

I. EMPIRE

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 1



But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3.20 (NRSV)

1. What are some of the accomplishments celebrated in the *Res Gestae Divi Augustus*? How do they support the principles of Roman imperial theology?
2. In what ways is Roman power consistent with the four elements of Michael Mann's "Sources of Social Power"? Be specific.
3. Why would people have thought of Caesar as Divine?
4. Describe the characteristics and social impact of a Tributary Empire versus a Territorial Empire.
5. Contrast Roman imperial theology with Paul's "program."
6. How does the "matrix" discussed today affect your understanding of what Paul was up to?
7. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?