

# Sermon Outlines

## True Christianity

### *1 Thessalonians 5:1-28*

This Epistle should be read in connection with Acts 17:1-14, which records Paul's visit to Thessalonica. It was written at Corinth, shortly after Paul's departure, and is probably the earliest of his letters. It mentions the tidings he had received of the converts in Thessalonica (1:6-10), and the reality of their Christian faith. Its divisions may be said to be two in number: Chapters 1-3, Doctrine with Power; Chapters 4 and 5, Duty with Power. This chapter, the fifth and last, is a summary of true Christianity.

#### I. *What are the Marks of a Christian?*

1. **Hopefulness** (vs. 1-10) - **Looking onward**
  - (a) Based on teaching (vs. 1-5)
  - (b) Marked by watchfulness (vs. 6-10)
2. **Helpfulness** (vs. 11-15) - **Looking outward**
  - (a) Active endeavors (vs. 11-13).
  - (b) Varied endeavors (vs. 14, 15)
3. **Happiness** (vs. 16-18) - **Looking inward**
  - (a) Joy (v. 16)
  - (b) Prayer (v. 17)
  - (c) Thanksgiving (v. 18)
4. **Holiness** (vs. 22-23) - **Looking upward**
  - (a) Negative (v. 22)
  - (b) Positive (v. 23)

#### II. *How to Be a Christian*

1. **By the Spirit of God** (v. 19)
  - (a) Quenching the fire by sin.
  - (b) Letting it go out by carelessness.
2. **By the Word of God** (vs. 20, 21)
  - (a) Received (v. 20)
  - (b) Used (v. 21)
3. **By Prayer to God** (vs. 17, 23, 25)
  - (a) Unceasing (v. 17)
  - (b) Definite (vs. 23, 25)
4. **By Trust in God** (vs. 23, 24)
  - (a) His peace (v. 23)
  - (b) His preservation (v. 23)
  - (c) His faithfulness (v. 24)
  - (d) His fulfilment (v. 24)