

Paul's Letter to
Philemon



Storm Cloud Warnings Persecution is Coming



Philemon 1:1-2

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—2 also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

The Roman World



A T H E N S

ALTAR TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Acts
17:16-34

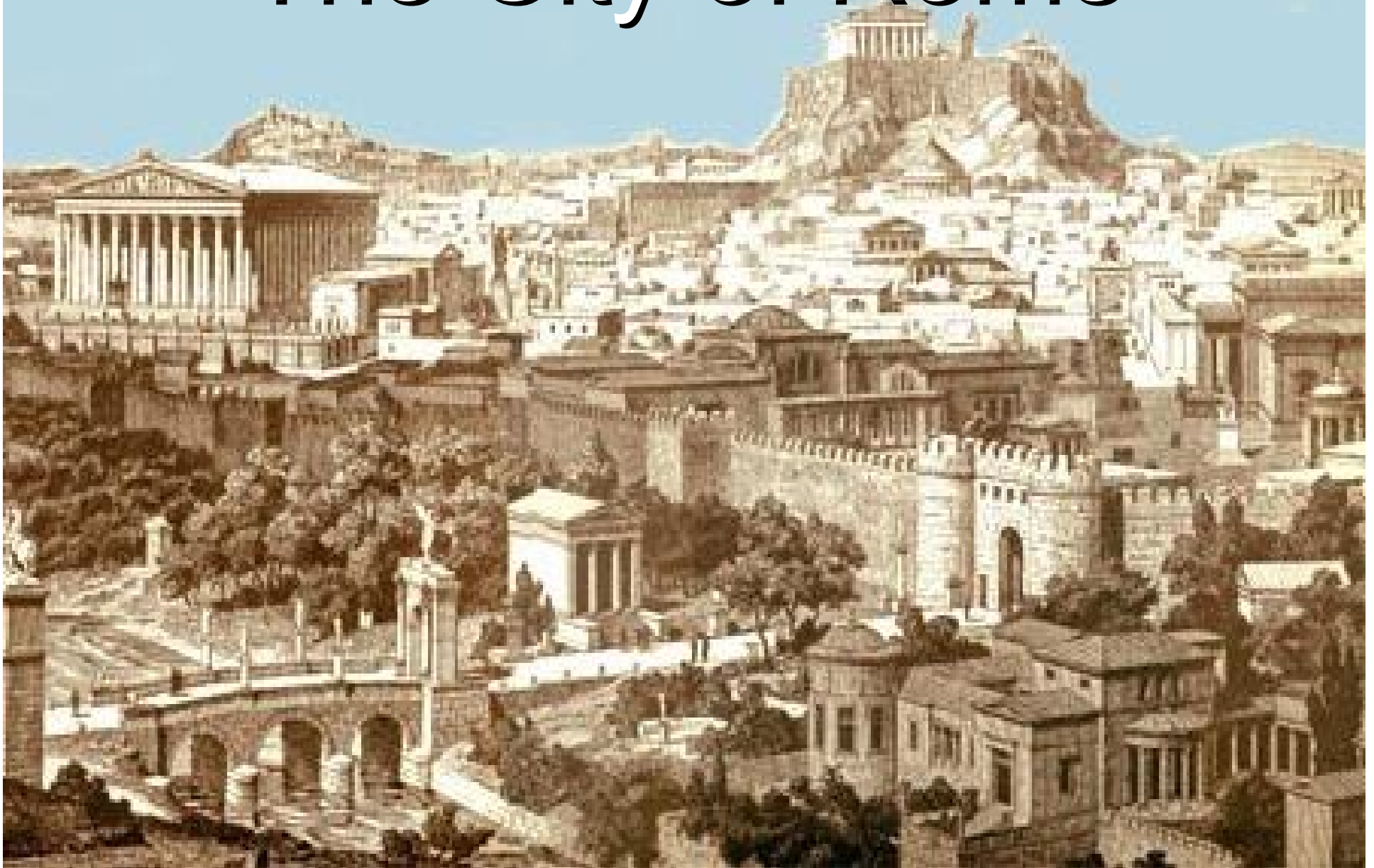
Acts 17 includes a speech that Paul is said to have given at the [Areopagus](#), which was the name of a hill and a council. In it he seeks to move his listeners from idolatry to faith in the true God.

Context: Followers of Greek traditions often built shrines to show gratitude for help from a god or goddess. The altar to "an unknown god" (Acts 17:23; cf. Pausanias 5.14.8) was apparently intended to give thanks for divine aid by a person who had received help, but did not know which god to thank. Paul's speech directs attention to the true God, the Creator of all things, who does not live in shrines made with hands.



(Shown here is an altar to an unnamed deity that was found in Rome.)

The City of Rome



Roman Emperors

- Augustus (31 BCE–14 CE)
- Tiberius (14–37 CE)
- Caligula (37–41 CE)
- Claudius (41–54 CE)
- Nero (54–68 CE)



- **Sin-Filled World**
- **Idolatry-Filled World**
- **Lust-Filled World**
- **Violence-Filled World**
- **Murder-Filled World**
- **Fun-Filled World**

The Emperor is Nero



1. A Murderer
2. Sexual Pervert
3. Incestuous
4. Homosexual lovers
5. Actor/Charioteer
6. Set Rome on Fire
7. Dictator – god image

Nero Accused Christians



1. Being Atheists
2. Law Breakers
3. Subversive King
4. Sexual Perverts
5. Cannibals
6. Preached "Fire!"

Martyred for Christ Sake

Paul's Friends - Romans 16, Col. 4

Paul – *beheaded by Nero outside the city of Rome 64-66 AD*

Timothy – *beaten dragged through streets, stoned to death*

Philemon – *Buried up to waist then stoned his with wife.*

Apphia – *wife of Philemon, killed by Ruler Artocles*

Archippus – *son of Philemon, slashed with knives*

Epaphras – *Colossians 1:7, 4:12-13 fellow prisoner, pastor*

Aristarchus – *Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2, Col. 4:10 beheaded Rome*

Mark – *rope around neck dragged through streets 68 AD*

Luke – *died in Rome before Nero, beheaded*

Pliny on Christians





What will you do when they
come for you?

**What shall we do when we
see storm clouds coming?**

***"The only thing
necessary for the
triumph of evil is that
good men do nothing."***

Silence is Consent.