





FAMOUS FIRSTS

*Discovering Who We Are
by Learning Where We Began
Understanding Where We are Going
by Knowing Where We Started*

Rome

I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

Romans 1:14-15



The Last First



**The first arrival
in Rome
(Acts 28:11-16)**



The first arrival in Rome

Paul (formerly Saul) had visions
of conquering Rome

Not in a military sense

He wanted to win Rome for Christ

And he made it to Rome
under house arrest

You can't keep a good
message down



**The First step in
reaching the
ends of the earth
(Acts 28:11-16)**



**In spite of how he got there
Paul began to do
exactly what he had
came there to do.
Preach the gospel
People were
interested in hearing**



What changed?

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ— with all boldness and without hindrance!



**While Paul was indeed
winning Rome, His stationary
position gave time for him to
pen over half his letters that
have become the core of the
New Testament**



**Paul would not leave Rome,
he describes his pending
death to Timothy
(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**



**Paul saw it as the
ultimate victory**

I have fought the good fight

I have finished the race

I have kept the faith



Paul Understood

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24



How we apply it to us?



**Jesus told His disciples they
were to be witnesses
in all the world**



**At the first encounter with
the Holy Spirit 3000 we saved**

**At the first miracle another
2000 were added**

**The first ministry closed with
the number of disciples
increasing rapidly**

**The first great persecution the
gospel spread and "and a great
number of people believed and
turned to the Lord"**



The term Christian was born in Antioch where again a great number of people placed their faith in Christ

The first missionaries planted church after church not by pulling members for one to another but by bring people into a new relationship with Christ

At the first dispute the apostles made it perfectly clear nothing gets in the way of people coming to Christ



**And here at
the last first what
do we see,
people coming to Christ**



Do You See It?

The church was born.....

not out of a desire to change the world

not out of a desire to conquer the world

not out of a desire to control the world

But out of Jesus' mission

to save the world



**I know who we were
meant to be**





To Be Continued....