

The Characteristics of Tent Dwellers

By: Shawn Daniels

Thesis: to study and understand the characteristics of true worshipers of God – those that dwell in that holy hill – the church

Introduction:

- I. (**Psalms 15**) “¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. ⁵ He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.”
 - A. These are good characteristics for all to strive for
 1. These are given, however, as a standard – must have these characteristics – not an optional thing
 - B. Who needs to have these characteristics? – those that will abide in God's tent – those that dwell on God's holy hill
 1. To live and dwell in God's tent, we must conform to God's attributes

Who are these Tent Dwellers? What is this Holy Hill?

- I. Tabernacle
 - A. Wrapped up in one verse
 1. (**Exodus 25:8**) “And let them make **me a sanctuary**; that I may dwell among them.”
 2. Center of Worship to God
 - B. There is now a “true tabernacle”
 1. (**Hebrews 8:1-2**) “¹ Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the **true tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, and not man.”
 - C. The Church (“house” of Christians) is that “true tabernacle”
 1. (**Hebrews 3:6**) “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”
 2. (**II Corinthians 6:16**) “...Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
 3. (**I Corinthians 3:16-17**) “¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”
 - D. We are a “Built House”

1. (**Ephesians 2:20-22**) ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
2. (**I Peter 2:5**) “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ”

II. Holy Hill

A. This holy house of God was built upon His holy hill

1. (**Isaiah 2:2-3**) ² And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³ And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ”
2. (**Psalms 2:6-7**) ⁶ Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ”

B. This Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom

1. (**Daniel 7:13-14**) ¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. ”

III. The tent dwellers in this holy mountain is the church of Christ

A. David gives us certain characteristics to these tent dwellers – Let's look at these

Characteristics Listed by David:

II. Righteous: (**Psalms 15:2**) “He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.”

A. Walks Uprightly

1. Keywords:
 - a. Uprightly – “Perfection, Blameless” – Given completely to God
 - b. Walks – a “Traveler” – Not yet home
2. This is a person that is looking to God for the path to the heavenly home
 - a. **Wayfaring Man:** (**Isaiah 35:8**) “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, **shall not err** therein. ”
 - Fool – One that does not have know the landscape – Looks to God for direction
 - “Shall not err” – Blameless, perfection!
 - b. **Like Jeremiah:** (**Jeremiah 10:23**) “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in

himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. ”

- c. (**Proverbs 2:7**) “He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.”
3. “Walking” implies a continuing effort – We walk together with God on this journey
 - a. If walk, we must agree!
 - (**Amos 3:3**) “Can two walk together, except they be agreed? ”
 - b. This is why John proclaimed:
 - (**I John 1:7**) “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

B. Works Righteousness

1. Render the things that are just – This is doing what we know to be right
 - a. Not hypocritical, ritual worship or service – not just going through the motions
 - “He has duties to perform. The law of righteousness has placed him in certain relations, and each of these relations has its peculiar duties.” (Clark)
2. Giving God His due – Returning back to God what is due Him
 - a. (**Acts 10 :34, 35**) “³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. ”
 - b. (**I John 2:29**) “If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. ”
3. Giving your neighbors their due
 - a. (**Romans 15:2**) “Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.”
 - b. Same thinking as in the greatest commandment
 - (**Matthew 22:36-40**) “³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. ”
4. Giving your own soul its due
 - a. You owe it to your soul to seek salvation
 - The lack of salvation results in the eternal destruction of the soul
 - (**II Thessalonians 1:8-9**) “⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”
 - b. Once salvation is found – must not let the flesh rule over the spirit

- (**Galatians 5:16, 17**) ¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ”
- (**Romans 8:6**) “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

C. Speaks Truth in His Heart

1. Not a person of pretense – Genuine
2. His actions follow his intentions
3. Our hearts must be a haven for truth – Truth must be stored up in our hearts
 - a. God's word is truth – (**John 17:17**)
 - b. Word of Christ MUST dwell in us – Imperative command
 - (**Colossians 3:16**) “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ”
 - c. With a heart of truth, we will perform truth
 - d. With a heart of lies and falsehood, we will perform evil
 - (**Matthew 15:18, 19**) ¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

D. The person that abides in God's tent must be righteous

1. (**Ephesians 4:24**) “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ”

II. Peaceful

A. (**Psalms 15:3**) “He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.”

1. Who is our neighbor?
 - a. (**Luke 10:25-42**)
 - b. The Gentiles all that are around them where the Jews' neighbors – a fellow Jew was a brother
 - Same in the church today – Anyone outside of the church is our neighbor – those in the church are our brothers and sisters – same household
2. Those that dwell in the tent of God shows respect and wellbeing to his neighbor
3. The goal of those dwelling in God's tent is peace!
 - a. (**Matthew 5:9**) “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. ”

B. Does not backbite – evil words

1. No slandering

2. (**Proverbs 25:18**) “A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow. ”

a. Metaphor pointing out the destructiveness of bearing false witness against a neighbor

- Maul – Mace – for bashing in the skull
 - Character bashing
- Sword – Tactical weapon of skill
 - Intentionally sets out to hurt another
- Arrow – Used in Long distance fighting
 - Character assassination

C. Does not do evil to his neighbor – evil deeds

1. Does all that you can do to live at peace with your neighbors

a. (**Romans 12:17, 18**) ¹⁷Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ”

D. Does not take up reproach – leads to scorn, judgment, or condemnation of his neighbor – evil conclusions

1. These are those that will accept some bad information about someone without such a hint of evidence and spread it – gossip

a. (**I Timothy 5:13**) “And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. ”

2. It is because of these conclusions that people will wrongfully judge another

a. (**Romans 2:1-5**) ¹Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. ²But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. ³And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

- Jewish judgments against the Gentiles

E. (**Romans 13:10**) “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ”

III. Desires what is Right over the World

- A. (**Psalms 15:4**) “In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD.”
- B. Vile person – no matter what social standing, rich, powerful, influential, etc... they are, those that dwell in God's tent will detest their ways
 - 1. That means that we do not envy the wicked and their standings
 - a. (**Psalms 73:27**) “For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.”
- C. We are to honor them that fear the Lord
 - 1. (**Matthew 12:48-50**) “⁴⁸ But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? ⁴⁹ And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! ⁵⁰ For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”
- D. This desire is the same as hunger and thirst after righteousness found in **Matthew 5:6**
 - 1. (**Matthew 5:6**) “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
 - 2. The gospel will fill this person that desires right over world
 - a. Gospel is only persuasive in its power – not coercive
 - b. Person must desire it!

IV. Meek

- A. (**Psalms 15:4**) “He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”
 - 1. Swears to his own hurt, stands his ground
 - 2. MEEK
 - a. (**Matthew 5:5**) “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”
 - b. Meek means the same as mild – “Enduring injury with patience and without resentment” (Merriam-Webster's)
 - 3. Common view of meek – someone that you can walk all over, beat up, push around, lacks courage. – not meek in Biblical sense of the word
 - a. Moses – (**Numbers 12:3**) “(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)”
- B. The characteristics of dwellers in God's tent will deny themselves and follow God
 - 1. (**Matthew 10:38**) “And he that taketh not his cross, and follow after me, is not worthy of me.”
 - 2. (**Matthew 16:24**) “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
 - 3. We lay down our will for God (**Matthew 7:21**)
 - a. (**Galatians 5:24**) “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

C. “Change not”

1. (**Luke 9:62**) “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. ”
2. Those that dwell in the tent of God resolves to follow God and follows through!

V. Merciful

A. (**Psalms 15:5**) “He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent.”

B. Lends money to help, not to extort – doesn't take advantage of someones disadvantage – is merciful

C. (**Matthew 5:7**) “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

D. We are merciful in our benevolence

1. (**Galatians 6:9-10**) “⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. ”
2. This is how we serve God
 - a. (**James 1:27**) “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. ”
 - Service (Visit) and Righteousness (Unspotted)
 - b. (**Matthew 25:37-40**) “³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? ³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? ³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Conclusion:

I. Those that do these things shall not be moved

1. (**Psalms 15:5**) “He that doeth these things shall never be moved. ”

1. You will continue to dwell in God's tent

II. Do you match that profile?

III. If so, continue in that way! If not, resolve to make those characteristics your characteristics.