

The New Testament Church
The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
The Righteous Will Shine #6 – Longsuffering
November 3, 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!
 - c. Self-control is “strongly mastering curbing and restraining oneself”

II Longsuffering – *patience, forbearance... “a disposition to bear injuries patiently”*

- A. The Fruit of the Spirit – Christ’s character was one of compassion toward those suffering
 - 1. The “works of the flesh” opposite of longsuffering include *jealousy, selfish ambitions*
 - 2. We are to cultivate and release the “fellowship of Christ’s suffering” – Phil. 2:10
- B. Biblical illustrations of Longsuffering
 - 1. *God allows suffering in our lives to have greater compassion on others (it is “good”)*
 - 2. Ro. 5:3 - *Suffering builds endurance, perseverance, and humility into our character*
 - 3. Heb. 13:3 – *remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those mistreated*
 - 4. Mt. 5:10 – *blessed are those persecuted for righteousness’ sake...*
 - 5. Mt. 5:11 – *blessed are you when they revile and persecute you... against you falsely*
 - 6. Mt. 5:12 – *rejoice and be exceedingly glad... great is your reward in heaven*
 - 7. Mt. 5:13 – *you are the salt of the earth... (can prevent and reduce persecution)*
 - 8. 1st Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slack... but longsuffering toward us – not willing that any should perish, but all come to repentance... (revealing the Rock on which we stand)*
- C. International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
 - 1. Over 365 million believers world-wide suffer high levels of persecution (1 in 7 globally)
 - 2. One in 5 (20%) persecuted in Africa; two in 5 (40%) in Asia
- D. Praying for the Top 10 Nations that persecute Christians (who Open Doors video)
 - 1. North Korea – only hundreds of believers; 77% violent persecution; 100% closed
 - 2. Somalia – .5% believers; 63% violent persecution; 99% closed in every area of life
 - 3. Libya – .5% believers; 61% violent persecution; 95% closed in other areas of life
 - 4. Eritrea – 47% believers; 77% violent persecution; 90% + closed in other areas of life
 - 5. Yemen – small number of believers; 35% violent persecution; closed in other areas
 - 6. Nigeria – 46% believers; 100% violent persecution; 80-90% closed in other areas
 - 7. Pakistan – 1.8% believers; 100% violent persecution; 80-90% closed in other areas
 - 8. Sudan – 4.3% believers; 80% violent persecution; 85% closed in other areas
 - 9. Iran – 1 million believers; 65% violent persecution; 85-90% closed in other areas
 - 10. Afghanistan – thousands of believers; 28% violent; 90%+ closed in other areas...
- E. Columbia – 95% believers; yet 84% persecution; but God is moving – (VOM video)