

## Excerpt from an Ancient Roman Letter\*

In the ancient city of Carthage, a Roman citizen wrote a letter to a friend of his named Donatus over seventeen hundred years ago:

*It is an incredibly bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world....brigands on the high road, pirates on the sea, under all roofs misery and selfishness...an incredibly bad world-yet in the midst of it, I have found here a quiet people. They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of this sinful life. They are often despised and persecuted, but they don't care. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are called Christians, and I have become one of them.*

\*Taken from: Detlev Dormeyer, et.al, *The New Testament Among the Writings of Antiquity* (1998), p. 324. In this book it reads as a very difficult English Translation. However, [www.explorefaith.org/homily03.03.02.html](http://www.explorefaith.org/homily03.03.02.html) has a modern translation of it, which is what you read above.