

The New Testament Church  
*The Righteous Will Shine #3 – The Joy of Contentment*  
October 6, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

## I The Righteous will Shine

- A. Parable of Wheat and Tares - God strategically places us as a seed where we will influence
  - 1. Christian character outlasts and transcends politics, laws, wars and economics, etc.
  - 2. Wheat will outlast the tares (evil defeats itself) – our focus is Christ and His Character
- B. How is Character formed?
  - 1. Character is defined as the “image” of Christ – “carved” into our lives
    - a. The image of God’s characteristics is clouded by sin
    - b. Being born again begins a restoration process – Christ in us is the light of the world
    - c. A critical part of the formation of character is “suffering” – the cross
    - d. We are to progressively portray Christ to a dark culture without Him
  - 2. The revealing of the “sons of God” will redeem people and creation (Romans 8:19-25)
    - a. The “firstfruits” of the Spirit – the Holy Spirit in us – He will release Christ
    - b. The *perseverance of the saints* – God working in us as we work
    - c. It is brought forth like birth-pangs – progressively – at Christ’s return it will be done

## II Philippians 2:12-17 – Christ’s joy (love, joy, peace first three of Christ’s character)

- A. Context of Philippians – Joy in the midst of difficulty – contentment
  - 1. Phil. 1:6 – *He who began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*
  - 2. Phil. 3:14 – *I press toward the goal – the death and resurrection of Christ through me*
  - 3. Phil. 4:11 – *I have learned to be content... I can do all things through Christ*
  - 4. So what is joy? “Chara” – *an inner gladness, a deep seated pleasure*
- B. Philippians 2:12 – “work out your own salvation”
  - 1. “Not as in my presence only” = the true test of being a light is when you are productive
  - 2. “Work out your own salvation” – you die to self, trade with Christ in you!
- C. Philippians 2:13 – “it is God who works in you”
  - 1. If your heart is right, and your motive pure, trust it is God working in you!
  - 2. Light will always dispel darkness, so be ready to repent and get things right!
- D. Philippians 2:14 – “do all things without complaining and disputing”
  - 1. To complain is to “grumble, murmur” – you cover over the light of joy
  - 2. To dispute is an attitude of “arguing” – not to find truth, but to resist it!
- E. Philippians 2:15 – “that you may become blameless and harmless, without fault”
  - 1. To be blameless is to be “not deserving of criticism” because your intent is integrity
  - 2. To be harmless is to be “unmixed with foreign mixture” – moral purity
  - 3. “In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” – the tide of darkness all around
  - 4. “Among whom you shine as lights in the world” – *increased darkness puts greater responsibility on light-bearers!*
- F. Philippians 2:16 – “holding fast the word of life, that I may not run in vain”
  - 1. To “hold fast” is to remain rooted in the Word of God, regardless of trends
  - 2. None of us want to come to the end of our life and “have run in vain”
- G. Philippians 2:17 – “I am glad and rejoice, to be poured out as a drink offering”
  - 1. There is joy when a servant of the Lord pours out their life for others
  - 2. Don’t be weary in well-doing, continue in your lane, and dwell in joy!