**Romans 8:1-11 – Divine help**

**Main: When we walk in the Spirit, we are free from sin’s enslavement**

**Romans 8:1 – Four interpretive keys**

**1. Context**

* **The most common approach to 8:1 makes no sense in context; why does Paul seem to tell his readers that they have eternal security in the middle of a discussion of growing in Christ and the problem of enslavement to sin?**
* **The context before is one of the enslavement or bondage to sin**
* **The immediate context after is about freedom from enslavement to sin**

**2. Original language**

* **The word translated “condemnation” is widely held by lexicons to not mean condemnation, but punishment, penal servitude, or enslavement; so, then, it is not the pronouncement of guilt, but that which follows the pronouncement. It is the punishment that comes from the guilty verdict.**
* **In summary: The meaning of “condemnation” 8:1 is not the initial judicial pronouncement of guilt, but rather the sentence or punishment that comes from that pronouncement. In this case, it is the result of God’s wrath that came from Adam’s sin. That punishment involves giving people over to the consequences of their sin or enslavement.**

**3. Textual reading**

* **The best reading of Romans 8:1 is the ending found in fourteen translations (KJV, NKJV, YLT, WYC, WEB, RGT, NBD, MEV, AKJV, JUB, DRA, BRG, AMPC, KJ21). They have the words like, “…who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” at the end. The vast majority of the manuscripts or copies of the New Testament have those words at the end of 8:1, as opposed to three older manuscripts that omitted them.**
* **This also agrees with Paul’s explanation in the context that follows (8:4-6).**

**4. Comparing Scripture with Scripture**

* **This is Paul’s teaching elsewhere, such as Gal. 5:16-18**
* **This also agrees with John’s teaching in 1 John 3:6**

**A suggested paraphrase might be:**

**“There is now no servitude to the flesh, no enslavement, for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”**

**8:2 – There is freedom in Christ**

**8:3 – The Law could not give us life. The Law could not cause us to experience life. God “jailed up, enslaved sin in the flesh.”**

**8:4 – God’s “enslavement” of sin was so the requirement of the Law (“righteous actions”) could be realized by those who walk in the Spirit**

**8:5 – Those who live “according to” the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, those who live according to the Spirit, set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**

**8:6 – The experience of the mind set on the flesh is the experience of death. The experience of those who set their mind on the things of the Spirit = life and peace.**

**8:7 – A carnal mind is at war with God and it is impossible for it to be subject to God’s Law.**

**8:8 – Those IN the flesh (Unbelievers) cannot please God since they don’t possess either the Holy Spirit, union with Christ, or a new nature.**

**8:9 – This doesn’t apply to believers, since they have the “tools” to walk in the Spirit. While unbelievers don’t belong to Christ since they’ve never been baptized by the Holy Spirit and therefore are not in the Church. They don’t belong to Jesus, are not in His Church, the Body of Christ.**

**8:10 – If you are a believer, you have a “dead” body, but have the possibility of experiencing life because you have been justified. Only justified people can be delivered, or saved, from sin. (Rom. 5:9-10)**

**8:11 – The One who raised Christ from the dead (gave life to a dead body) will also give life to our “dead” bodies. Growing in Christ is a resurrection miracle.**

**Mind set**

* **An orientation, focus, perspective, attitude, be intent on, give careful consideration of**
* **Examples in Phil 1:12, 18-21, 2:5-11**
* **Some places this word is used Mt. 16:23, Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:2, 5; 3:15; Col. 3:2**

**Romans Summary Through Chapter 8**

**The just by faith, shall live!**

**Chapter One: In their unrighteousness, humanity has refused to honor God as God or to give thanks to Him. God is angry at all unrighteousness. So, God gives men over to their sin by enslaving them in it. Kind of the idea of “If this is what you want, here you go.” (Prov. 1:20-33)**

**Chapter two: No one is righteous, not the self-righteous, the atheist/agnostic, nor the Jew, nor anyone else.**

**Chapter three: By works of the Law, no one will be justified before God. The only way to be righteous before God, is by faith in Christ alone. The cross of Christ made complete satisfaction of God’s justice. Works have no part in justification before God and they only result in “boasting”, which Paul would say is “excluded” since they have no part in justification.**

**Chapter four: Abraham becomes the prime example of justification by faith before God, apart from works, a reality that David also affirms. Abraham’s faith was based on the reality that God can bring life from the dead, something out of nothing, and is completely able to do what He promised.**

**Chapter five: Justification brings several benefits which Paul lists, like peace with God and access to grace. Since we now have peace with God, we can view trials differently, confident of God’s love (5:1-5). Only justified people can be delivered (from sin’s enslavement). Jesus showed His love by dying for us, when we were “His enemies”. Now, Jesus is even more ready to show His power and love in delivering us from God’s wrath (enslavement) by His resurrection life (5:9-10).**

**The second half of ch. 5 (5:12-21) deals with the impact of two men: Adam, who brought sin, death, and enslavement into the world. And, Jesus, who brought justification, life, the possibility of freedom, and the rule of grace.**

**Chapter six: The rule of grace does not mean sinning doesn’t matter. The life that justification brings cannot be experienced when we sin. Believers are joined to Christ, His death and resurrection. Being under grace does not mean sin is okay. Sin still brings enslavement and the experience of life, even for believers.**

**Chapter seven: We’ve died to the Law and have been joined to Christ so that we might bear fruit for God. The Law isn’t the problem, our flesh is. The Law exposes the sin within us and “brings it to life,” or shows how sinful it is.**

**Chapter eight: Believers who walk in the Spirit are freed from enslavement to sin. God has put sin under a “sentence of doom” (condemnation) so that the righteous action of the Law might be realized. Walking according to the flesh leads to the experience of life, walking in the Spirit, brings the experience of life and peace. Unbelievers can’t experience “life and peace, as they don’t have the Spirit. Freedom from sin’s punishment or enslavement is**