



1

Tacitus (c. 55-117 A.D.)

Christians are...  
"a deadly disease...haters of the human race"

Part of the page from the 11th century codex containing *Annales*, xv, 44.3-8.

2

**Hebrews 10:32-39**

<sup>32</sup> But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, <sup>33</sup> partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

3

<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

<sup>37</sup> FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

<sup>38</sup> BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

4

**Hold Fast Your Confidence**

<sup>6</sup> but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope. (Heb. 3:6)

5

**Hold Fast Your Confidence**

1. A Past Confidence

- running with endurance in past sufferings is a mark of genuine faith ("being enlightened")
- enduring insults and mistreatment *with joy* is a mark of a follower of Jesus (cf. Matt. 5:11-12)
- showing sympathy to and sharing in the sufferings of fellow-believers is a mark of selfless love

6

## Hold Fast Your Confidence

### 2. A Present (“Better”) Possession

- this ultimate possession is far superior (better) to all earthly, existing things
- this possession is indestructible in nature and eternal in quality because it is nothing less than life in the presence of God

7

## Hold Fast Your Confidence

- Key: “*knowing*” – being deeply confident about our certain, superior future in Christ
- How does this “knowing” affect your view of your possessions?
- Where do you exhibit a costly, sacrificial love that displays your true treasure?

8