

Student Responses

Department of Religion and Biblical Studies
Study Tour Summer 2016

"I have never seen a sight like I did [when we traveled into Switzerland]. The snow-covered mountain hidden behind a blanket of clouds showed God's craftsmanship. It further proved to me how great my God is. The fact that He made that mountain in a week makes me feel special that He is still working on me."

"Today we visited an archaeological museum, and after seeing all of the artifacts the question 'So what?' was raised. 'Why are all of these finds important?' I believe this should be very important to us as Christians as it provides evidence for events found in Scripture, which should strengthen our faith in the Bible."

"The stories of Jesus that John the apostle told to [Polycarp] moved him so much that he was willing to go to his death instead of swearing on the divinity of Caesar. I came to two conclusions from this story. First, it is amazing how Jesus, even though not being physically on earth, can still make an impact on our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. Second, it makes me think about whether I have enough faith in Jesus to be willing to be killed for Him. As I continue my walk with Christ my faith grows stronger every day so I can get to the point where I would be willing to go to the grave for Him."

"Seeing the cities [of the seven churches] got me thinking about the spiritual condition of the seven churches in comparison with the church now. Each church obviously claimed to follow God, but as we see in Revelation, God was not pleased with most of them. It makes me think about the state of our church today and even my personal walk with God. Could I be thinking I'm in one place with God when I'm really not where He would like me to be?"

"Most tourists probably don't think about the actual function of the Colosseum. As the tour guide was speaking, I was reminded of what it was truly for. For the most part, death occurred here, either through sports or purposeful persecution. It got me to thinking about how sometimes as people, we can be so obsessed with something for all the wrong reasons and never see how harmful or detrimental it either has been or could be to us. It is kind of like sin. It seems beautiful, appealing, or inviting, but we ignore its consequences, what it does to God when we willingly choose to sin, and what we are ultimately setting ourselves up for."

"For the Christians, suffering from their convictions could mean being apart from their friends and even their family, but they preached benevolence and love, even when suffering. I think that we can still apply suffering in our daily lives through being patient, being compassionate, being understandable, being there for the other; in short, dying to ourselves to Christ live His life in us. Once He is living within us, His love will fill us. Real love is given by God and directs others to God. If we have Jesus' love, we will be seeking to bring our neighbors to Jesus."

"We went to Justinian's Underground Cistern. These pillars were so beautiful. They

were evenly spaced out, and they were made so well that they are still there today. Spiritually, each of these pillars could be thought of as members of a church. We know from Paul that each member of the church has a very important role to play, no matter how small--just like those pillars. If one pillar were out of place, then the entire integrity of the place would be jeopardized. The church cannot witness to its full potential if its members are not working together."