

dependent somewhat on how the section came into the Empire and how much the territory could be trusted to govern itself. In conquered territories the Romans tried to use as many or as much of the local leadership as was feasible. So long as riot was not continuous or rebellion a strong issue, self-government was permitted under Roman supervision. Palestine in those days of the early church is a good example of this.

--minor officials: Lesser appointees, etc., controlled the political life of the provinces. All the latter were thought to be under the common concept of Roman law. This explains how Paul, a Roman citizen by birth, was able to appear to Caesar and escape the local jurisdiction although not being immune to its impostures.

--citizenship: A highly valued commodity in Rome. The majority of persons were slaves although many of these held rather exalted positions in society. Citizens were free born (Paul), made that by decree, or were those who had bought it (legitimately). In the New Testament you cannot miss the advantages that were Paul's because he was a citizen.

II.1.c
Roman
Society

Roman Society

Rome, among other things, unified the western world under a code of laws and a single governmental system. Such a condition to such a degree had not existed before and has not existed since. Most of the western world was in this system...at its peak it stretched from the Indus valley of India to southern England and involved all of the Mediterranean territory, much of the middle east, and large segments of African coastal territory. Throughout the whole was the reality of a "oneness presence" and a number of factors contributed to this of which we mention the following:

--common languages: In all parts of the Empire a commonality of language prevailed:

Latin: the legal language
Greek: the commercial language
Provincial: whatever tongue was
native to a given district.

The advantages of this were enormous and it allowed people to think of themselves as being Roman while