

Christianity Comes to Rome

We don't know when or how the Christian faith took root in the city of Rome, though for many centuries that city would serve as a focal point and virtual headquarters for the Christian religion. Two of our earliest references to Christianity in Rome offer different views on the phenomenon:

“Your faith is proclaimed throughout the world”; “you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.”—Paul (Rom. 1:8; 15:14)

“A most mischievous superstition . . . broke out . . . in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.”—Tacitus (*Annals* 15.44)*

**Complete Works of Tacitus*, trans. Alfred John Church, William Jackson Brodribb (New York: Modern Library, 1942).