

Reading & Discussion Questions – Bauer, pp. 735-45, 751-56, 759-63; *The Passion of Saints Perpetua & Felicity*”

**Directions:** Please answer the following questions in a typed document following MLA formatting. On time submission = printed document submitted in class on the due date AND submission to Turnitin.com by class time.

**From Bauer:**

1. What were the effects of the Emperor Domitian adopting the title "Dominus et Deus" (Lord and God)? How does this undermine the rule of law?
2. Though Domitian ruled with general disregard for Rome and the Senate, why was his severity not necessarily a bad thing? How did his harsh policies benefit for Rome?
3. How did Epictetus reconcile freedom with submission? Read Romans 6. How does Paul talk about this?
4. What policy did Trajan suggest to Pliny regarding the Christians?

**From “Perpetua & Felicity”:**

1. Look up the word "catechumen." What does it mean?
2. Being catechumens, what effect would the martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity have on other Christians?
3. Briefly describe Perpetua and explain how her martyrdom affected her family. Besides the fact that he loved her, why was Perpetua’s father so adamant that she should recant her beliefs? What was her faith doing to the family in the eyes of Roman society as a whole?
4. What does this document reveal about the Christian community of third-century Carthage? What types of people does the *Passion* identify as Christians? What did Christian faith represent to Perpetua and what can we learn about Christian beliefs of that time?
5. From Perpetua’s account, why is Christianity threatening the Roman government? Why do you think the Romans felt threatened?
6. Do you think these accounts would have turned people toward the Christian faith or further away from it? Why?
7. What was the primary purpose of a document like *The Martyrdom of Perpetua*? How might early Christians have used it? What role did the persecutions in general have on the spread of Christianity? Discuss the irony in this fact when considering the original intention of the Romans in initiating the persecutions.