

Life of Paul

Lesson #04

A Roman citizen.

There were only three means of obtaining citizenship.

- a. Receive it as a reward for special service to the Roman Empire.
- b. Purchase it at a great price.
- c. Inherit it through birth.



The toga was the
characteristic
Roman garment.

Philippian incident -- Acts 16:35-39

“³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, ‘Release those men.’ ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, ‘The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace.’ ³⁷ But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.’

³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, ³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.”

Jerusalem incident -- Acts 22:22-29

“²² They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!’ ²³ And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way. ²⁵ But when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?’

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and told him, saying, ‘What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman.’ ²⁷ The commander came and said to him, ‘Tell me, are you a Roman?’ And he said, ‘Yes.’ ²⁸ The commander answered, ‘I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.’ And Paul said, ‘But I was actually born a citizen.’ ²⁹ Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.”

Caesarean appeal -- Acts 25:10-12

“¹⁰ But Paul said, ‘I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. ... ¹² Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, ‘You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go.’”

**“If anything exists,
there is a god.”**

Outward witness – Psalm 19:1-6

- “¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
- ² Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
- ³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
- ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.
In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
- ⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.”
- ⁶ Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Inward witness – Romans 1:18-21

“¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

“Kosmos” -- world

A far cry from Carl Sagan who writes, “The Cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be.”

Paul is using the words of Isaiah 42:5

“⁵ Thus says God the Lord, ‘Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it?’”



Acts 7:46-50

“⁴⁶ David found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.

⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. ⁴⁸

However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: ⁴⁹

‘HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?’ says the Lord, ‘OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? ⁵⁰ WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?’”

“Grove for Him”
“Reaching out” or “Feeling after”

**There is a witness to God's
existence, and He expects to be
acknowledged by men.**

**God is both creator
and sustainer.**

**God is not dependent upon
human beings and
Christians in particular.**

Contingent
Being

Necessary
Being