

the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly good alike, regarding them merely as common property.” (*Death of Peregrinus*, 11-13).

These things don’t even begin to start the list of historical references to Jesus, Christians, and the Church and its practices OUTSIDE the Bible. There are a couple of things that need to be pointed out with this list.

1) No one questions the historical accuracy of these writers listed. Tacitus, Josephus, and Pliny the Younger are all historians of the utmost caliber. The Talmudic writings are rarely ever questioned regarding their historical accuracy due to the strict rules and guidelines it took for the Sanhedrin to include anything in the writings.

2) These are all First Century or very early Second Century AD sources. This is important because the Bible writings were written between 50AD and 90AD. All of these writers were living during this time or very close to it. Comparatively speaking, just this many different sources from people with very different backgrounds is amazing because so many other writings never have their validity or authenticity or historical accuracy questioned and they have fewer outside sources than the Bible.

So, what can we learn from all of this?

\*That Jesus lived in Judea. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

\*He did many miracles to help people. (Matthew 4:23-25)

\*He was crucified by Pontius Pilate for His

teachings. (John 18:33-38)

\*He was crucified without a trial or anyone to come to His defense. (Acts 2:23)

\*He was executed on Passover Eve. (John 19:31)

\*He rose again on the third day and showed Himself to His followers. (1Cor 15:1-11)

\*His followers met on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7)

\*They praised God and Jesus. (Colossians 1:9-29)

\*They did what was good to each other and everyone else. (Galatians 6:10)

\*They believed that this world was not their home. (Philippians 3:12-4:1)

Does what these men said about Jesus and the Gospel differ from what the Bible says? No, it supports what the Bible says.

Again, there are a lot of sources we could look at on this subject. The point is this: no matter how many people try to erase Jesus and discredit the Bible, they can’t. More and more, every day, we see the proof that Jesus lived, died, and rose again because He is God. More and more, every day, we see that the Bible is the most remarkably accurate book regarding science and history and psychology and the most amazing book that has ever been or ever will be because it is directly from the mind of God. We can learn a lot without the Bible, but what we learn should lead us back to it. Let’s take new faith in Jesus and the Bible and examine both a lot closer because our eternal souls depend on it.

By Curtis Carwile

# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
(806) 352-2809

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Fred Perez  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

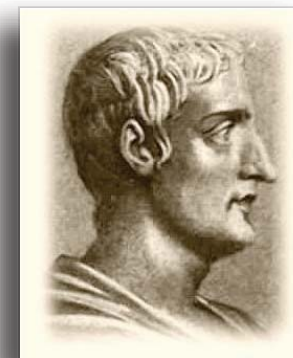
## What Can We Learn Without the Bible?

A lot of critics of the Bible say that Jesus never existed or that He never did all of the things He and His followers claimed they did. They say that Jesus is not a historically accurate figure. They say that the Bible is not accurate. They say that Jesus can only be found in the Bi-

ble and if they discredit the Bible, they can discredit Jesus, as well. Well, I think everyone who says that is wrong on that point. I’ll tell you why through the words of history itself.

### Tacitus

Tacitus was one of the most famous and accurate Roman historians. He wrote during the reign of Nero and had this to say in his *Annals of Imperial Rome* about Christ. **“Hence to suppress the rumor, he (Nero) falsely charged with the guilt, and punished Christians, who were hated for**



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**their enormities** (eating flesh and drinking blood in the Lords Supper). **Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious**

**superstition** (the resurrection), repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular.” (15.44). (The parenthetical explanations are the writers).

### *Suetonius*

Suetonius was a secretary of Emperor Hadrian between 117-138AD. He said, “As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome” (*Life of Claudius*, 25.4).

### *Josephus*

Josephus was a Jewish historian working for the Romans during the latter half of the First Century. In his work *Antiquities of the Jews*, Josephus wrote this.



“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was (the) Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named for him, are not extinct at this day” (18.3.3).

### *Pliny the Younger*

Pliny the Younger was a Roman author in the last part of the First Century and the first part of the Second Century (AD). This is what Pliny had to say in a letter to Emperor Trajan about Christ and the Christians.

“They (The Christians) asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn (on the first day of the week) and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath (confession of faith), not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food” (*Epistles*, 97).

### *The Talmud*

The Talmudic writings were a set of writings about the business of the Sanhedrin. They were written between 70AD and 200AD. In the *Babylonian Talmud*, *Sanhedrin* 43a, it writes this about Jesus and the Christians.

“Yeshu (Jesus) was hanged on Passover Eve. Forty days previously the herald had cried, ‘He is being led out for stoning, because he has practiced sorcery and led Israel astray and enticed them into apostasy. Whosoever has anything to say in his defense, let him come and declare it.’ As nothing was brought forward in his defense, he was hanged on Passover Eve.”

### *Lucian of Samosata*

Lucian of Samosata was a Second Century Greek writer. He was a comedian and playwright. He had this sarcastic thing to say about Christians. “The Christians... worship a man (Jesus) to this day--the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. . . . You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawgiver (Jesus) that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship