

The New Testament Church  
*The Righteous Will Shine #5 – Self-Control*  
October 27, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

## I The Righteous will Shine

- A. God strategically places us as a seed of the Kingdom where we will influence others
  - 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 will the character of Christ shine through the Believer to others?
  - 1. The character (image) of Christ is “carved” into our lives, often by “suffering”
  - 2. The revealing of the “sons of God” will redeem people and creation
  - 3. The fruit (singular) of the Spirit is the light of Christ’s Character
    - a. Joy is a contentment and confidence in the midst of depression and anxiety
    - b. Peace is knowing “you have enough” when you have God – Jesus in your boat!

## II Self-Control - *strong, robust, mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining* – “moderate”

- A. The Fruit of the Spirit – joy, peace, and now self-control – Galatians 5:19-23
  - 1. The “works of the flesh” are contrasted with the “fruit (works) of the Spirit”
  - 2. Opposites of self-control; “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries (loud carousing)”
- B. It is not self in control, but self under control – Christian self-government
  - 1. *The more internal government we exercise, the less external government we need*
  - 2. *The law of the Spirit within makes us free from the law of sin and death (penalty)*
  - 3. Pr. 25:28 - *Who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls*
  - 4. Pr. 4:23 – *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.*
  - 5. Pr. 16:32 – *...slow to anger is better than mighty, ...rules his spirit ...he who takes a city.*
  - 6. Mk. 7:20-23 – *What comes out of a man, that defiles a man...*
  - 7. Ja. 1:26 – *thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue...deceives his own heart.*
  - 8. Ga. 5:16, 24 – *walk in the Spirit, and you will shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh... those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.*
- C. How do we crucify the lusts of the flesh and walk in the Spirit? (the key to self-control)
  - 1. Romans 8:5-11 – the process by which we die to flesh, and walk in resurrection life
    - a. When Christ died, we died positionally in Him, and were raised in His resurrection
    - b. Dead people don’t sin, we trade the fruit of sin for the fruit (self-control) of the Spirit
    - c. We trade envy, murder, drunkenness and partying in for self-control
    - d. How do we do this? We “reckon” – count ourselves dead – and risen!
    - e. We “walk” – conduct our lives – in the Spirit – by faith – in His strength
  - 2. The fruit of self-control
    - a. We guard our heart – our attitude – Mt. 6:21 – “where your treasure is... your heart”
    - b. We put a guard on our mouth – Col. 4:6 – “speech be seasoned with grace”
    - c. We guard the content of what we say – Mt. 7:6 - “no pearls before swine”
    - d. We guard where we go, separation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 6:14 – “unequal yokes”
    - e. We guard doing in the flesh what must be done in the Spirit – Gal. 3:3
- D. Illustrations of the fruit of self-control
  - 1. David – the enemy ignored his lessons of self-control before confronting Goliath
  - 2. Sampson – his lack of self-control blinded him – the enemy ignored his hair growth!
  - 3. Martin Luther – true repentance of the heart, and lessons in “A Mighty Fortress”!