

The New Testament Church
The Righteous will Shine #2 – Christ Shining from Us
 September 15, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Righteous will Shine – *root problem is that Christ and His character is not seen in believers*

- A. A review of the parable of Wheat and Tares – the power of our character (example)
 - 1. Our Father plants us our character (example) in specific, strategic locations of influence
 - 2. A Christian example declares how to navigate chaotic politics, laws, economics, etc.
 - 3. The wheat will outlast the tares (evil defeats itself) – but our focus is Christ’s Character
- B. What is the essence of Christian character? It is ***the image of Christ***
 - 1. God created us in His image – this means we have characteristics of our Maker
 - 2. Due to sin, this image is marred, not clearly demonstrated – so does it get restored?
 - 3. 2nd Cor. 3:18 – *we are transformed into His image by beholding His image (ways)*
 - 4. Col. 1:27 - ultimate goal in life is to let Christ’s life express His glory – by grace
- C. But how are we transformed into His image that people might see Christ?
 - 1. Character defined – the “image” of Christ – “carved” into our lives (Webster 1828)

<p style="text-align: center;">Character defined by Webster</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A mark made by cutting or engraving... these constitute real character... A character is not formed until stable and distinctive qualities appear consistently</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The image of Christ formed in us</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>His image released by the cross (cut/engrave) We express Christ’s nature in various situations Though never perfect in this life, God increases pressure to measure our expression of Christ</i></p>
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- 2. A critical part of the formation of character is “suffering” – Romans 6:8-11
 - a. We “reckon ourselves to be dead” based on Christ’s death and resurrection
 - b. The seed of the Word produces death in us first (cross) that it might bring forth fruit (resurrection life) – none of us can produce the fruit – only God can do that!
- 3. The enemy of the process of sanctification is condemnation – Romans 8:1-4
 - a. We must walk in Christ Jesus – the Law (what is right) can’t produce it
 - b. The requirement of the Law is fulfilled “as we walk according to the Spirit”

II Romans 8:19-23 – The “revealing” of the sons of God – our character (image) - example seen...

- A. The unveiling of the sons of God
 - 1. v. 18 – the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared to His glory to come
 - 2. v. 19 – the expectation of all of creation is the revealing of Christ in His people!
 - 3. v. 20 - the creation is now subject to the effects of sin (futility)... in hope
 - 4. v. 21 – the creation (land, soil, air, animals) are freed when His people reveal Christ
 - 5. v. 22 – the whole creation (including us) labors together – a crescendo building
 - a. Our character is formed through patience and suffering – like birth pangs
 - b. Part of godly character is a willingness to be changed – transformed
 - 6. v. 23-25 - We have the firstfruits of this revelation – *the perseverance of the saints...*
 - a. We are not just sitting around waiting for Christ to come...
 - b. We are progressively persevering in the spirit, soul and ultimately the body
 - c. *We expect our character to reflect His more and more...*
- B. The Perseverance of the Saints
 - 1. *Spiritual sustainability* is perseverance – enduring to the end (completion)
 - 2. *The Perseverance of the Saints* is a work of God – your cooperation is important, but always remember that it is God that sustains, holds you – the fruit is of Him, not you!