

SIGN OF THE FISH

After the burning of Rome, the Emperor (Nero) blamed the Christians. As a result, he put a price on their heads, and a lot of people became bounty hunters, searching for Christians to arrest, and then turning them into the government for reward money. These early Christians were thrown into prison to await horrible executions (usually as entertainment for the Romans as the Apostle Paul referred to in *I Corinthians 15:30-32*). Remember, that even the Apostle Paul was caught up in this persecution of Christians in his early days as Saul (*Act 7:54-60; 9:1,2; 22:1-5*)

To keep their places of worship secret, the early Christians developed a secret sign — the sign of the fish. Remember, Jesus' first disciples were fishermen, and He said He would make them "fishers of men" in *Luke 4:18-20*. So, before they would take someone to their secret place of worship, they would draw an arc in the ground



If you were a Christian, you would finish their arc with another arc that formed a fish



Why a fish? The Greek word for "fish" is "ichthus" (ἰχθύς). It is spelled with the Koine or Common New Testament Greek letters which are all in the lower case:

iota (ι), chi (χ), theta (θ), upsilon (υ), and sigma (σ).

Each letter in the word fish form an acrostic for the following words:

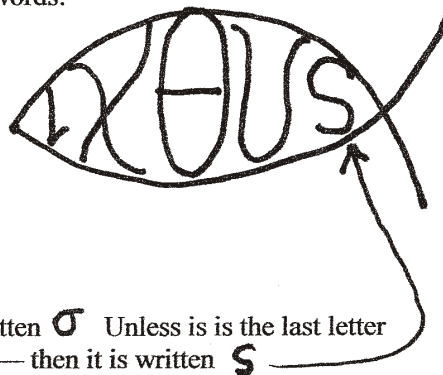
iēsous (Ἰησοῦς) which translates: Jesus

christos (Χριστός) which translates: Christ

theos (Θεός) which translates: God

huios (Υἱός) which translates: Son

sōtēr (σωτήρ) which translates: Savior (sigma is written σ Unless it is the last letter in the word — then it is written S)



we like to use the classical Greek which includes capital letters, which would look like this:

Iēsous (Ἰησοῦς) - Jesus

Christos (Χριστός) - Christ

Theos (Θεός) - God

Huios (Ἰός) - Son

Sôtēr (Σωτήρ) - Savior

