

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**Dead Guy Summer // Perpetua and Felicity**  
**Pastor Gabe**  
**June 18, 2023**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What is your favorite concert you've been to?

**Reading:** Romans 8:12-25

**Outline:**

- I. Adoption over Fear (v.14-17)
  - A. Paul tells us here not to live enslaved to sin and to instead recognize that we have received the Spirit of adoption through our status of sons and daughters of God. Therefore, we have no reason to fall into the spirit of fear.
  - B. Perpetua embraced the spirit of adoption by living out her faith during persecution under the Roman Emperor Severus, at the risk of losing her life and her son.  
**Q: *Where in your life do you feel the need for freedom from fear?***
- II. Glory over Suffering (v.18)
  - A. Paul reminds us that while we will face suffering for embracing our spirit of adoption, this suffering is nothing compared to our future with God in eternity.
  - B. Perpetua was eventually arrested with a slave woman named Felicity, who went into labor while imprisoned. Yet, she still did not compare her sufferings with her future glory because she was united with Christ, meaning he was suffering with her as well.  
**Q: *When have you looked forward to future glory during present suffering?***
- III. Hope over Despair (v.23-24)
  - A. As we wait for our full redemption after being redeemed by Jesus, Paul tells us to wait with hope.
  - B. On the day of their execution, Perpetua said, "Continue firm in the faith, love one another, and be not scandalized at our sufferings." In a situation like her own execution that would be a cause for despair, Perpetua looked out with hope and encouraged others.  
**Q: *When have you chosen hope over despair?***

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) How can we avoid living enslaved to sin and shame, even in the light of heavy sins?
- 2) How can we embrace our spirit of adoption when we aren't placed in dire situations like Perpetua and Felicity?
- 3) How can we remind ourselves of our future glory when our suffering is so intense?
- 4) How can we choose hope over despair when the surface level of our circumstances don't offer reason for hope?

**Suggestion for further study:**

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Q: How do these verses give context to no longer living enslaved to sin?
- 1 Peter 1:5-7 Q: How do these verses show us how to choose hope in the midst of suffering?

**Closing Prayer:**

Gracious God, thank you for examples of the faith like Perpetua and Felicity. Teach us to live no longer enslaved to sin and shame, but rather to embrace your spirit of adoption just as they did. Empower us to choose hope over despair in our present circumstances, and lift our eyes to you and our future glory in eternity. Amen.