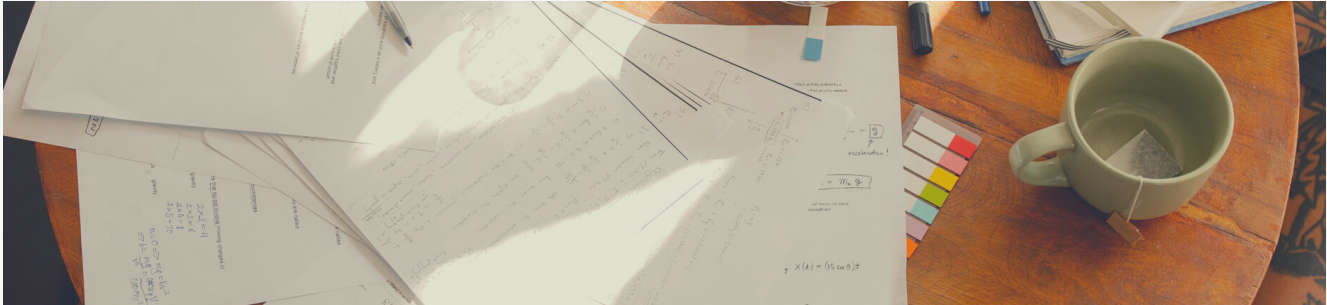


# CALVARY YOUTH

Preparing young people to be disciples of Jesus in study and in practice as they transition into adulthood



## An Invitation to Memorize Romans 8

Romans 8:1

In the summer of 2006, I had my first *real* experience going to the bible with an actual plan as I prepared to study. Prior to that, I think that I must have thought studying kind of handled itself. In a sense, with the way the Holy Spirit empowers us during our study there might be some validity to that. I certainly don't want to suggest that there is no hope for people who don't have access to biblical resources around the world, or that there is no hope for people who have cognitive barriers that prevent the type of study that we practice. I *do* want to suggest, however, that *with* the gifts, talents, skills and knowledge that we have been blessed with, we should most definitely apply them to our own active faith journey. I *do* want to suggest that accuracy matters. As we learn about and actively represent Christ in our daily lives, we should seek to *know* Him better and *represent* Him better. What better place is there to go in seeking this type of growth than the Words themselves, "breathed" out by God?

Every couple of years, I feel a deep sense of purpose with Calvary Youth as we go back into what it means to study God's Word. As an educator that has taught at every grade level, I can say first-hand that no subject in school could be more important than learning how to study God's Word. Language arts comes close... because it directly influences how we study God's Word.

In our journey to learn and practice good study habits, I should reiterate something I say a lot: we will never be done learning how to study God's Word. His word is like a piece of ancient art. The more hours you stare at it, the better you understand the nuances, the better you understand what the artist intended, and the more you appreciate it. This was one of the most profound truths that I finished undergrad with. A major in Biblical Studies was just enough to know I had only begun my journey studying the Word of God.

In our journey to learn and practice good study habits, we land in Romans. An entire chapter **rich in content** is ready for our study. While we do this, I felt inspired by a challenge of that summer in

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

*Romans 8:1*



2006. Our youth group did something I didn't think was possible. We memorized Ephesians 4 over three days during a summer camp. Rather than jumping into the deep end, we will be memorizing Romans 8 one to two verses at a time.

"There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those in Christ Jesus." What a truth! Memorizing scripture is about internalizing, processing, and having God's Word at the ready. What truth would you rather internalize, spend time processing, and is worthy of sharing with our lost world?

**Internalize.** Take a truth like "there is no condemnation" and sink it into your soul. Dwell on it with the desired effect that don't just know it, but you **truly** believe it!

**Processing.** Take this verse to it's depths. What does it truly mean? What would happen if I actually believed what it said? How does a person who actually believes this live differently than someone who only knows it?

**Sharing.** As you take on the process of memorizing this verse, and you read it over and over, listen to it, and think about it, consider what the implications might be for others. What would happen if I shared this with someone? How might it impact their lives if they heard this for the first time? How might God plant this Word down in someone else's hearts? What would happen if this message spread from many people to many more people and like a wildfire people in our neighborhoods, businesses, and schools began to accept this truth?

I **cannot wait** to do a textual analysis on this one with you. We're going to have some fun!

# Questions For This Week

## Sunday Discussion

1. Take a look at the verse. It's a short one. What are the key phrases?
2. What are the implications of each of those phrases?
3. Analyze the "therefore" in verse 1. What is it "there for?"
4. Why should Christians internalize this?
5. Why should Christians process this?
6. Why should Christians share this?

## PRAY THIS WEEK

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## Joaquin

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## UPCOMING

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## OCC PROCESSING CENTER TRIP

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December 3

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