

number. How many did not? Well we find that at least half, and perhaps 65 % ~~did~~ here have not had anything since high school on anything about ~~Roman~~ Roman hist. Well, for those of you who had I don't think there will be much repetition, I don't know what I will say about it, but it is very important background to the coming of Christ to know a little about the Roman Empire. Let me ask this, you haven't yet completed your study of Acts. But in the study, how many of you can think of an instance in Acts where we have evidence of a bitter Roman persecution of the church, or the opposition of the Roman Empire to the church? (someone answered.....not to the church but to the Jews, ~~when~~ in general, where Priscilla and Aquilla had to leave Rome) Yes, to the Jews we have an attitude of general hostility where Priscilla and Aquilla had to leave Rome. But they were not ~~x~~ killed, they were simply expelled from the city. There were certain sporadic movements in things like that that affected the Jews from time to time. But as a rule they were not persecuted. Now, about the church, about the Christian people, Paul and the apostles, (another answer....in Acts 8) Steven was attacked by the Jews, by those in the ~~the~~ synagogue, there was no Roman mentioned in that. The Roman Empire and Roman civilization are mentioned a good deal in the book of Acts, quite frequently. And we all know the terrific Roman persecution of the church. Do we find Roman persecution in the book of Acts? (another answer....) We find in the Book of Acts that Paul preached in Cyprus ~~and~~ before the Roman official, and the Roman official received him in a most friendly fashion. We find in Acts that the Jews dragged Paul before the judgment seat of the Roman emperor, and we read that he cared nothing for it and paid no attention to ~~it~~ it. We find the attitude of Pilate toward Christ in the ~~the~~ Gospels, this is a matter I know nothing about, I find no fault in this man, you deal with him the way you want to, I am not ~~is~~ interested, and it was fear of insurrection, rather than a hostility, that led Pilate to do the very thing that he did, allowing a man he regarded as innocent to be crucified.

We find that there is opposition and often very strong opposition