

ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week's Scripture

Read the Book of Hebrews

Additional Resources

WRITING A NEW STORY

Episode 15 of Acts to Revelation comes with a warning at the beginning of the video: "This episode contains gritty portrayals of violence. Viewer discretion advised." The persecution of the Christian church and many of its leaders at the hand of maniacal, narcissistic and cruel Roman leaders is a terrible and troubling topic to explore. In many parts of the world today, the church still faces tremendous opposition and yet God is at work in and through His church to bring transformation and hope to people and places facing great difficulties. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video that tells part of the story of one place in the troubled Democratic Republic of Congo where God is at work in and through an organization called **Congo Initiative**. Click link for more information.

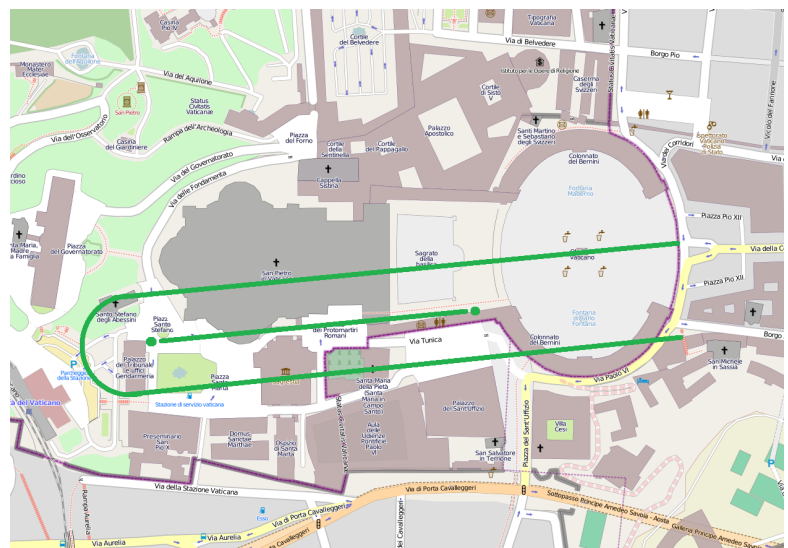


Note: Tim Shaw served on the US Board of Directors of this ministry.



The Martyrdom of Paul & Peter

It is believed that the Apostle Peter was martyred in the Circus of Nero and buried nearby. In the image below the basic outline of the Circus of Nero (in green) is placed on top of a map of the Vatican in Rome (note the location of the Basilica of St. Peter).



The location of the Apostle Peter's tomb is discussed in Episode 15. Click [HERE](#) to view a larger version of the map and [HERE](#) to see a video.

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential..

Watch This Week's Episode Online



IF YOU WANT TO REVIEW

EPISODES of Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation, you can watch online at [TubiTv.com](https://www.tubitv.com). **Just click [HERE](#) to watch episode 15, The Martyrdom of Paul & Peter**

Week 16 Prep

Read 1, 2 & 3 John, Revelation 1

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

NARCISSISTIC AND CRUEL LEADERS VERSUS GOOD LEADERS

- This week's episode is a case study of the impact of terrible, even evil, leadership. What were some of the characteristics of these tyrannical Roman emperors?
- Contrast the leadership of the Apostles Paul, Peter and Jesus with the Emperors of the Roman Empire. How was their approach to leading different? Make a list that contrasts leadership shaped by Christ and the leadership of the Caesars.
- In settings where you have influence, how might you be tempted to misuse the influence you have? Think about the relationships in your family and in your workplace? What might Christ-honoring leadership look like in those relationships this week? Identify one relationship and one action you might take to embody the values and character of the Kingdom of God.

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Writing from a prison in Rome, the apostle Paul sends this message to his young disciple Timothy, "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8 TNIV)

- What do you think sustained Paul as he fought his good fight? Consider reviewing Paul's mini-autobiography in 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31 to see what that fight sometimes looked like. (Note: "b" in a Scripture reference means one starts reading with the second half of the verse.)
- What is sustaining you for your good fight?

SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR...

Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and 11:1-12:3.

- We are encouraged to entrust ourselves to the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. What do these verses teach us about Jesus? How are you encouraged and challenged by the faith of those who have gone before us?
- In what ways do you need to entrust yourself more fully to God this week?

Share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Notes from the Video and Discussion

What other insights, questions, challenges, encouragements are you taking with you tonight? Record your thoughts and any action steps you intend to take in the space below.