



INTERACTIVE FAITH

AN ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Part 4: The Roman world in apostolic time: “The Word of the Lord grew.”

- Preceding empires, each built on the last
-
- Religion in the Roman empire
-
- “When the time had fully come . . .”
- - Factors in the Roman world that God used to spread the gospel:
 - _____
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DISCUSSION

1. From just a handful of believers gathered on a hill in Galilee when Jesus ascended, the Christian church grew and spread rapidly. In spite of early persecution, only 300 years later Christianity was declared to be the official religion of the Roman empire.
 - a. How did this happen?
 - b. How does this give us comfort and courage today?
2. What are the similarities between the Roman world and the world we live in today? How is that a comfort and an encouragement to us?
3. How does our commitment to, understanding of, and dependence on the Word relate to the mission that God has given his church today (and until Jesus returns)?
4. Give examples to what happens to Christian churches when the Word is no longer the foundation and source of all teaching.

Conclusion: Time to get to work!

- Set aside time every day when you will not be disturbed or distracted
- Can be alone or with spouse/family
- Have a plan
 - Book by book beginning with Genesis (not recommended)
 - Chronological (not recommended)
 - Classic (one Old Testament, one Psalm, one New Testament)
 - One Old Testament/one New Testament
 - Rotate:
 - Gospel
 - Old Testament history
 - Pauline Epistle
 - Old Testament poetry
 - General Epistle
 - Old Testament Prophet

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/> or Google “Read my Bible in a Year”

- **Recognize the need** and importance
- Gather the **tools**
 - Get a study Bible: *Lutheran Study Bible (ESV)*, *Concordia Study Bible (NIV)*
 - Use a Bible that you can write in
 - Have more than one translation on hand
 - People’s Bible or other commentary
 - Topical Bible
 - Concordance
- Do your homework: **background information on book and author**
- **Pray** before, while, and after you read
- Read with **thought**, not just to get through
- Keep in mind and apply the **principles of interpretation**
- Always be asking and answering the **guiding questions**
- **Make notes** and underline key passages
- **Search the Scriptures** on related topics
- Attend **Bible class(es)** at your church
- **Don’t get discouraged**
- **Expect God’s blessing** on your time with his Word

Let the Word of Christ dwell among you richly!