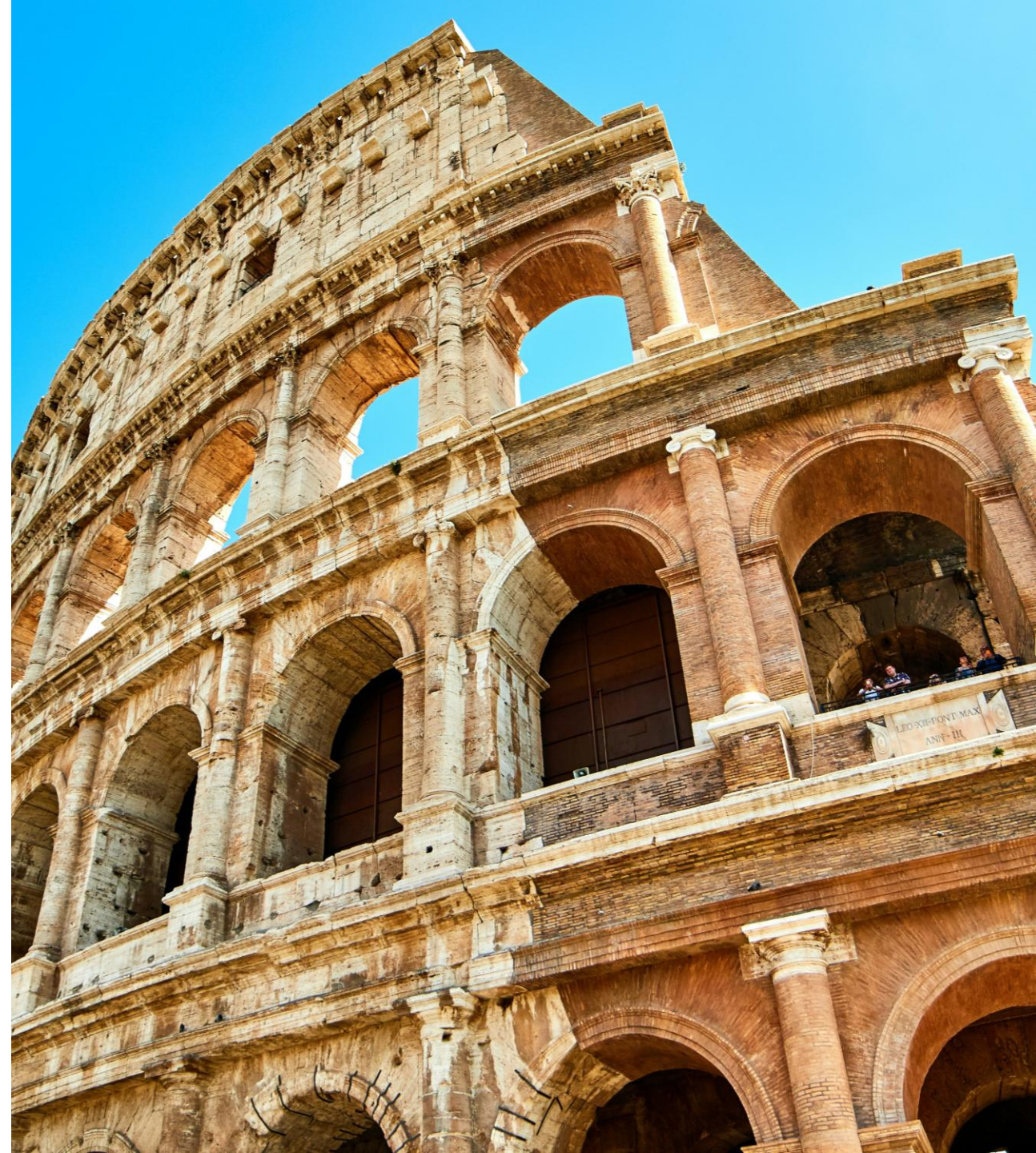


# STUDY SESSION 8

BCA GROUP TOUR NOV 2025

Rome

The Heart of the Roman Empire



# ROME

## THE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE WORLD



- Rome was the **capital of the vast Roman Empire**, controlling trade, law, and military power.
- A city of **immense wealth, political influence, and religious diversity**—including emperor worship and pagan temples.
- Key Roman Roads, such as the **Via Appia**, enabled the rapid spread of ideas—including Christianity.

# PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME (ACTS 27-28)

- Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and appealed to Caesar, leading to his journey to Rome.
- His journey included:
  - A harrowing shipwreck on Malta (Acts 27:39–44).
  - House arrest in Rome, where he continued preaching (Acts 28:16–31).
  - Writing letters to churches while awaiting trial.



## PAUL'S LETTERS FROM ROME

While imprisoned, Paul wrote several epistles, including:

- Ephesians – The Church as the body of Christ.
- Philippians – Joy despite suffering.
- Colossians – Christ's supremacy over all.
- Philemon – Reconciliation and forgiveness.



# CHRISTIANITY'S IMPACT ON ROME



- Despite persecution, Christianity grew rapidly in the Roman Empire.
- The church in Rome was diverse, including Jews, Gentiles, and even Roman officials.
- Persecution under Nero (64 AD) led to the martyrdom of many Christians, including Paul and Peter.
- By 313 AD, Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, leading to its dominance in Western civilization.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did Paul's time in Rome shape the future of Christianity?
- What lessons can we learn from Paul's perseverance in prison?
- How does Rome's transformation from persecutor to Christian stronghold inspire us today?



# REFLECTION & APPLICATION



## REMAIN FAITHFUL

- Paul's legacy reminds us to remain faithful, no matter the cost. Are we doing that with our lives today?
- God uses obstacles—like Paul's imprisonment—to spread the Gospel. What obstacles do we face today?




## KEY TAKEAWAY

Challenge:

Ask God where He is challenging you to be bold in your faith.



 **PASTOR ROB & LISA**

 +1 (425) 923-0380

 lisac@bcachurch.com



# Q & A TIME

<https://bcachurch.com/walking-in-the-footsteps-of-the-apostle-paul/>

# STUDY RESOURCES

Bandy, A. S. (2021). *An illustrated guide to the Apostle Paul: His life, ministry, and missionary journeys*. Baker Books.

Rose Publishing. (2021). *The life of the Apostle Paul: 200 key facts at a glance*. Rose Publishing.

Swindoll, C. R. (2009). *Great lives: Paul: A man of grace and grit*. Thomas Nelson.

The Holy Bible. (2013). *New International Version (NIV)*. Zondervan.