

Reading & Discussion Questions – Bauer, pp. 697-711, 717-34; Tacitus, “Nero’s Persecution of Christians”

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions in a typed document following MLA formatting. On time submission = printed document submitted in class on the due date AND submission to Turnitin.com by class time.

**From Bauer:**

1. What did Octavian do to demonstrate that the Roman Republic had been given a "fresh start"? What actions did he previously take to demonstrate that he never intended to share power?
2. Rome formed the Praetorian Guard under Augustus, which was the first standing army that Rome had in the city itself. How may a standing army at the command of a sole ruler infringe on individual liberties?
3. Augustus is the first Roman leader we have read about that could admit to the farce of the Republic. However, he went to extreme lengths in order to preserve the façade of a Rome run by the people. What did the title “Augustus” mean to Octavian, and why was it important for him not to think of himself as a “prince” but as First Citizen?
4. Why was Caligula appointed as leader of Rome and how did he maintain loyal followers during his reign of terror?
5. How did Nero attempt to shift the blame for the fire of AD 64 to the Christians? How did this affect Peter and Paul?

**From Tacitus’ Essay on Nero:**

6. How did Nero execute Christians with "the most exquisite punishments"?
7. What attitude did people have toward the Christians as a result of Nero's persecution?