

## THE VITAL SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

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

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**verses one through three** (see screen)

Reference: **Romans 1:1** (see screen)

TWO... This church had \_\_\_\_\_.

**verse three** cont'd (see screen)

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 (see screen)

Reference: **II Corinthians 4:17-18** (see screen)

FOUR... This church had \_\_\_\_\_.

**verse four and five** (see screen)

Reference: **Romans 10:13-14 and 17** (see screen)

FIVE... This church \_\_\_\_\_ the right people.

**verse six** (see screen)

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

Reference: **I Corinthians 11:1** (see screen)

SIX... This church was a \_\_\_\_\_.

**verse seven** (see screen)

In the original language the word translated as "*example*" meant "a type, an exact replica, a reproduction and a \_\_\_\_\_."

SEVEN... This church had a strong \_\_\_\_\_.

**verse eight** (see screen)

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

Reference: **II Timothy 4:5** (see screen)