



Trajan's Reply to Pliny

Excerpt from Book 10, Letter 97, from Emperor Trajan to Governor Pliny

You observed proper procedure, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those who had been denounced to you as Christians. For it is not possible to lay down any general rule to serve as a kind of fixed standard. They are not to be sought out; if they are denounced and proved guilty, they are to be punished, with this reservation, that whoever denies that he is a Christian and really proves it--that is, by worshiping our gods--even though he was under suspicion in the past, shall obtain pardon through repentance. But anonymously posted accusations ought to have no place in any prosecution. For this is both a dangerous kind of precedent and out of keeping with the spirit of our age.

A Libellus from 250 AD

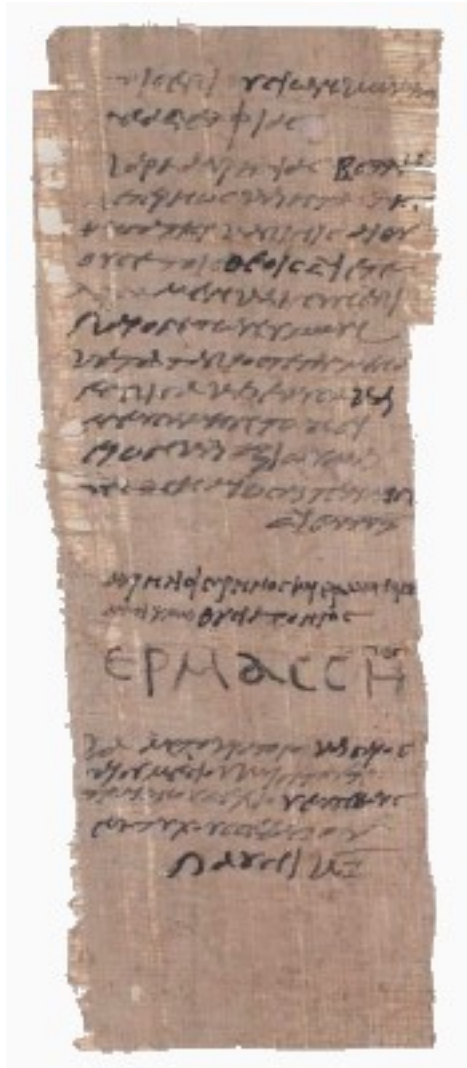
To those in charge of the sacrifices of the village Theadelphia, from Aurelia Bellias, daughter of Peteres, and her daughter, Kapinis. We have always been constant in sacrificing to the gods, and now too, in your presence, in accordance with the regulations, I have poured libations and sacrificed and tasted the offerings, and I ask you to certify this for us below. May you continue to prosper.

We, Aurelius Serenus and Aurelius Hermas, saw you sacrificing.

I, Hermas, certify.

The first year of the Emperor Caesar Gaius Messius Quintus Traianus Decius Pius Felix Augustus

- Compare to **Acts 15:29, 21:25, 1 Corinthians 10:19-20, 12:2, 1 John 5:21**



Libellus from 250 AD

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/persecution.html#accusations>