

Saints of Caesar's Household

Phil.4:22

Legend

- Nero fiddled as Rome burned
- Some blamed Nero for fire
 - Directly (at his orders)
 - Indirectly (vengeance of ‘gods’)

Reigned 54-68

Description: half beast, half devil

Murderer

Blamed Christians for fire, AD 64

Philippians: prison epistle

All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household – 4:22

May include highest functionaries and lowest menials.

Epitaphs in Rome coincided with names in Ro.16...

May include members of imperial family, dignitaries, imperial guard, slaves

Saints: living,
not dead...

Caesar: Nero;
evil; unjust

House: 1:13f.;
Ac.28:16

I. Faith Is Found In Unlikely Places

Those with least privileges often have greatest faith

- Lk.4:16...25-27; Jn.1:11, shocking unbelief
- Ct. Corinth, Ephesus, Rome . . .
 - Paul never decided for others that they were uninterested in gospel
 - Ac.9:26
 - Power of gospel: Ro.1:7, 15...16
 - Ph.1:12-13, captive audience

I. Faith Is Found In Unlikely Places

II. Saints Often Found
In Unfavorable Places

▶ Rome known for persecution ◀

- Paul (prisoner)...faithful in persecution.
 - 2 Co.4:16-18

.....-.....
– Ph.1:21-23, death . . .

GAIN, 21

DESIRE, 23

BETTER, 23

▶ Nero known for perversity ◀

- Grew increasingly immoral.
- Ph.2:14-15



I. Faith Is Found In Unlikely Places

II. Saints Often In Unfavorable Places

III. Saints In Rome,
Not Of Rome

Jn.17:14-16

Not of world: different kind / quality

- Ro.6:1-2 –
 - Born into sinful world
 - Adopted world's way of life
 - New birth changed them

Jn.17:14-16

Not of world:

- Ro.6:1-2 –
- Ro.12:1-2 – In F
- **Character not d**

– **Employer.** Mt. 23:1-12;

16:29-33; 18:1-3; 1

– **Environment.** How do
Caesar's house?

Issues:

¹everybody does it

²public morals decline

³'strange' invites ridicule

⁴friends shun us

Col.4:14

live in

1 Pt.3:3-4
MODEST

1 Pt.4:3-4
STRANGE

I. Faith Is Found In Unlikely Places

II. Saints Often In Unfavorable Places

III. Saints In Rome, Not Of Rome

IV. Opportunity To Let
Light Shine

Ac.28

- Paul taught...wrote...encouraged...set good example... (Ph.1:12-14)

- Rome: center of influence

Spiritual progress of these brethren could spread gospel to ends of earth

- If they could remain faithful in Caesar's house, what of us?
- World will not encourage us, but its darkness gives us opportunity to shine brighter

We CAN shine in dark world

- Education.
- Employment.
- Friends.
- Family.
- Spouse.
- Saints.

Paul:
Shipwreck
Snakebite
Imprisonment
Upcoming trials
Green-eyed preachers

2 Tim.4:6-8