

## E. Attitude of R. toward Christ.

1. As reflected in the bk of Acts. -- Altho' the Jews persecuted the early Christ., the R. were largely disinterested, looking upon Christ. as purely speculative movement among the lower classes. They interfered in religious affairs only when law and order were threatened.
2. Nero's Persecution -- During the first century the good R. Emp. were indifferent to Christ., while the bad Emp. were apt to persecute them. After 170 A.D. the attitude was reversed: good Emp. strove to stamp out Christ. and poor Emp. ignored it.

### a. Recapitulation of R. Hist.

- (1) Julius Caesar laid the foundations for the R. Emp. He became the first autocrat altho' his assass. in 44 B.C. prevented his assuming the title of Emperor.
- (2) Under the firm hand of Augustus Caesar (27 BC - 14 AD) the power of the Emp. became a fixed thing, yet he was careful to follow the forms of law to hold his power, and the concept of law was maintained.
- (3) Tiberius Caesar succeeded Octavian (14 AD - 37). T. was a jealous autocrat within his court but sought to maintain law and order in the empire. He reprimanded an extortionist-procurator thus: "you were to shear my sheep not skin them."
- (4) Caligula (37-41) was hailed as another Augustus, but he shortly dev. a warped pers. and having proclaimed himself a god talks to the statue of Jupiter as an =. His attempt to set up his own stat. in the temple at Jerus. met with mass, passive resistance from the J. Assassinated.
- (5) Claudius (41-54) was placed in power by the Praetorian Guard and served for 13 years as a fairly good emp.

Note: Christ. under these men largely ignored (except perhaps Cal.)