

Participant's Guide





In the city of Thacora, in the land of Numidia, which we now call Tunisia, lived a woman named Crispina. A wealthy woman, she and her large family were respected by those who knew them, and she was known to be generous with her wealth, giving freely to those who had a need. But there was a problem. Crispina was a Christian, a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, who almost 300 years earlier had turned all of the world upside down with His life and work. While this did not trouble her neighbors very much, it disturbed someone with far greater power: the Emperor Diocletian.

In the year AD 303, he issued a series of edicts ordering Roman citizens throughout the Empire to begin persecuting all Christians. These edicts went into effect on February 23, the feast day of Terminus, the Roman god of boundaries and limits, whose Latin motto, *concedo nulli*, means "Give no ground." Diocletian's meaning was clear: from that day forward, his mission was to see Christianity terminated once and for all. He would give no ground to the Christian faith.

Fire was the preferred tool: it consumed church buildings, it consumed Scriptures. It consumed Christians. Was this necessary? Was Diocletian so unwilling to extend mercy to any Christians at all? In fact, he made a simple offer: those who renounced their Christian faith, publicly prayed to the gods and offered a simple offering in the name of the Emperor would be forgiven and their lives and property spared. Who in their right mind could refuse such clemency?

Crispina, matron, mother — Christian — could not abandon her Jesus so readily. Respectfully, firmly, she proclaimed at her trial that, "I have never sacrificed, nor will I sacrifice to any other than to one God, and to our Lord Jesus Christ His Son, who was born and suffered for us. I have told you again and again that I am ready to endure any tortures rather than worship the idols which are the work of men's hands." The Praetorian judging her case ordered that she have her head shaved in order to publicly humiliate her. He then brought her before his court again, where she once more refused to betray her faith. Stony-faced, the judge ordered that she be tortured in front of her family and then beheaded.

On December 5, AD 304, Crispina was killed by the sword. Right before she entered Paradise and the arms of Jesus, she made the sign of the cross on her forehead. One hundred and fifty years later, another North African, Augustine of Hippo, wrote of her: "See how Crispina despised all things, and life itself, for the love of Jesus Christ. Wisely, therefore, did she prefer to live forever, than to prolong for a short while her temporal existence." The ruins of the church built in her honor are still visible in Algeria. And despite continued persecution, her spiritual descendants are still visible there, as well.

To Crispina, Jesus was more important, more permanent, more *real* than even the Emperor of Rome. Sometimes, we have trouble feeling like we can point to specific evidence of how real Jesus is. Our walk with God is real, but when someone asks us how we can have any confidence in a story that is so old, a story that *must* have been changed so many times through the years, we don't immediately know what to say. Why is that? Can our critics be right? Is our hope based on nothing more than a myth? What evidence do we have that this Gospel is true and can change anything at all?

The good news is that we are not the first to engage these questions! The apostle Paul instructs us to always be ready to give the reason for the hope we have in Christ. Jesus tells us, "You trust in God, trust therefore also in me." The writer to the Hebrews tells us that our confidence in God is justified because we can see His character in the lives of those who have come before us in the faith. Those believers are *part* of our evidence, part of our story. Put a different way: **As followers of Jesus, we know that Christ's story is proven through our collective story.** And that is why we have created Lost Legacy Reclaimed: so that all can see how Christ's story is being proven true through the lives of Christians across the ages, and to make those stories available on every platform. We look forward to sharing these stories with you; we look forward to the stories that Jesus will write through you and through us. Happy reading....and happy writing.

The Lost Legacy Reclaimed team



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PERPETUA

Themes: Christian equality; the cost of discipleship; hearing God in trials.

Summary: A young noblewoman and her slave become sisters in Christ and in motherhood. With their small group of Christian friends, they face persecution and personal loss together and emerge victorious over death.

Time Period: AD 203.

Location: Carthage, modern-day Tunis, Tunisia and Theburba Minus, modern-day Tebourba, Tunisia.

Interesting Facts: Perpetua's journal is an important example of early Christian writing. It shows that women held equal value to men in the early church, and demonstrates the reality of loving Christ even before family. Perpetua's diary also explores God's use of dreams and visions in encouraging and equipping Christians in distress.

Quotable quotes

"We were in the hands of our persecutors, when my father, out of the affection he bore me, made new efforts to shake my resolution. I said to him: 'Can that vessel, which you see, change its name?' He said: 'No.' I replied: 'Nor can I call myself any other than I am, that is to say, a Christian.'"

"My father [...] continually strove to hurt my faith because of his love"

"That shall be done at this tribunal, whatsoever God shall please; for know that we are not established in our own power, but in God's."

"Then Hilarianus passed sentence upon us all and condemned us to the beasts; and cheerfully we went down to the dungeon."

"And I awoke; and I understood that I should fight, not with beasts but against the devil; but I knew that mine was the victory."



1. The Christian refusal to worship the gods of Rome was seen as intolerant by the Romans. What parallels do you see between secular culture and the church today?
2. Saturus, the teacher of the young Christians, surrendered himself voluntarily to death. Why did he do this? How does this compare with James 3.1: "Let not many of you be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive heavier judgment."?
3. How does Saturus' decision illustrate I John 3.16: "By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."?
4. How do you think that a Christian can prepare to stay faithful to God and to the believers under his or her care in advance of persecution?
5. The deacons of the church of Carthage did what they could to improve conditions for their imprisoned brothers and sisters. How can we encourage and help the persecuted church today?
6. What was the message of Perpetua's first vision (involving the serpent, the armed ladder, and the beautiful garden)?

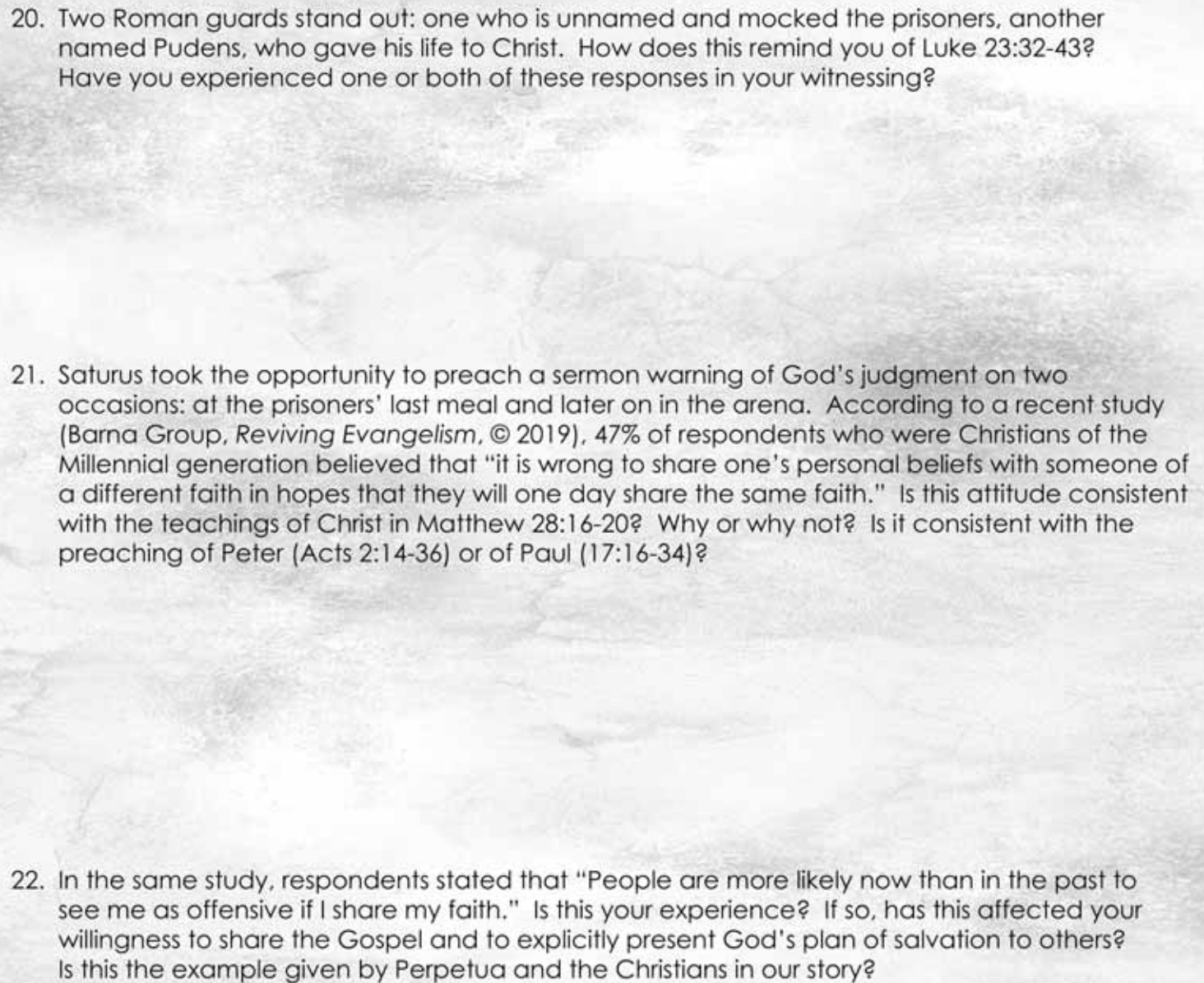


7. Oppressed by the Roman Imperial government, Perpetua and her fellow Christians took great risks to meet together and study the Scriptures. Why were they willing to so openly defy their governments?
8. What are some verses that come to mind when we think of Perpetua's willingness to lose even family for the sake of Jesus?
9. What were the possible consequences for following Jesus at this time? What compromises did the government offer, and why didn't Christians take them up on them? Have you ever been mistreated in some way for being a Christian?
10. In which modern-day nation does Perpetua's story take place? What was the name of the ancient city from which she came?
11. Why would the Romans allow the worship of any number of gods, except for the worship of one god alone?
12. Were you surprised to find out that many women of Perpetua's day could read and write?
13. Perpetua and her brother were catechumens. What was a catechumen?



14. The Roman pagans could not understand the Bible studies and church meetings of the Christians. In what way does Christianity strike non-Christians in your life as strange and possibly threatening?
15. Was Perpetua sinning in defying her father in order to follow Jesus? Why or why not? Look at Luke 14:26. Discuss how this is a common choice facing Christians around the world today.
16. Was Perpetua sinning in choosing death even though it meant that her child would grow up without his mother? Why or why not?
17. Did Perpetua's father hate her? On what do you base your conclusion?
18. Match the Roman title from the story with its appropriate role:

Proconsul	A high-ranking Roman military officer who operated under the promagistrates such as the proconsuls or the consuls.
Military Tribune	A middle-ranked Roman official in charge of the financial affairs of a province or, in a minor province, the imperial governor.
Procurator	A high-ranking Roman official who administrated a Roman province.
Pater Familias	A Roman father and head of household, whose will was ultimately decisive in questions concerning anyone in his household.
19. Which woman delivered a baby while in prison: Felicitas or Perpetua? What was miraculous about the timing of the baby's birth?





23. What role do you think that the Christians played in helping each other stay faithful to Christ until the very end? Do you have friends like that? Do you have friends that make it harder for you to faithfully follow Christ?
24. What was the message of Perpetua's second vision (involving the deacon, the arena, and the giant gladiator)?
25. Perpetua received a branch or wreath for defeating the giant in her vision. Read Revelation 2:10. What do you think that this wreath symbolized for Perpetua and the other Christians?
26. Why did the Christians pray to die in certain ways rather than praying for God to release them from their death sentence?



Food for thought

As we conclude our study of the story of Perpetua and Felicitas and their fellow believers, what can we hold on to and apply to our own lives? Take a moment to reflect on the teaching that we've learned today in these areas:

- How does a Christian reconcile the commandment to honor their father and mother, while also honoring Christ, who said that "If anyone comes to me, and doesn't disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he can't be my disciple."?
- What can we learn about the role of leaders from Saturus and the deacons in this story? If you are a Christian leader or if you feel called to become one, what are you doing to prepare yourself to serve faithfully as these leaders did?
- What can we learn from the dreams and visions that Perpetua received? Do you believe that God can or does speak to Christians through dreams and visions today? What were the themes of Perpetua's visions, and how did they impact the behavior of the Christians in the story?
- What can we learn about how the early church saw women from this story?
- Many non-Christians are confused or frightened about Christians and their beliefs and practices. How can the church share the Biblical beliefs and practices in such a way as to invite honest questions and to show our Christlike intentions?
- Christ clearly mandates every disciple to share the Gospel with those in their lives, to baptize them, and to teach them all that He has taught, and yet a great percentage of Christians feel that "it is wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith." (Barna Group, *Reviving Evangelism*, © 2019)
How would you respond to this false understanding of Scripture?
- Are you frightened of how people will treat you if you begin fulfilling the Great Commission with those around you? Why or why not? Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of your need to trust God and obey His commandments? If so, would you be willing to share this with a fellow Christian who can support you in your desire to be faithful?



The Scillitan Martyrs

Themes: Standing strong together through persecution; honoring government even under unjust trials and persecutions; honoring God before men.

Summary: Twelve innocent Christians faced certain death for not giving into government and social pressure. By going through it together, they stood strong. Their story was told throughout the Empire and has encouraged countless other believers.

Time Period: AD 180.

Location: Scillita and Carthage, in modern-day Kasserine and Tunis, Tunisia.

Interesting Facts: The tomb of the martyrs was found in the early twentieth century. Two of the martyrs were Berbers.

Quotable quotes:

"We have no other to fear but the Lord our God, who is in heaven." Cittinus

"What I am is exactly what I want to be." Secunda

"Today we are martyrs in heaven. Thanks to God." Nartzalus

"Honor as Caesar to Caesar, but fear to God." Donata

"In a cause so just, there is no need for consideration." Speratus



1. In what year were the Scillitan Martyrs persecuted?
2. In what ancient city did their trial take place? _____.
3. With what crime were the Scillitan Martyrs charged?
4. What did the letters "SPQR" stand for (in English)?
"The _____ and _____ of _____."
5. Who was the son of the emperor Marcus Aurelius? _____
6. Most of the twelve Scillitan Martyrs had Latin names, except for two: Nartzalus and Scittinus. To what modern-day people group were they related?

The _____.

WHO ARE THE BERBERS?

The Berbers are the descendants of the original inhabitants of North Africa. Their languages are not related to Semitic or European languages, but represent a unique heritage. The six largest people groups of Berbers are the Chaoui, the Kabyle, the Riffi, the Tachelhayt, the Tamazight, and the Tamasheq. This project was initially inspired by the lost stories of early Christians from these tribes!

7. The Roman government used tax money to support a religious and political system that was pagan. Why then did the Christians still pay taxes to Rome?



8. What were the three factors that worked against the Christians?

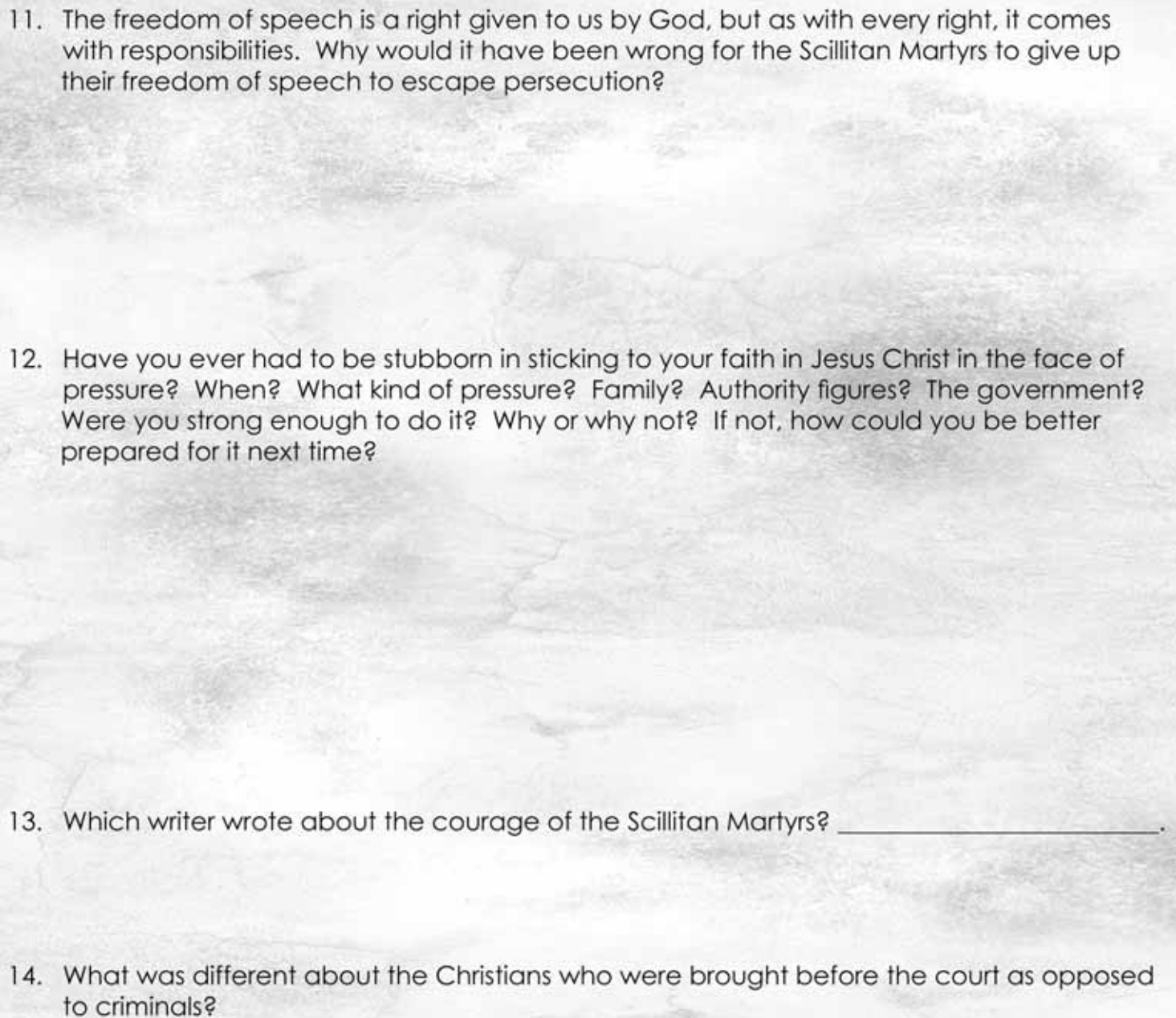
I.

II.

III.

9. The Romans had a various forms of superstition, including the sacred _____. Some might see these traditions as silly and harmless, but the Christians did not. In light of Deuteronomy 18:10-13, what are some superstitions or attempts at fortune-telling that are common today that Christians should avoid?

10. Romans believed that every man had a familiar spirit known as a _____, while every woman had a spirit called a _____. Why were Roman citizens expected to make offerings to the Emperor's genius?





15. What 3-step pattern did the persecutors of the Christians follow?

I.

II.

III.

16. Marcus Aurelius was both a Roman _____ and a _____.
His persecution killed people not for what they had _____, but rather for
what they _____. To this day, millions of Christians face the same
persecution all over the world.

17. Saturninus, the Roman official, wanted to help the Christians, but he was caught
between _____ and what was _____.
Do you think that there are officials that face a similar dilemma today? Why or why not?

18. Over the last few years, about 100,000 Christians around the world are killed for their faith,
every year. Are you aware of this? Would you like to take an active part in supporting
these Christians so that they can endure the persecution in their lives? If so, see the back
of this participant guide for some helpful links and start making a difference today!



Food for thought

As we conclude our study of the Scillitan Martyrs, what can we hold on to and apply to our own lives? Take a moment to reflect on the teaching that we've learned today in these areas:

- How are Christians to live in a society whose laws don't honor God?
- Why should Christians obey every law that does not directly violate the commands of Scripture?
- What is the role of personal integrity and respectful discourse in the face of persecution?
- Why is it important to go through difficulty or persecution as a church body, and not just as individual Christians?
- Since many persecutors are confused and scared, why is loving them and praying for them an essential part of representing Christ to them?
- What does it mean to be a Christian in deed, rather than just in name?
- How can you pray for the government and for those who persecute the Church?
- Are you suffering from persecution?
- How is your personal integrity?
- Are you upright before the Lord, or will your testimony under persecution be clouded because you are sinning? What can you do today to make sure that your testimony will be blameless?
- What is your church or small group doing to strengthen each other?
- What can you do to support the global church, which is undergoing persecution on a greater scale than ever before?
- A pastor of the persecuted church in China said, "When you are interrogated by the police for your faith, there are two dangers : one is physical, and one is spiritual. The spiritual one grows the longer that you are there. They may persuade you, or frighten you. So, to eliminate the spiritual danger, I go immediately to the most controversial point. I say, I respect your authority to rule, but the world view that you represent is evil and I will not believe in it. I am a Christian. Now, you must either beat me, imprison me, kill me, or let me go free. The choice is yours." How does this remind you of the Scillitan martyrs' leader, Speratus, and his way of speaking to the Roman official ?



Tertullian

Themes: Confronting injustice with God's Word, Christian compassion, and Christian intellectualism; using your gifts for God's kingdom in the face of persecution.

Summary: Raised a pagan, Tertullian would become the first major Christian writer to write in Latin, and his mountains of books are a rich treasure trove illuminating church and Roman history, examining the Christian response to the pagan worldview, studying the role of Christianity in shaping culture, and explaining key Christian concepts such as the Trinity and the sanctity of human life.

Time Period: AD 197-240.

Location: Carthage, near modern-day Tunis, Tunisia.

Interesting Facts: Very little is known about the personal life of Tertullian, yet we know almost everything imaginable about his Christian faith! The word Trinity was created by Tertullian to describe the God of the Bible, as revealed throughout Scripture.

Quotable quotes

"The blood of Christians is seed."

"The first reaction to truth is hatred."

"You can judge the quality of their [Christian] faith from the way they behave:
Discipline is an index to doctrine."

"Divorce these days is a religious vow, as if the proper offspring of marriage."

"Nothing that is God's is obtainable by money."

"The fullness of the fruit is in the seed." [speaking against infanticide/abortion]

"The Son of God was crucified: I am not ashamed - because it is shameful.
The Son of God died: it is immediately credible - because it is silly.
He was buried, and rose again: it is certain - because it is impossible."



1. Carthage was defeated by her ancient enemy, _____, which then made Carthage its capital in Africa.
2. Tertullian's father was a _____.
3. The Emperor during Tertullian's childhood was _____, and he became known as both a great _____ and _____.
4. Marcus Aurelius ordered the execution of Christians throughout the Empire. He was replaced upon his death by his insane son, _____. After Commodus, more emperors came and went before the empire found a stable emperor. Who was this stable emperor? _____
5. Tertullian grew up in what kind of household? Pagan or Christian?
6. Tertullian was the first major Christian writer in church history to write in _____.
7. Tertullian wrote to Christians who were in prison. Tertullian believed that Christians must learn to see prison as a _____ and an opportunity to grow _____ to God. If they could do this, prison would lose its power to cause _____ to the person of faith.
8. Christians were accused of worshiping a crucified god with the head of a _____. Because the bread and wine of the communion meal represent the body and blood of Jesus, Christians were accused of _____. Because Christians called each other "brother" and "sister" and would only marry other Christians, they were accused of _____. Because they would not take an oath to the spirit of the emperor, they were accused of _____. In what ways does your culture misunderstand or distort the teachings of Christianity?



9. In AD 197, Tertullian wrote two books to respond to accusations against the Christians. What were their names? _____ and _____
10. What did the title *Ad Nationes* mean? _____
11. What did the title *Apologeticus* mean? _____
12. In theology, what is an apology?
A reasoned _____ in defense against _____.
13. Roman persecution of the Christians started under which Emperor? _____
14. The Romans blamed environmental and economic suffering on the Christians. They did this because the Christians refused to see the world the same way that they did. How is this still an issue for the Church today?
15. Tertullian famously said that the blood of Christians is seed. What does this mean?
16. What did Tertullian mean when he said that "Christians are made, not born"?
17. What does it mean that Jesus is Savior?
18. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?



19. **Match the Roman Emperor with his description:**

Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-180)

The crazed tyrant,
not a particular persecutor of Christians

Didius Julianus (AD 193)

The philosopher emperor,
but a persecutor of Christians

Septimius Severus (AD 193-211)

The corrupt billionaire, assassinated
after only four months on the throne

Commodus (AD 177-192)

A great general,
but a persecutor of Christians

20. I Timothy 2 says, "I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and givings of thanks, be made for all men: for kings and all who are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth."

How did the Christians apply this verse to respond to persecution?

21. The pagan Romans didn't understand the Christian concept of prayer. Today, many other groups, such as Muslims or atheists, have a very different understanding of what it means to pray or to read Scriptures. How would you explain to them what a Bible study or a time of individual or corporate prayer is about?



22. What did the letters "SPQR" stand for?
23. The father of the Roman family was called the *pater familias* and had absolute power. If the father did not want the baby, it would be exposed. The babies were often eaten by animals, died from exposure, or were picked up by slave traders. The Romans embraced a culture of sexual liberty that cheapened the value of infant life. How is this similar to culture today?
24. The Bible teaches that life is precious from the moment of conception, because, as Tertullian put it, "He is a man who is destined to become a man, yes, even the whole fruit is in the seed." Is this message acceptable in society today? Why or why not?
25. The episode mentions two passages that mention Jesus, God (the Father), and the Holy Spirit. Which passages are these?
- _____
 - _____
26. Which of the following are not Biblical views of the God's nature? Cross them out:
- God is a term we use to describe a partnership made up of three gods.
 - God is one essence, Who exists in three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, similar to, but still different from, how a marriage is a shared essence between three persons: God, a husband, and a wife.
 - There is only one God, Who presents Himself using three different aspects: Sometimes He looks like the Father, sometimes as the Son, and sometimes as the Holy Spirit.



27. Tertullian combined the Latin words for "one" and "threeness of being" to create a new term to describe the God of the Bible. What is that term in English?"

28. Fill in the missing parts of this episode's definition of the term "Trinity":

"God is _____, only one God, Who exists _____ in a _____ of being, revealed to us as _____, _____, and _____."

29. While no analogy about God's nature is perfect, they can help us to get some idea of the nature of God. What analogy did Tertullian use to describe the threeness of God's being?

30. In the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament), the Shema Yisrael (Hear, O Israel) of Deuteronomy 6:4 declares:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

Normally, to be clear that God was only one person, the word *yahid* would have been used, but instead the word for "one" that is used here is *echad*, which most often means "a unity made out of compound entities."

Elsewhere, the Bible uses *echad* to describe a cluster of grapes, such as in Numbers 13:23, which is of course an accurate description. In Ezekiel 37:17, Ezekiel was instructed by God to hold two sticks together as if they were one. And what was the word for "one"? *Echad*. This is also the word for "one" used in Genesis 2:24: "Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Do you find the concept of the Trinity confusing? Do you think that Christians must understand everything about God's nature before trusting in His character? Why or why not?



Food for thought

As we conclude our study of the life of Tertullian, what can we hold on to and apply to our own lives? Take a moment to reflect on the teaching that we've learned today in these areas:

- How are Christians to live in a non-Christian society?
- There is a general ignorance in the non-Christian world about the Bible, the Church, and God. How can we help to correct and inform those around us?
- Like Tertullian, we will at times need to stand up and speak against injustice and persecution. What examples does the Bible give us of how to do this?
- The Bible affirms the sanctity of human life from conception to death. How is this view perceived today? How can the church do a better job affirming this?
- Describe how God's Trinitarian nature is revealed to us all throughout the Scriptures.
- What does it mean to be a Christian in fact, not just in name?
- How can you pray for the government and for those who persecute the Church?
- What is your plan to stand up against false teaching, evil practices, and the persecution of Christians in the world?
- Are you preparing to stand like Tertullian? If not, are you willing to start doing so now? If so, talk too a mature Christian leader about developing a discipleship plan today!



Victor

Theme: Leading towards unity in dangerous times; accepting correction; biblical sexuality versus worldly sexuality; God and heart languages.

Summary: Born a Libyan, Victor became the bishop of Rome during a time of great uncertainty and political upheaval in the Empire. His story continues a line of Christians from Libya that starts with Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross of Christ, and continues to the persecuted Libyan church of today. He teaches us a great deal about the mistakes and successes that can befall leaders who try to strengthen Christian unity in times of crisis.

Time Period: AD 189-198.

Location: Cyrene and Leptis Magna, modern-day Shahat and Khoms, Libya; Milan and Rome, Italy.

Interesting Facts: During Victor's time as the bishop of Rome, the church and the Roman empire were both led by people from Libya! Victor changed the language of church services to Latin because it was what most people in the Roman Empire spoke at the time, setting an important precedent for the church: worship is meant to be in your heart's language! Sadly, abortion is not a new approach to human sexuality, but an old one, as we can see in this episode. Once again, we find that God's Word has equipped the church for every imaginable moral question.

Quotable quotes:

"The very differences in the fast only serve to illustrate the unity of our faith."
Bishop Irenaeus of Lyon



1. From which modern-day country did Victor come?
2. In what year did Victor become the bishop of Rome?
3. The emperor _____ was cruel and probably insane. He liked to dress up as a _____. His father, _____, was famous as a great _____ and _____, but he was also a great _____ of the Christian faith.
4. Match the name of the Libyan city with its description.

Leptis Magna	Modern-day Shahhat, Libya.
	Modern-day Khoms, Libya
Cyrene	In the east of Libya; citizens spoke Greek.
	In the west of Libya; citizens spoke Latin.
5. In addition to Latin and Greek, many people spoke one of dozens of _____ languages.

WHO ARE THE BERBERS?

The Berbers are the descendants of the original inhabitants of North Africa. Their languages are not related to Semitic or European languages, but represent a unique heritage. The six largest people groups of Berbers are the Chaoui, the Kabyle, the Riffi, the Tachelhayt, the Tamazight, and the Tamasheq. This project was initially inspired by the lost stories of early Christians from these tribes!

6. About four years after Victor arrived in Rome, a new emperor rose to power. What was his name and where was he from?
7. The city of Kyrēnē, which we call _____, was founded in _____ BC by a Greek explorer named _____, and it was named after a princess named _____. She was said to have been a lover of the Greek god, _____, and the Greeks believed that she became a water nymph.



8. The fertility of the area around Cyrene was legendary and is described for us by the Greek historian _____, who lived between 484 and 425 BC. It was a unique harvesting pattern that comprised _____ months out of the year.
9. While the citizens of Cyrene valued the land's fertility, they were less appreciative of human fertility. They used a plant called _____ as an abortifacient. It allowed them to be promiscuous without fearing the consequences. How does this compare with sexual messaging in our culture today?

FOR THE GREATER GOOD?

As we can see, abortion and infanticide have been part of the human race's rebellion against God for thousands of years. Today, a culture of death continues through the abortion movement, the euthanasia movement, state genocide, and the widespread persecution of Christians around the globe. Tertullian, another North African Christian wrote that every life, even the unborn one, is precious because, "He is a man who is destined to become a man; yes even the whole fruit is in the seed."

10. In _____ BC, the _____ finally lost their hold on the Mediterranean, and North Africa fell to the power of the _____.
11. By _____, traveling from Cyrene to Jerusalem could take more than a _____, but by _____, it was a journey of just a few _____, depending on the weather.
12. Around the year AD _____, three Libyan men took this journey: _____, along with his sons _____ and _____.



13. _____ was forced to carry the cross for Jesus. This is recorded in the gospel of _____, the _____ gospel to be written.
14. Most scholars agree that the Gospel of Mark was written to the church of the city of _____ and that this church knew Simon, Alexander, and Rufus personally. The Apostle _____, writing to that church in Romans 16.13, mentions a Rufus by name that was a prominent member of that church.

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Leviticus 15:1-5 states that if a person were to touch any human fluid, including blood, that that person would be unclean until evening. By touching the cross of Christ, Simon would have rendered himself unable to participate in religious events until evening. And what was that evening? It was the evening of Preparation Day, when the Passover meal would be prepared. Because the Lamb of God's blood had touched him, Simon may not have been able to prepare a meal for the Passover. But because of his faith in the Lamb of God, Simon would never again need to prepare a Passover meal!

15. Acts 2 describes the day of _____, when the _____ was poured out on the church, as being attended by people from many parts of the world, including from parts of _____ near _____.
16. Was Peter ridiculed for claiming that Jesus had done miracles?
17. Was the statement that Jesus had been put to death by crucifixion questioned by the crowd?
18. When Peter said that God raised Jesus from the dead, did the crowd ridicule or question him?
19. How did the crowd respond to Peter's presentation of the Gospel message (see Acts 2:37)?



20. Match the Libyan with their role in this episode:

Septimius Severus	Bishop of Rome, AD 189-199
Simon	Emperor of Rome, AD 193-211
Rufus	A man from Cyrene, carried the cross for Christ
Victor	A man from Cyrene, was perhaps part of the church in Rome, along with his brother Alexander

21. From the time of Caesar _____, some Roman emperors were seen as partially _____. Because of this, it was expected for Roman citizens to make _____ to the _____ of the emperor.

22. When Victor became the bishop of Rome, what was a common punishment given to Christians?

23. A Christian servant named _____ had educated Marcia, the concubine of the emperor Commodus, and she was described as "_____." Marcia asked for Victor to visit her. He gave her a list of names of prisoners in the mines, and she successfully lobbied the emperor to liberate the Christians.

24. Marcia and the emperor Commodus' other advisors counseled the emperor not to parade himself as a _____ in front of the public, and so they were condemned to _____. Desperate they conspired to _____ Commodus. This sparked a rapid succession of emperors in the so-called "Year of the _____ Emperors", and Marcia was killed along with many others. At the end of this year, the emperor was _____, who was a native of _____ in _____.



25. Match Victor's attempt at unifying the church on the left with its description on the right:

Changing the date of Easter to a single date for the entire church.

An attempt to unite Christians through what they had in common. It removed a barrier to church unity.

Changing the language of church services from Greek to Latin.

An attempt to unite Christians by punishing their differences. It created a barrier to church unity.

26. As the Bishop of Rome, Victor was in some ways the principal leader of the global Christian community at that time. And yet, another bishop, Irenæus, wrote to correct him for his misguided decision regarding the date of Easter. Did Victor listen to him? What can this teach us about being a leader?

27. God wants us to read the Bible and pray to him in words we _____. This is seen by God's pouring out the gift of different earthly languages on the day of _____, as recorded in the second chapter of the book of _____.

28. Have you ever seen others confuse tradition with essential Biblical doctrine? When and how? Have you ever made such a mistake? Were you willing to be corrected?



Food for thought

As we conclude our study of the life of Victor, what can we hold on to and apply to our own lives? Take a moment to reflect on the teaching that we've learned today in these areas:

- What is the danger of relying too heavily on traditions to unite Christians?
- Why is it important for Christians to be present in the lives of government officials?
- How is the world's message of human sexuality today like the Greek and Roman beliefs about sexuality? How does the Bible contradict this message?
- What is the role of language in the Christian life? What did Victor realize about the importance of believers connecting to God in their own language?
- What can we learn from Victor about accepting correction from other Christians when we make a mistake?
- How can you develop as a Christian?
- Are traditions and habits getting in your way of faithfully following Scripture?
- What role can other, more experienced disciples play in helping you to correct mistakes or sinful tendencies and mature as disciple?
- How does your view of sexuality line up with the Bible's view?
- Is the idea of God speaking your language strange to you? Why or why not?





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