

The New Testament Church  
*The Righteous Will Shine #7 – Faithfulness*  
November 10, 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”
    - d. Longsuffering – “a disposition to bear injuries patiently” - forbearance

II Faithfulness – *pistis* - “*faith, belief, trust, confidence, fidelity... to be divinely persuaded*”

- A. The Fruit of the Spirit – Christ’s character was a picture of God’s character of faithfulness
  - 1. The “works of the flesh” opposite of faithfulness include *dissensions, heresies*
    - a. Dissension – “dis – stasis” – disunion – standing apart or against – a reaction
    - b. Heresy – “to choose a party” of disunion – a factious group
  - 2. We are to cultivate and release the faithfulness of God built on trust and fidelity
    - a. Trust - “Confidence, a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person” –
    - b. Fidelity – “careful and exact performance of duty”
- B. Biblical illustrations of “the faithfulness of Christ” – that is to shine through us
  - 1. *Pistis Christou* – “faithfulness of Christ” precedes “faith in Christ” – revelation/reason
    - a. Christ was faithful to become a man – fully man and fully God
    - b. He only did what the Father told Him to do – John 5:19
    - c. He paid the debt of sin we owed – Romans 3:25
    - d. Galatians 2:20 – we died when He died, but now live by “the faith of the Son”
  - 2. Gal. 3:22 – *the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe*
  - 3. Phil. 3:9 – *not having my own righteousness... but that which is through faith in Christ*
- C. So what is Faithfulness? – **It is encountering the faithful Christ who pleased His Father!**
  - 1. We must begin with the faithfulness of Christ – truth - He was fully God and fully Man
    - a. Heb 1:1-4 – *His Son... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... by Himself purged our sins...*
    - b. Heb. 11:1 – *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*
    - c. Ro. 3:23-25 – *all have sinned... justified by His grace... a propitiation by His blood*
  - 2. It is Faith’s object that makes it powerful - , not *our* belief...
    - a. James 2:26 – Faith is accompanied by works (faithful action) to be effective
    - b. It is not working up faith to get God to do something – it is based on Christ, not us
    - c. Heb. 6:11 – *without faith it is impossible to please Him... we must believe that He is and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* (use chair illustration)
    - d. Quote Ravenhill – *Why Revival Tarries*, page 117 – encountering Christ