**Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent True Worshipper**

**Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the principles of a true worshipper and God’s Word.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 principles evident in the life of a true worshipper.**

**Introduction:** The will of God is the expression of the moral requirements to which God calls His people. Christians are blessed by being invited and drawn into the sphere of doing the will of God, in Christ Jesus.

(**Mark 3:35; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 8:5; Hebrews 10:36**)

**I. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd rejoices always. V.16**

**II. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd prays constantly. V.17**

**III. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd is habitually thankful. V.18**

**IV. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd submits to God’s Word. V.19-22**

**I. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd rejoices always. V.16**

 This joy that finds its source in the Lord, and the Spirit, should always be characteristic of the lives of a Christian, who is in Christ Jesus. This is true no matter whatever the circumstances, situation, or persecution they find themselves in. (**1 Thessalonians 1:6**)

 **Philippians 3:1** Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

 **Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

 **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

 **Romans 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

 Christians are not being charged to deny that adversity brings sadness, heartache, or pain.

 (**1 Thessalonians 1:4**)

 **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

 **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

 What helps us as followers of Jesus Christ, is that we recognize that in the midst of the most agonizing situations the presence and provisions of God through the Spirit can infuse the soul with hope and the heart with joy. Joy is to be one of the primary attributes of the Christian community.

 **Luke 2:10-11** Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**II. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd prays constantly. V.17**

 This does not mean necessarily continuous, uninterrupted praying, but frequent and regular praying, petitions, confession, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. The adverb for continually, was used in the Greek of a hacking cough.

**III. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd is habitually thankful. V.18**

 Christians are to give thanks to God in every circumstance, problem, situation, and area of life. The reality that every believer is to be aware of, is the fact God works everything together for good, for those who love Him! (**Romans 8:28**), this is the basis for this command. This is essential for the expression and experience of a real relationship of fellowship with God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Giving thanks was a key element in Christian worship.

 **Matthew 26:27** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

 **Mark 8:6** So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude.

 **Luke 2:17-19** Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.

 **1 Corinthians 11:24** and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

 Daily and regular thanksgiving of believers is an act of worship.

 **Ephesians 5:20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**IV. A true worshipper of the true Shepherd submits to God’s Word. V.19-22**

 A. This is done by not **quenching** the Spirit. v.19

 One can stifle the Spirit by not submitting to the Holy Spirit’s leading, illumination, conviction, convincing or by committing sins that would grieve the Spirit. The verb in the Greek imperative (sbennyte) means “to extinguish the fire” (**Matthew 12:20; Mark 9:48; Hebrews 11:34**) metaphorically it means “to annihilate” or “cause to disappear.”

 **Matthew 12:20** A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;

 **Mark 9:48** "where`Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

 **Hebrews 11:34** quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens.

 Instead the true worshipper is to fan the flame of the Spirit and Spirit’s activity in relationship to God’s Word. (**2 Peter 1:19-21**)

 **2 Timothy 1:6** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

 B. This is done by not **despising** God’s Word. V.20

 This is the command to not treat God’s Word with contempt, to turn your nose up, or to become angry as a result of it.

 1. The Spirit and God’s Word are linked together.

 (**Luke 1:67; Acts 2:17; 19:6; 28:25; Ephesians 2:5**)

 2. Example where God’s people questioned God’s Word.

 (**Numbers 11:26-29; Amos 2:12; Micah 2:6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 12, 26**)

 3. Ways to determine what was false.

 (**1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 14:40**)

 C. This is done by **testing** all things that claim to be God’s Word. V.21

 This verb “test” means to test in order to verify the character of something.

 1. Distinguish between spirits (**1 Corinthians 12:10**)

 2. Appeal to Apostolic teaching (**1 John 4:1-3**)

 **1 Corinthians 13:3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

 **1 Thessalonians 2:5** For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness-- God *is* witness.

 3. Examine the character of the messenger. (**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**)

 **Matthew 7:15-20** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? **17** "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. **19** "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

 **1 Corinthians 1:10-11** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. **11** For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's *household*, that there are contentions among you.

 D. This is done by abstaining from every form of evil. V.22

 This is the call and command to reject the inauthentic prophecies (God’s Word). The true worshipper of the true Shepherd seek to avoid every kind of evil. In (Job 1:1, 8) Job is described as a man who “Shunned evil.” This is to be our reaction to any false prophecies (God’s Word) or anything that has the appearance of evil externally which is a testimony of the internal.