Christianity and the Roman Empire

Christianity originated from Judea, one of the places where Jesus lived during his time. Here, many locals relied and took in his teachings as insisted upon by the apostle Paul, one of his followers. This led to the forming of a belief group who believed in life after death according to Jesus’ teachings. This group thought that the only way to the afterlife was through Jesus, who was the son of God. This belief spread all over the Jews and non-Jews around them and all over the Roman Empire.

After the death of Jesus, his followers were left in charge of spreading his gospel. One of the renowned followers was Paul. Paul was a Roman citizen and a converted Christian who significantly took part in spreading Jesus’ gospel. His work through letters to different parts of the world, including the Roman Empire, led to the spread of Christianity. His messages were about Jesus and their relationship to God and the relationship between Jews, Romans and Christians amongst themselves. This was considered a binding tool to enhance the cohesion of the Roman Empire.

This, however, happened before an excellent resistance to Christianity. Roman Empire formally legalized Judaism as their religion and had for many years persecuted Christians in the Roman Empire. The reign of Emperor Constantine saw the issuance of the Edict of Milan, which recognized Christianity and other religions in the empire. Consequently, Theodosius, the emperor, issued an Edict of Thessalonica through the empire council and adopted Christian orthodox beliefs into the Roman empire. This made Christianity an official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 CE.

As the Roman Empire fell, Christianity was still spreading. This emulates how it started and thrived even before being adopted by the empire. The Roman culture and political structures enhanced Christianity and its spread worldwide.

Reference

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