

THE VITAL SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Reference: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-8**

Pastor Larry Webb

Book: 1 Thessalonians

Author: Paul from Corinth (see **1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:18**)

Addressee: the first century church at Thessalonica established by Paul and his associate Silas during his second missionary journey (see **Acts 17:1-9**)

Location: Thessalonica (modern Salonica) was situated near the ancient site of Therma at the northern part of the Aegean Sea.

Thessalonica was part of the ancient Roman Empire but Rome permitted it to rule itself. The population at Paul's time was about 200,000.

Date: 51 AD

Reason: to encourage continued Christian commitment

The Thessalonica congregation modeled seven characteristics that should also be true of us and Shadow Mountain church:

ONE... This church had a _____.

verse three, "*remembering without ceasing **your work of faith**...*"

TWO... This church had _____.

verse three cont'd, "*remembering without ceasing your... **labor of love**...*"

The word "*work*" focuses on the particular _____ that is done and the word *labor* concentrates on the _____ that is expended in order to do that task.

THREE... This church had an _____ (patient) _____.

verse three cont'd, "*remembering without ceasing your... **patience of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.*"

FOUR... This church had _____.

verse five, "*For **our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit** and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*"

FIVE... This church _____ the right people.

verse six, "*And **you became followers of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.*"

The word translated as "*followers*" is from a Greek word that means "_____."

SIX... This church was a _____.

verse seven, "*so that **you became examples to all** in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.*"

In the original language the word translated example meant "a type, an exact replica, a reproduction and a _____."

SEVEN... This church had a strong _____.

verse eight, "*For **from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also **in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out**, so that we do not need to say anything.*"

This "*sounded forth*" is translated from a strong Greek word that meant literally "to _____."