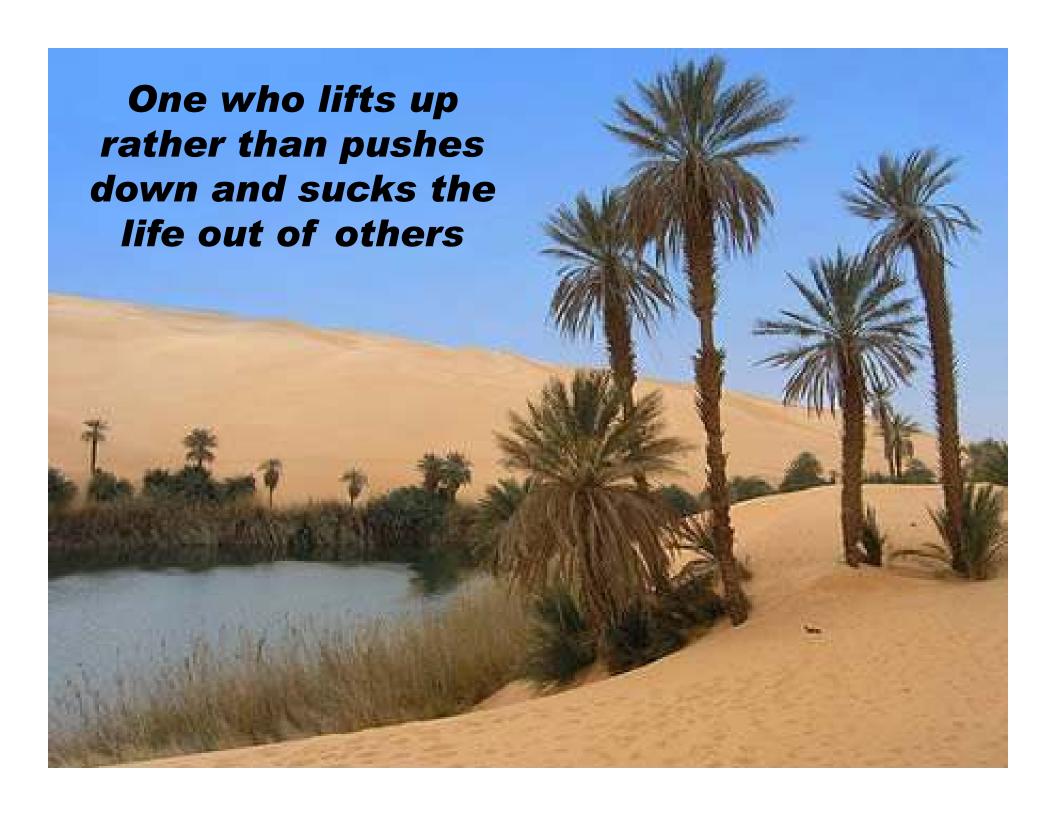
# TIMELESS TRUIT

FOR TROUBLED TIMES





## Onesiphorus

## I. THE DIFFICULTY OF CONFINEMENT

A. The Dungeon

#### Paul – imprisonment & martyrdom (ACTS 21-28)

Time period = approx 12 years.

Arrest in Jerusalem 58 CE

• Two year confinement at Caesarea 58-60 CE

Sea voyage to Rome (several months) 60-61CE

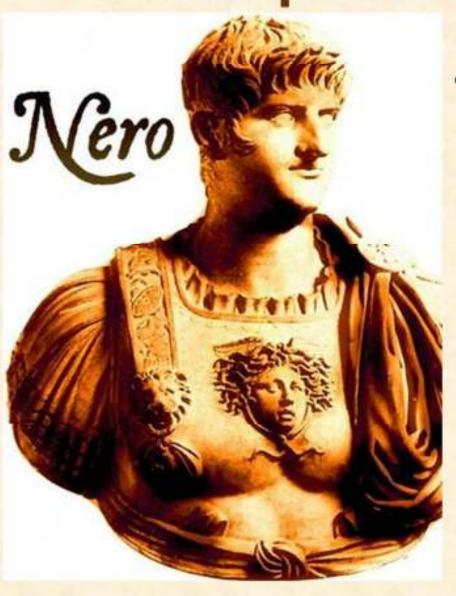
Two year imprisonment at Rome 61-63 CE

Period of release & ministry
 63-66 CE

Second Roman imprisonment
 67-68 C.E.

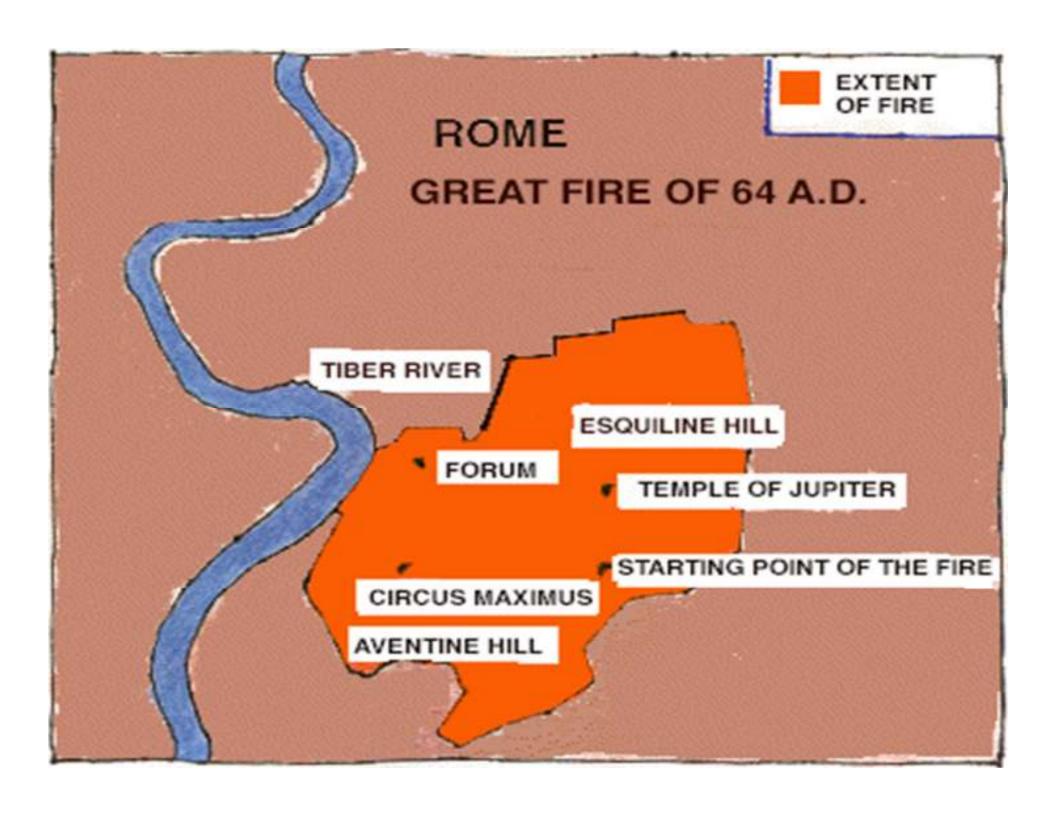
Martyrdom under Nero 68 C.E.

#### **Emperors & Martyrs**

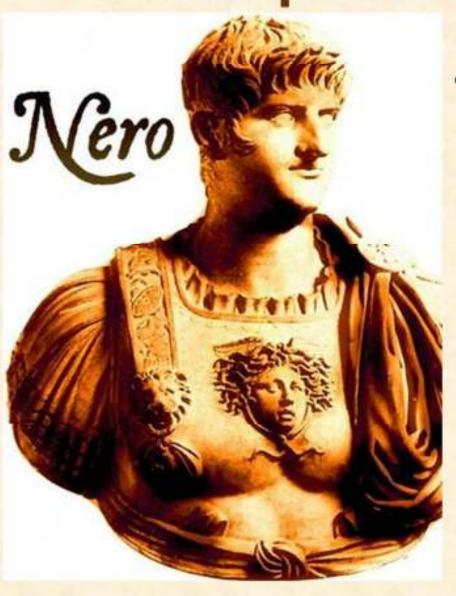


- Nero (r.51-68)
  - 64, fire destroyed much of Rome
  - Rumor spread that Nero ordered the fire to make room for his new city, Neropolis
  - He used Christians as a scapegoat & executed 100s
  - Cf. Tacitus, Annales 15.44





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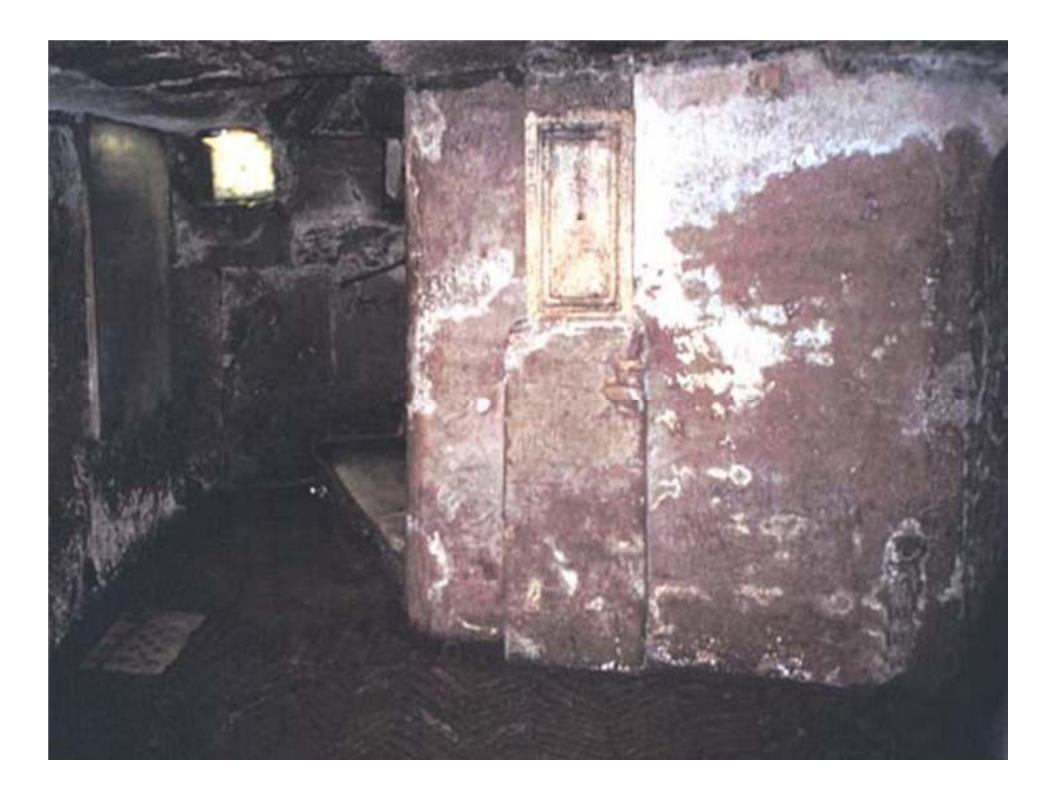
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## 2 Timothy

1st Roman Imprisonment	2nd Roman Imprisonment
Many friends who visited	Virtually alone
Many opportunities to evangelize	Opportunities for evangelism restricted.
Optimistic for release and freedom	Anticipated his execution







#### The Tullianum: A Prison in Rome

The Romans did not consider imprisonment itself a form of punishment—prisons were used to hold those awaiting trial or the death penalty and often served as places of execution. Prisons were filthy and crowded, and prisoners were treated as little better than dead. According to tradition, Peter and Paul were both imprisoned here.

Prisoners were lowered into the prison through a hole in the floor

**CUT-AWAY VIEW** 

Consisting of two rooms above each other, the top room is called the Carcer while the lower room is known as the Tullianum

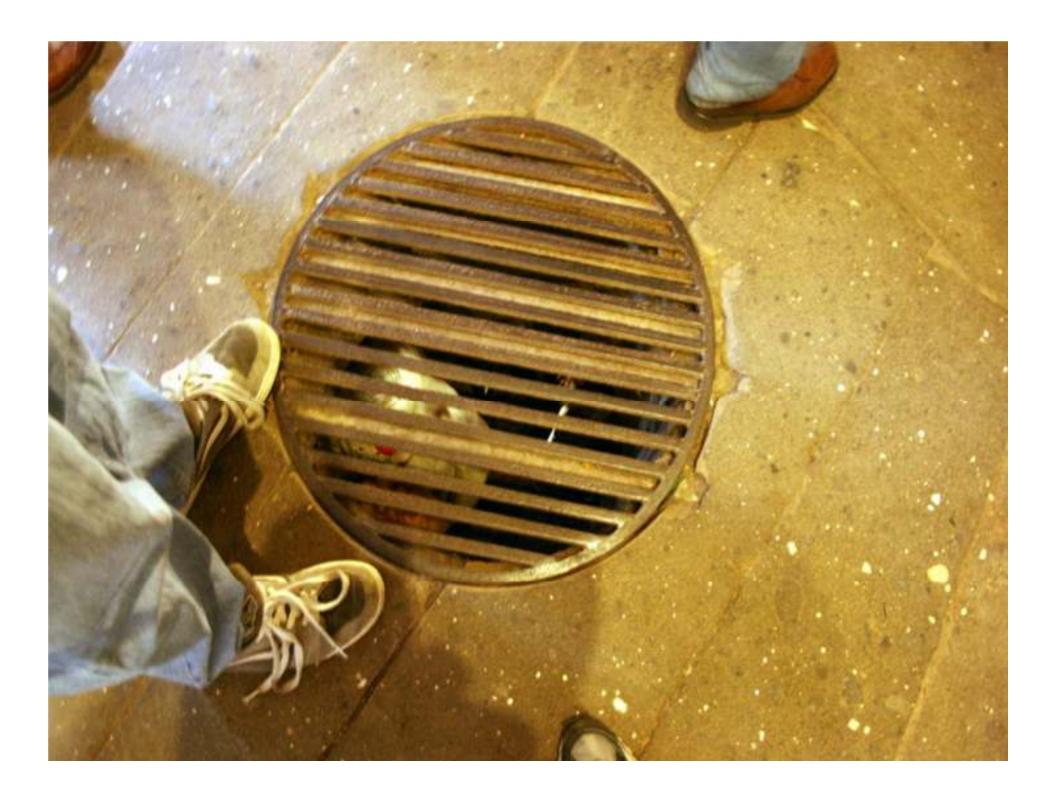
This door led to an underground sewer.

The Tullianum, like many prisons in the ancient world, was dark, damp, and cold. It was built originally as a cistern.











## I. THE DIFFICULTY OF CONFINEMENT

A. The Dungeon

**B.** The Desertion

### A friend – the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out

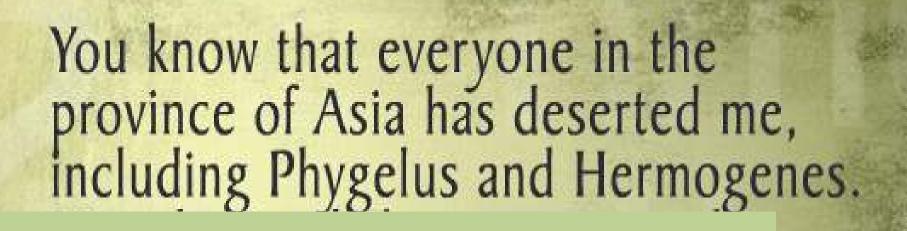
At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

## I. THE DIFFICULTY OF CONFINEMENT

A. The Dungeon

**B.** The Desertion

C. The Distress



- Live above & get beyond them
- · Can't let them drag us down
- · Have to go on must go on

2 Timothy 1:15-16

## II. THE DELIGHT OF COMPANIONSHIP

A. The Concern

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, (Brace up, because he often refreshed revive me and was not ashamed by fresh air) of my chains.

2 Timothy 1:15-16

"Profit bringer, advantage, one who benefits another, one who brings help







 "Many a time he braced me up" (Moffatt) You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, (Brace because he often refreshed up, revive me and was not ashamed by fresh of my chains. air)

2 Timothy 1:15-16

"Profit bringer, advantage, one who benefits another, one who brings help

On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

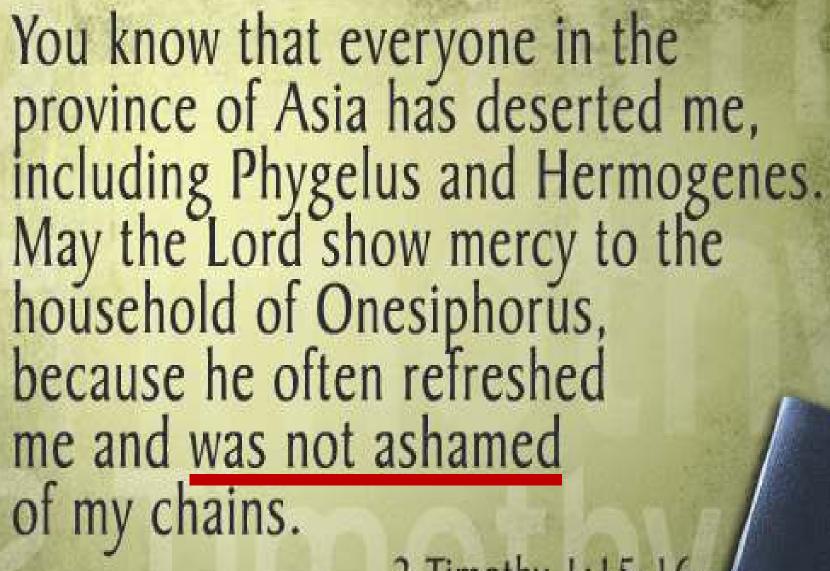
2 Timothy 1:17-18

## II. THE DELIGHT OF COMPANIONSHIP

- A. The Concern
- **B.** The Comfort
- · "I never met a man I didn't like"
- · "You never met my husband"

## II. THE DELIGHT OF COMPANIONSHIP

- A. The Concern
- **B.** The Comfort
- C. The Commitment



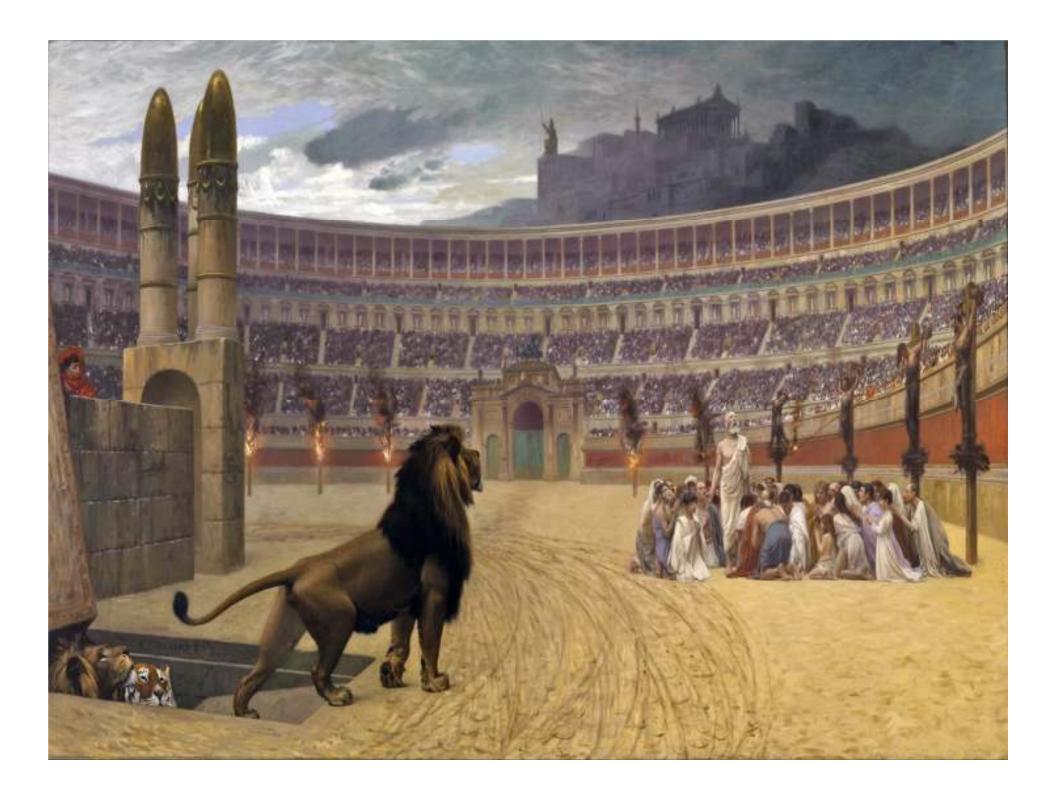
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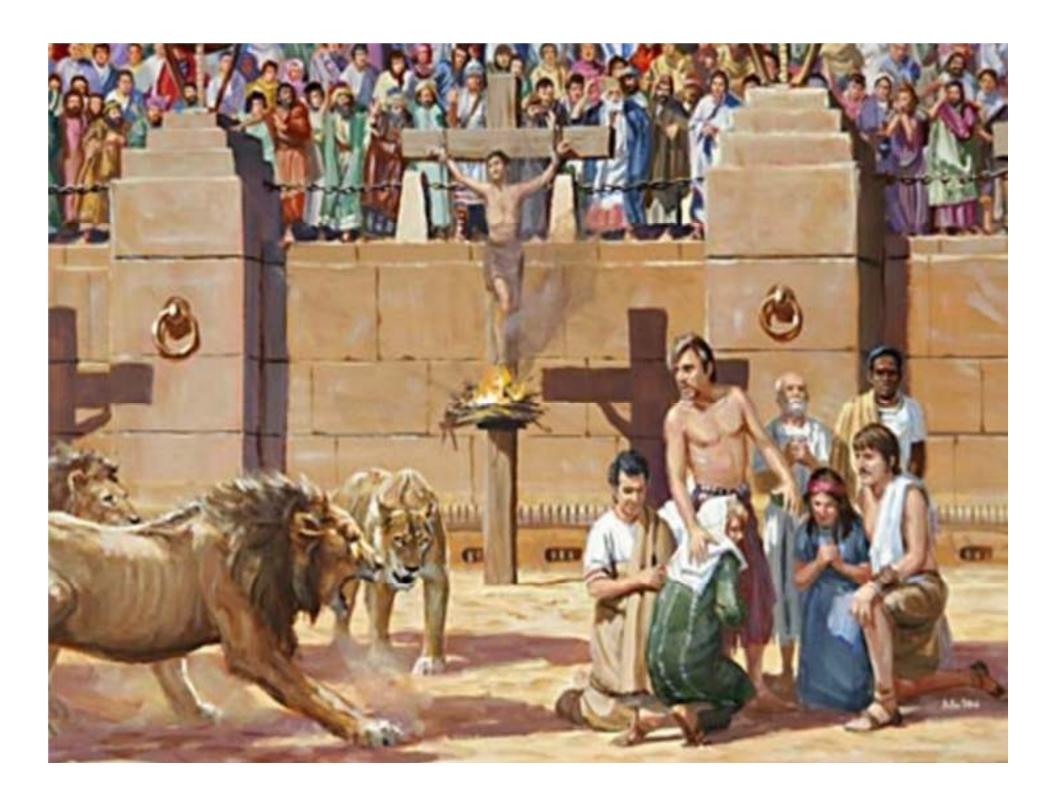


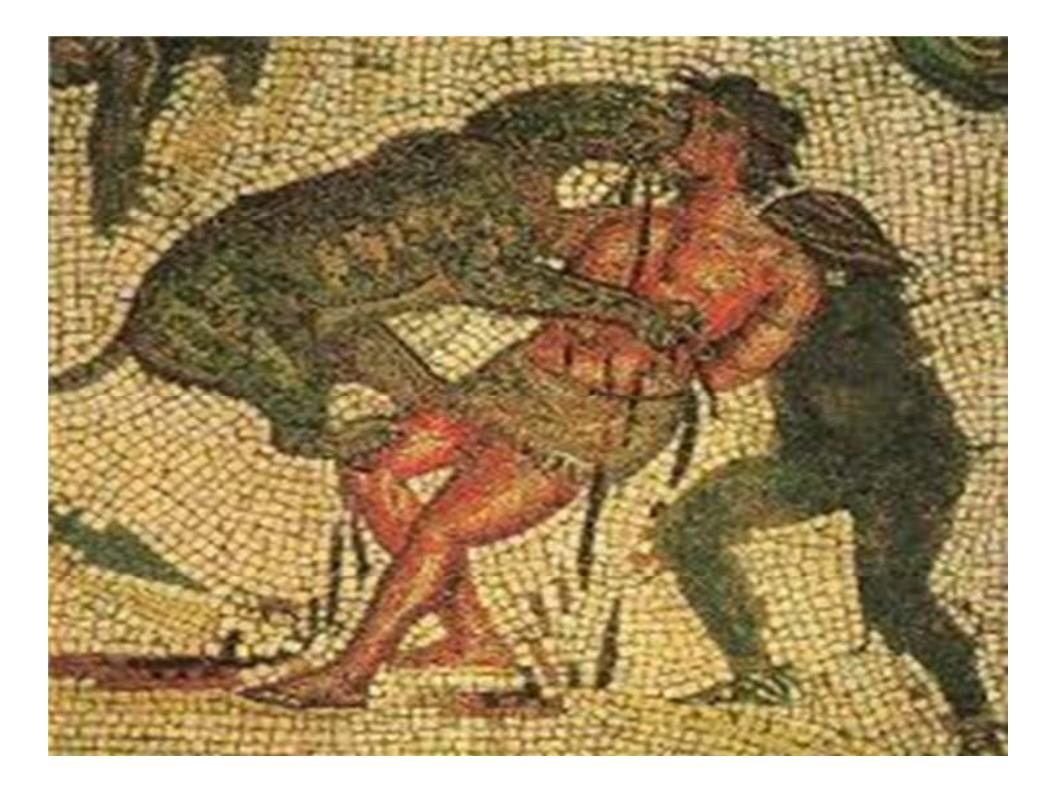


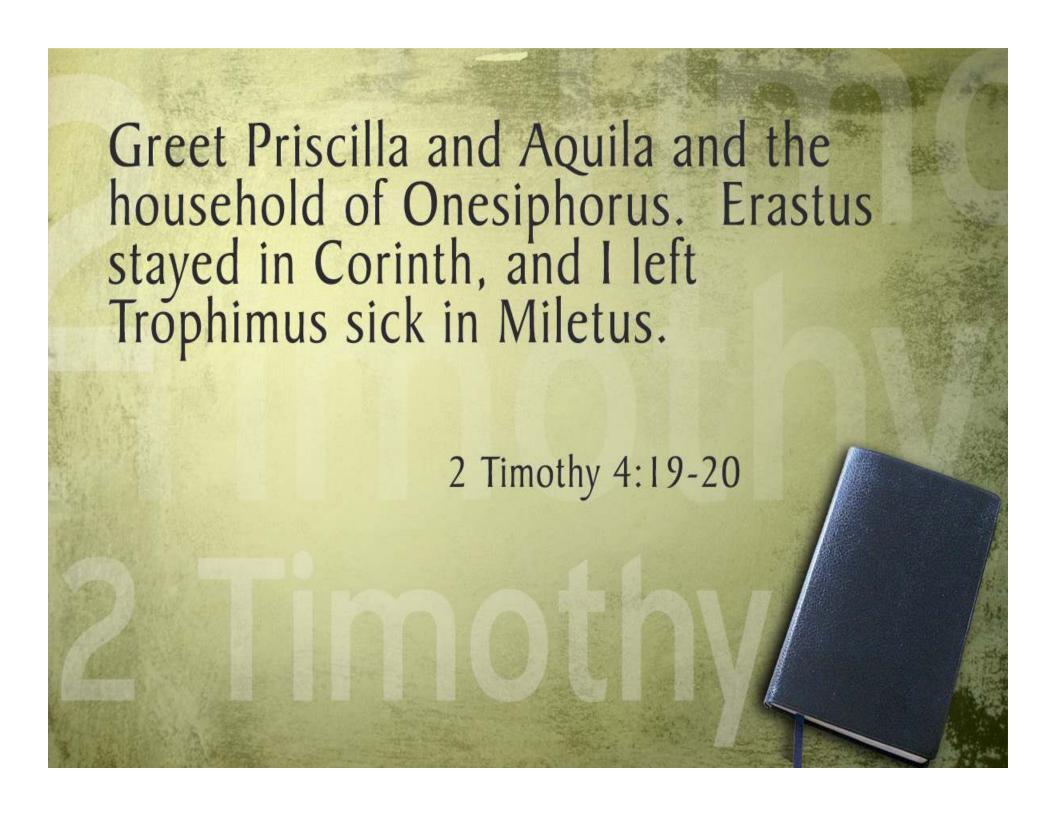
During the persecution of the early martyrs, one of the delights of Nero was to make the Christians into human torches, so his garden would be lit up at night.





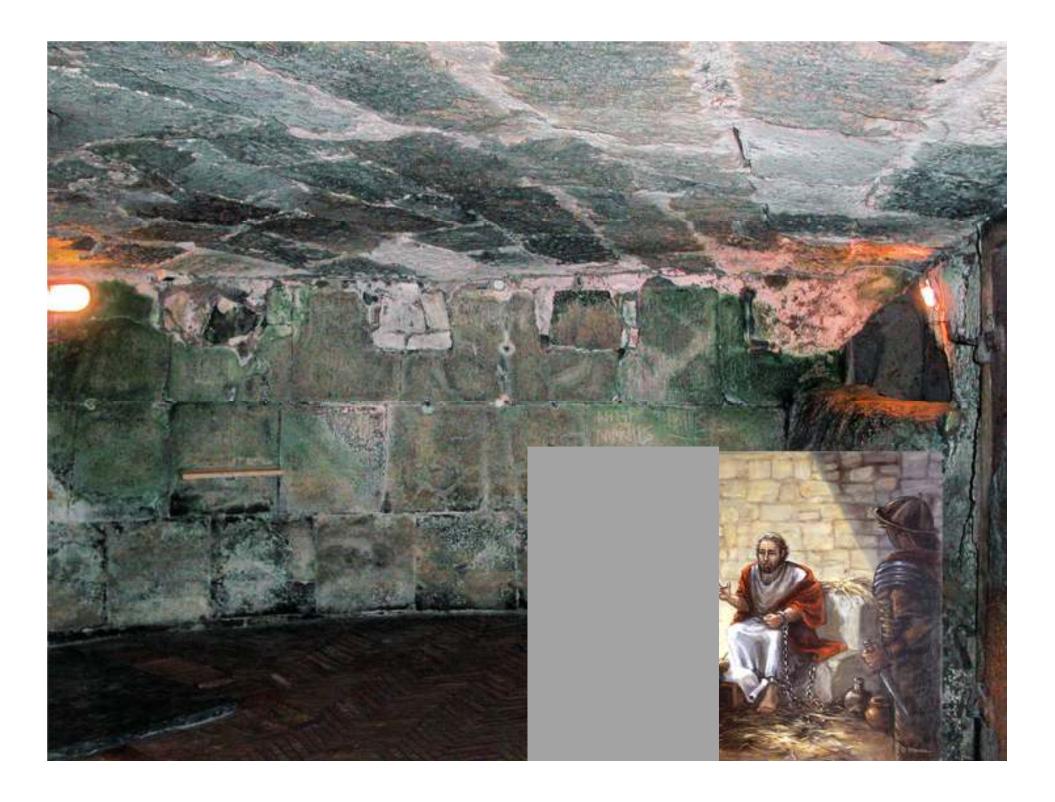






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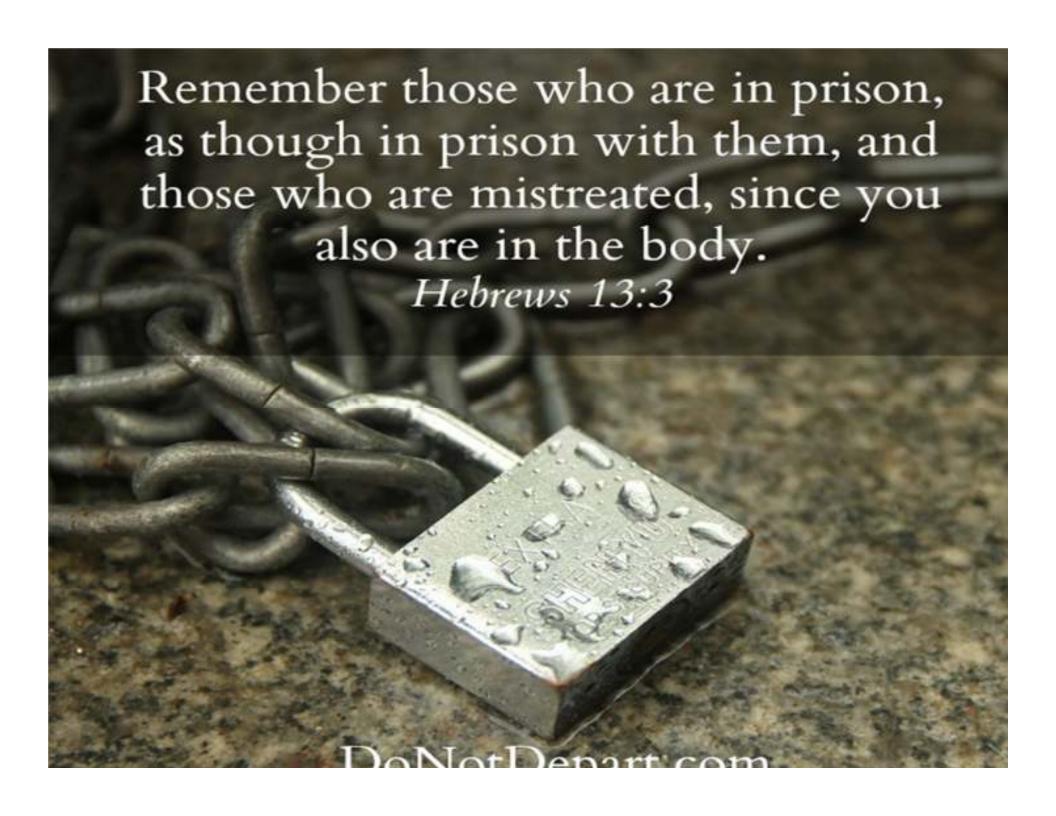




## What it meant to be a Roman Prisoner?

- Uniform: What the prisoner wore when they came. Would deteriorate soon due to dampness and overuse.
- Lighting: No natural light. After sunset no light was permitted. Negative psychological impact.
- Chains: Around 7 kgs. Rough iron. Rusting leading to infection. Sound of constant creaking and limbs can become useless due to malnourishment and disuse.
- Food: Half the portion of a slave. Nourishment and survival only on what family/friends brought in.
- Bedding: Cold floor or a rough sleeping pallet.
- Blanket: Their outer cloak they wore during the day. (2 Tim 4:13).
- Hygiene: Terribly unclean. No baths, no haircut. Lice, bedbugs and infection. Overcrowded. No toilet facilities. The dead were piled up in a corner till later.

- Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.
- Episkopeo:
- Epi (upon, intensifying already existing idea in verb) + skopeo (scope as microscope, telescope)
- One who looks over closely or intently, who views carefully to examine state of affairs
- and you did not look after me.' (NIV)
- and you didn't take care of Me.'
   (Holman Christian Standard)



## III. THE DECISION TO CARE



- Hits the spot
- Preacher
- · Elders
- Elderly
- College
   Student
- Deacon
- Sick mother

- In unfamiliar surroundings
- Feeling tired & weary
- · Lonely, wondering if anyone cares
- Experiencing disappointment or discouragement
- Uncertain about the future
- Facing extra pressures, difficulties or limitations
- Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)
- For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

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