  
Different frameworks.  
Different conclusions.

This is Paul in  
Romans 8!



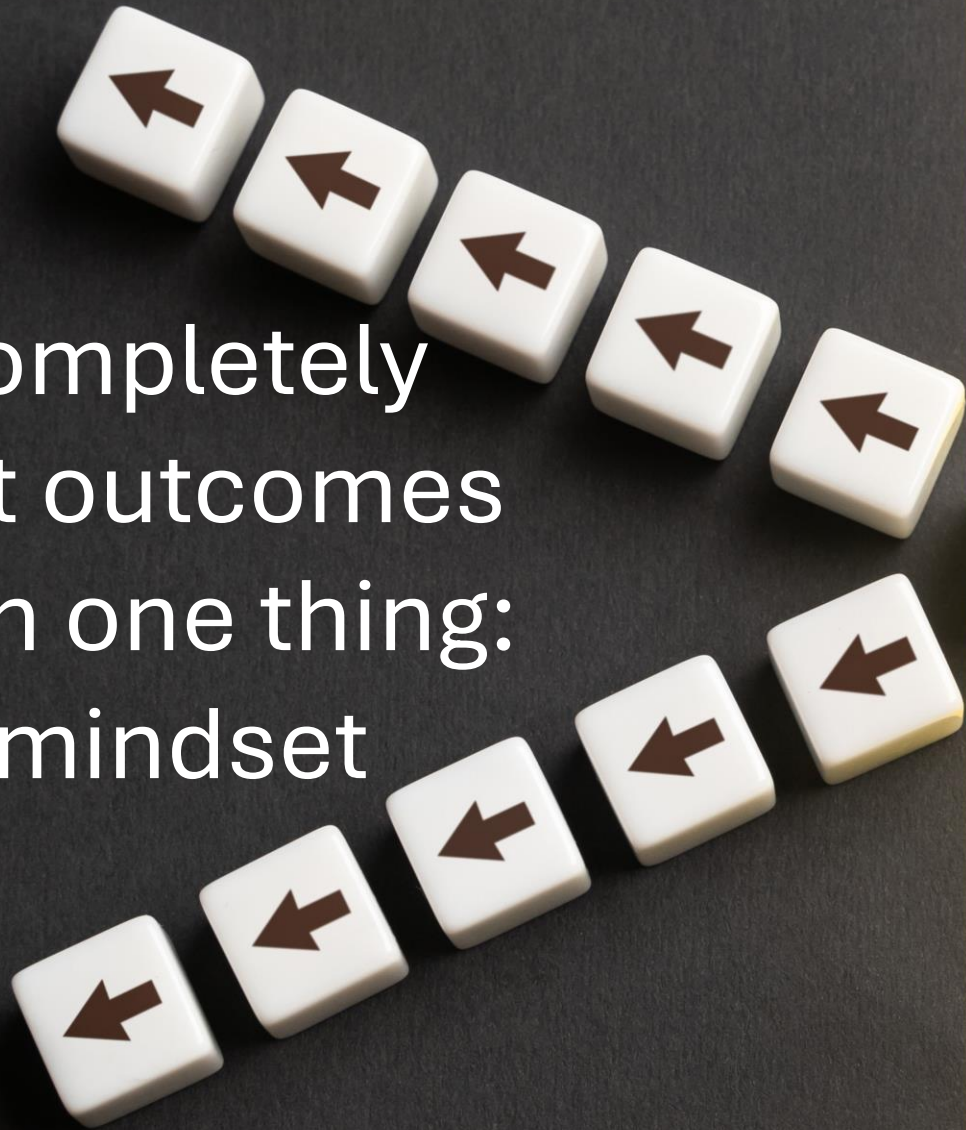


Everything  
depends on your  
framework, your  
mindset...



Same circumstances.  
Same challenges.  
Same temptations.

Two completely  
different outcomes  
based on one thing:  
your mindset





The Foundation: Rom. 8:1-4



The Chiasm: Rom. 8:5-8



The Identification: Rom. 8:9-11



The Foundation: Rom. 8:1-4



The Chiasm: Rom. 8:5-8



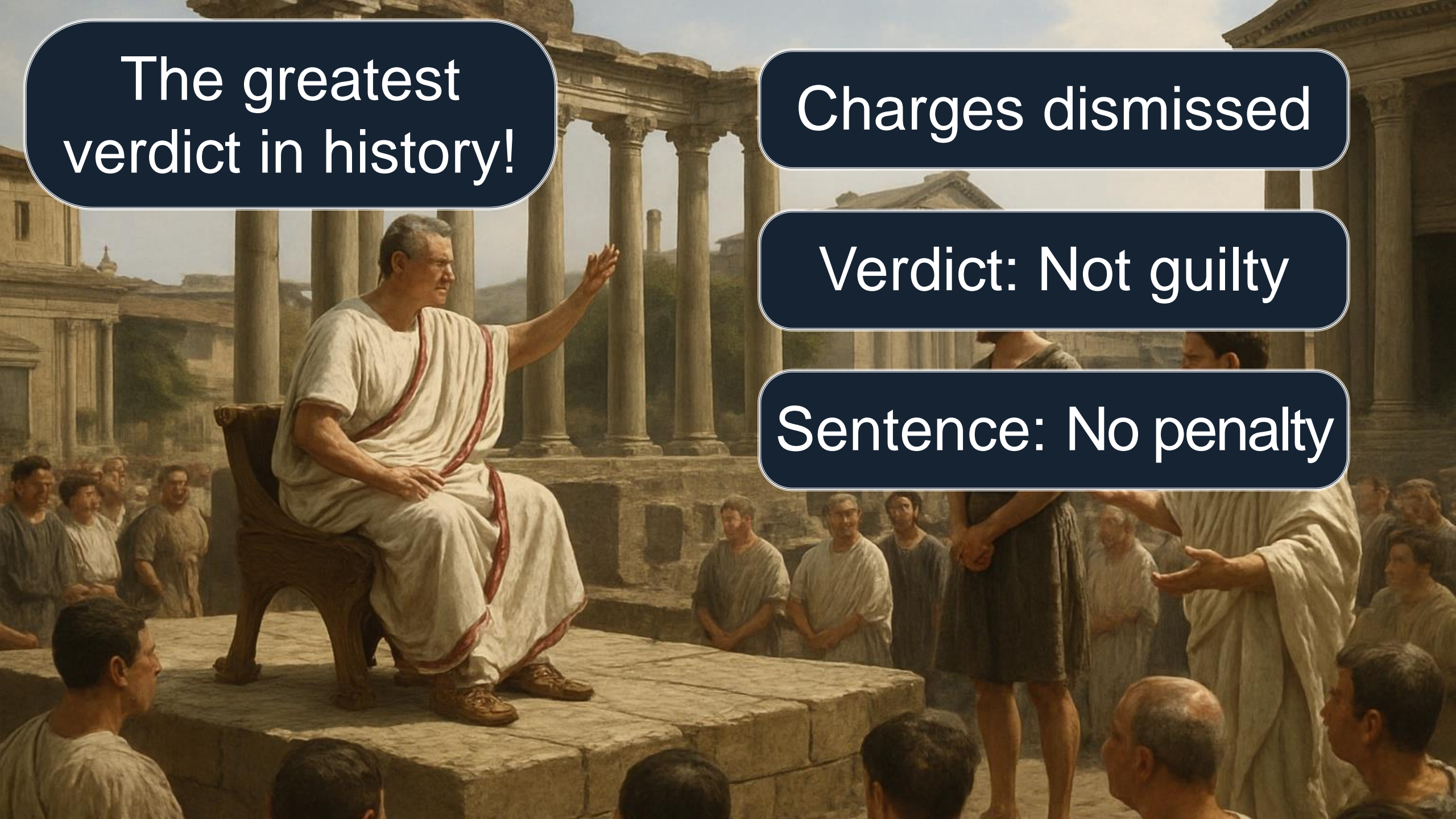
The Identification: Rom. 8:9-11

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.



The greatest  
verdict in history!

Charges dismissed

Verdict: Not guilty

Sentence: No penalty

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)



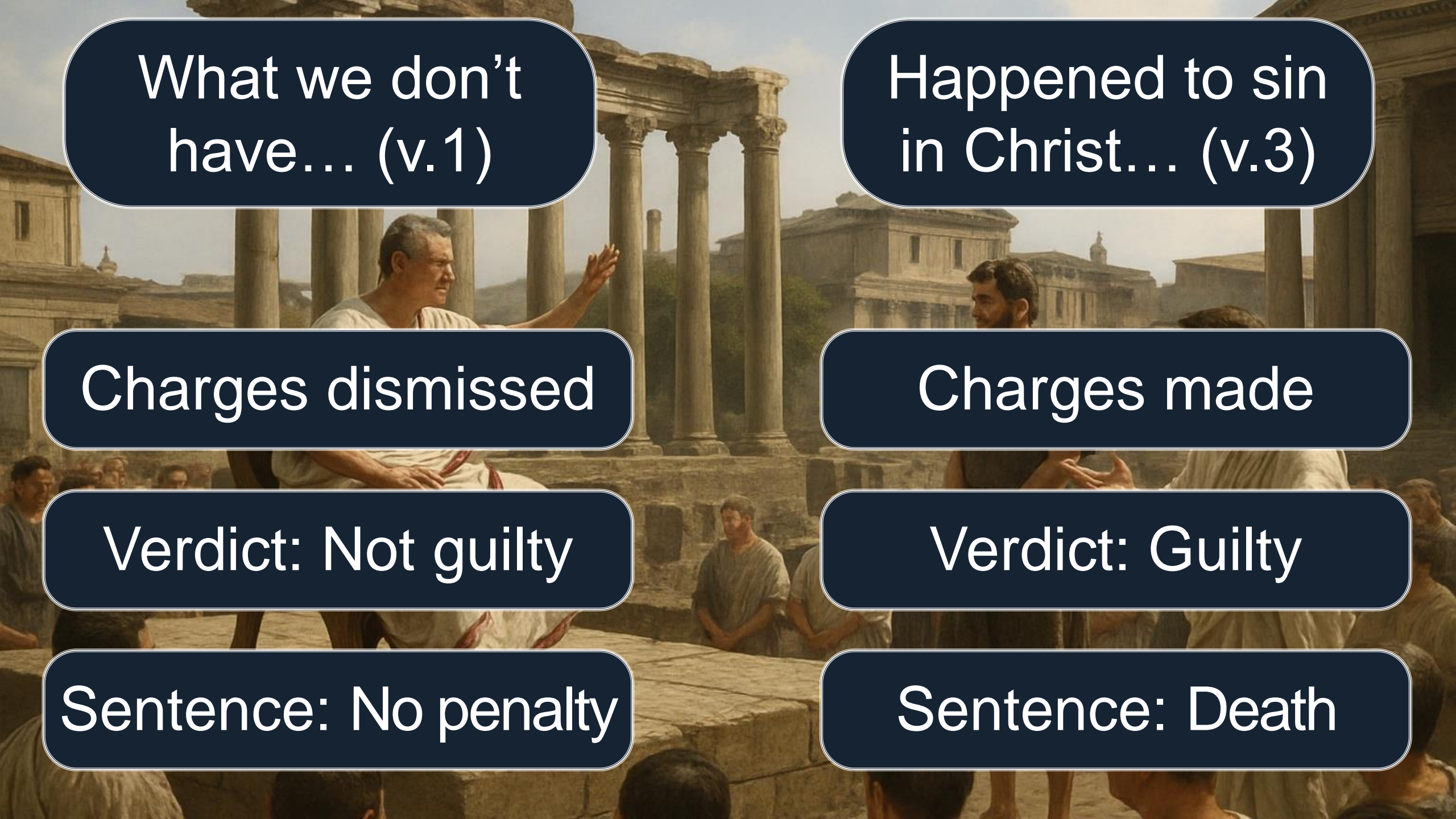
Law of the  
Spirit of life  
(Messianic  
system)

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,



What we don't  
have... (v.1)

Charges dismissed

Verdict: Not guilty

Sentence: No penalty

Happened to sin  
in Christ... (v.3)

Charges made

Verdict: Guilty

Sentence: Death

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.



God's goal –

**NOT:**

Lower the standard

Excuse our failure

Pretend  
righteousness  
doesn't matter

God's goal **WAS:**

FULFILL what the  
law required

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.

*sarx*  
(σάρξ) : Flesh

# Two ways of living



According to the  
flesh (Self-reliance)

According to the Spirit  
(God-dependent)



The Foundation: Rom. 8:1-4

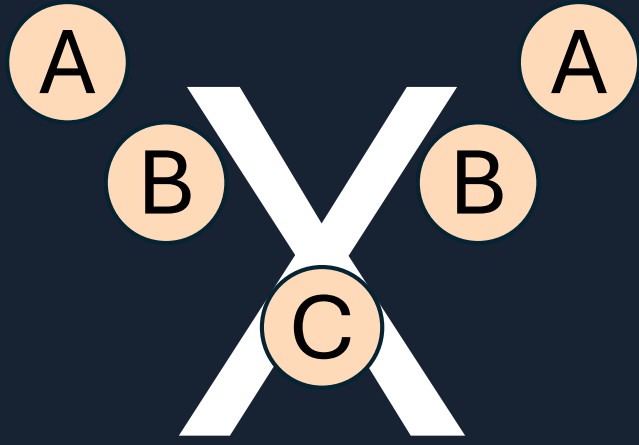


The Chiasm: Rom. 8:5-8





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

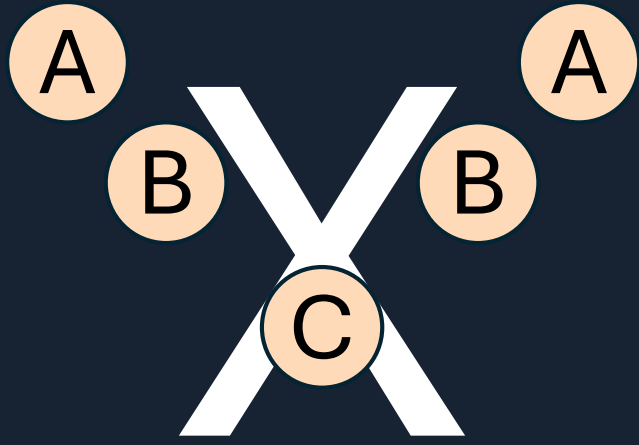


A Greek “Chi”

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

A - B - C - B - A

A - B - B - A

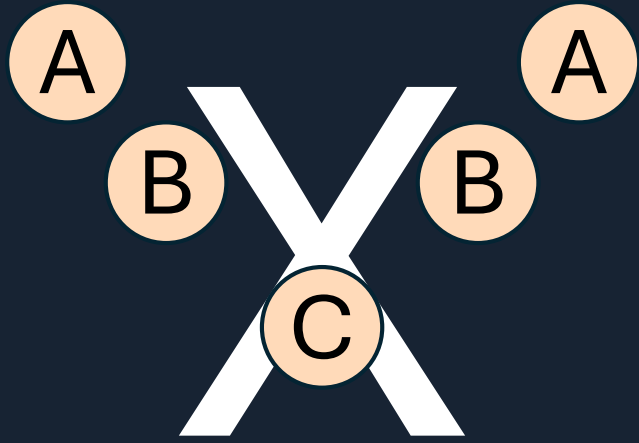


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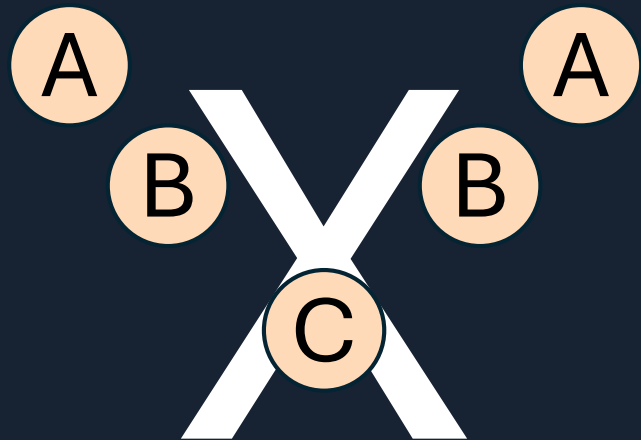
A “chiasm” is an ancient literary device where ideas are presented in one order, then repeated in reverse order

A - B - C - B - A

A - B - B - A



**EXAMPLES**



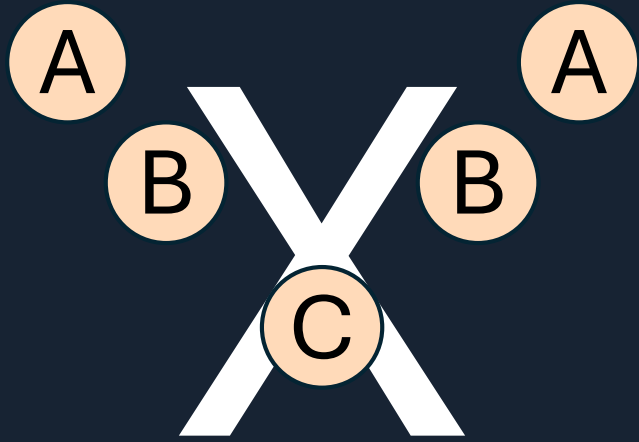
A - B - C - C - B - A

Gn. 9:6

Whoever sheds the  
 blood of man, by man  
 shall his blood be shed,  
 for God made man in  
 his own image.

Gn. 9:6

שִׁפְךָ דָּם הָאָדָם בְּאָדָם  
 דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפַךְ כִּי בְּצַלְמֵ  
 אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם:



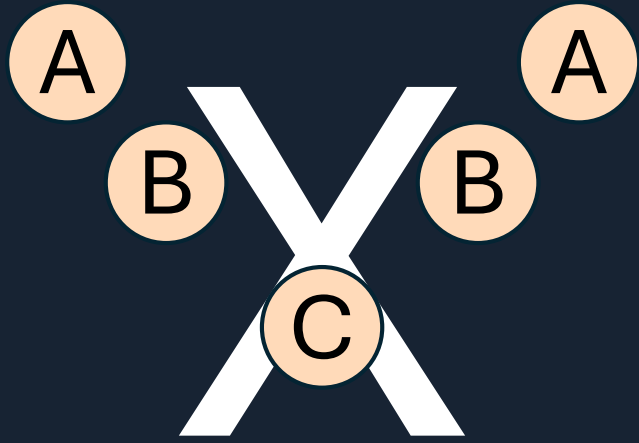
A - B - C - C - B - A

Mt. 23:12

Whoever exalts himself  
will be humbled, and  
whoever humbles  
himself will be exalted.

Mt. 23:12

ὅστις δὲ ὑψώσει ἑαυτὸν  
ταπεινωθήσεται καὶ ὅστις  
ταπεινώσει ἑαυτὸν  
ὑψωθήσεται.



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

A - B - B - A

1. Memory aid

2. Emphasis tool

Why?



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.

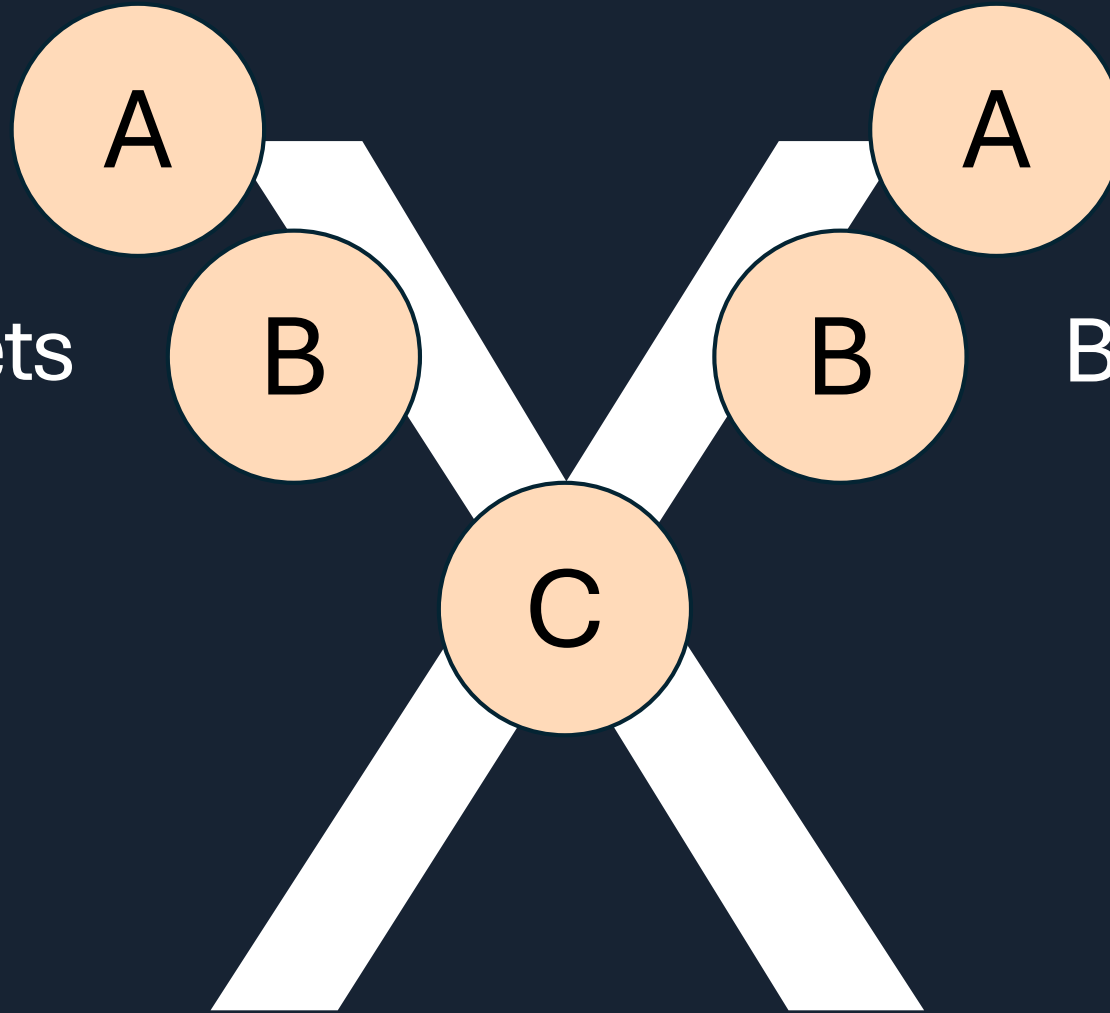
A - 2 kinds of  
people (8:5,8)

B - 2 Mindsets  
(8:5, 7)

C - 2 Outcomes  
(8:6)

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

B - 2 Mindsets  
(8:5, 7)



# X

- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)

# X

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

For those who live according to the flesh ...  
but those who live according to the Spirit...

Those who are in the flesh cannot please  
God...

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

A ginger cat with a white patch on its face is perched on a weathered wooden fence. The cat is looking down and to the left. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "Paul offers no middle ground" is overlaid in the upper right corner.

Paul offers no  
middle ground

Why?

Because flesh-orientation is fundamentally self-directed, and you cannot simultaneously be self-directed and God-pleasing

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God...

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

You can't face north and south at the same time

**NORTH**



**SOUTH**

# X

- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)



**B** B-2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)

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.

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.

**B** B-2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)

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 things of the Spirit.

Rom. 8:5

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

*phroneō* (φρονέω) : An attitude, opinion

- A** Those living by flesh set minds on things of flesh (v. 5a)
- B** Those living by Spirit set minds on things of Spirit (v. 5b)
- C** Mind set on flesh = death (v. 6a)
- C** Mind set on Spirit = life and peace (v. 6b)
- B** Mind of flesh is hostile to God and can't submit (v. 7)
- A** Those in flesh cannot please God (v. 8)

Yahoo Scout NEW!

Yahoo Games · New!

Today in History

Events Near Houston

What to Watch

Dracula  
2025 · Horror



Fe

*phroneō* (φρονέω) : Your default setting!

Trending



Men's  
Sch...  
Wint...  
today: Every event  
happening on Feb. 15



Daytona 500 Start Time  
2026 Daytona 500: How to  
watch, race day schedule  
and more



Nancy Guthrie  
Police say nighttime  
operation resulted in search  
warrant, no arrests



Winter Olympics  
Canada-Sweden cheating  
controversy, explained: Why  
curling match ended in...



James Van Der Beek  
James Van Der Beek's  
brother shares emotional  
tribute to late actor

The Guardian / 80

Shutdown hitting 13% of federal  
civilian workforce likely for at  
least 10 days



A man in England was  
running from police. 8  
llamas caught him.

Washington ... / 155



Amazon's Presidents'  
Day sale is full of rare  
deals and all-time-low  
prices

Yahoo Shoppi... / 67



At least 6 top Trump  
officials cited in Epstein  
document trove

NBC News / 4.4K

Houston

57°

RealFeel® 57°, Mostly cloudy

Today  
73° 51°

Tomorrow  
76° 53°

Tue  
82° 64°

Powered by AccuWeather

Check UV, air quality and more

Ad: 00:01

CRIME  
101



**IS:**

Default orientation

Habitual thought pattern

**YES**

**NOT:**

Random thoughts

Pop into your heads

**NO**

## Things of the flesh

- What can **I** achieve?
- How can **I** succeed?
- What do **I** want?
- **I** can handle this!

**My** performance, **my**  
reputation, **my** goals

## Things of the Spirit

- What does **God** want?
- How can **God** be glorified?
- What is God doing?
- **God** I need your help!

**His** will, **His** kingdom,  
**His** glory



**B** B-2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)

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.

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.

**B** B-2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)

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.

*echthra*  
(ἔχθρα)

•  
•

enmity, at war,  
active opposition

Think opposing  
armies on a battlefield



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.

Present tense  
(ὑποτάσσεται)

•  
•

Continuous, ongoing  
refusal to submit



**It's not  
possible**

# X

- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- C - 2 Outcomes (8:6)
- B - 2 Mindsets (8:5, 7)
- A - 2 kinds of people (8:5,8)

C

## C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

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

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

C

## C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

©

C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

An equation, not a sentence!!!

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

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

©

C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

$$(a+b)(a-b) = a^2 - b^2$$

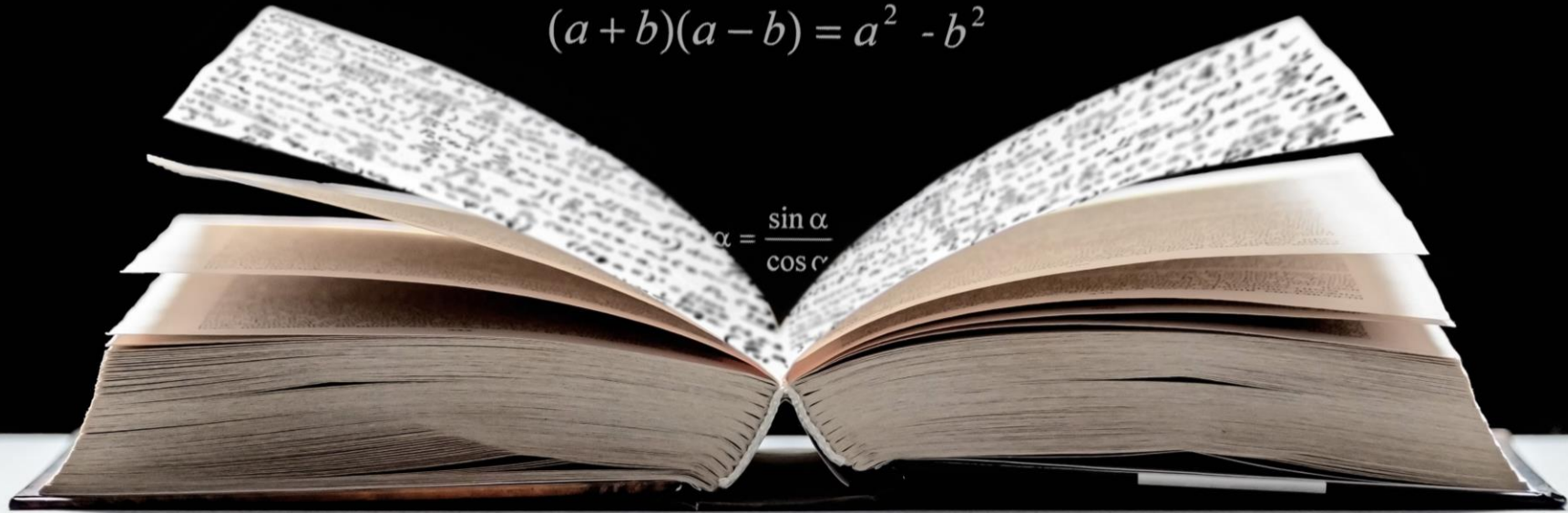
Flesh-mindset = death

Spirit-mindset = life and peace

$$\sin^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \alpha = 1 \quad \sin^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \alpha = 1$$

$$(a+b)(a-b) = a^2 - b^2$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \alpha}$$



©

C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

An equation, not a sentence!!!

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

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

A present reality!!!

©

C-2 Outcomes (8:6)

Think opposing  
armies on a battlefield



Flesh-mindset:

Death

Emptiness

Alienation

Futility



Spirit-mindset:

Life

Wholeness

Flourishing

Peace



The Foundation: Rom. 8:1-4



The Chiasm: Rom. 8:5-8



The Identification: Rom. 8:9-11

Rom. 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Rom. 8:9

ὕμεῖς δὲ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἐν σαρκὶ ἀλλὰ ἐν πνεύματι, εἴπερ πνεῦμα θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν. εἰ δέ τις πνεῦμα Χριστοῦ οὐκ ἔχει, οὗτος οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτοῦ.

Rom. 8:10

But if Christ is in you,  
although the body is  
dead because of sin,  
the Spirit is life because  
of righteousness.

Rom. 8:10

εἰ δὲ Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν, τὸ  
μὲν σῶμα νεκρὸν διὰ  
ἁμαρτίαν τὸ δὲ πνεῦμα  
ζωὴ διὰ δικαιοσύνην.

Rom. 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom. 8:11

εἰ δὲ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ  
ἐγείραντος τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐκ  
νεκρῶν οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν, ὁ  
ἐγείρας Χριστὸν ἐκ  
νεκρῶν ζῶποιήσει καὶ  
τὰ θνητὰ σώματα ὑμῶν  
διὰ τοῦ ἐνοικοῦντος  
αὐτοῦ πνεύματος ἐν ὑμῖν.

# Points for Home



Your mindset  
sets your life

“Mind set on flesh is death,  
but mind set on Spirit is life  
and peace” (Rm. 8:6)

# Points for Home



Pay attention to your  
“default page”

“Mind set on flesh is death,  
but mind set on Spirit is life  
and peace” (Rm. 8:6)

# Points for Home

Challenge: “God I need you!”  
**NOT** “I got this!”



# Points for Home



Each day: “What does  
God want?”  
**NOT** “What can I do?”

# Romans

