

**Series: Blameless**

**Title: A Church at Work**

**Text:** (1 Thes 1:1-4) \*3

Paul Encourages the Church by doing 4 things:

1. He Commends their Faith, Love, & Hope: (1:3-12)
2. He Answers the Malicious Charges/Rumors (2:1-6)
3. Stand fast in persecution & Holy living: (3:1-4:12)
4. Lord's Return & Resurrection of saints. (4:13-end)

Every Chapter has a reference to Christ's Return:

(1:10) (2:19)(3:13)(4:13-18)(5:23)

Every Chapter has a Great Evangelistic emphasis

(1:8-10; 2:12-13; 3:12-13; 4:1-12; 5:1,6)

Special Features of the city of Thessalonica:

The Church ...

Was Well organized church (1 Thes 5:12)

Church was Predominately Gentiles.

Suffered Persecution (1 Thes 2:14)

Possibly the 1st of the letters written by Paul

Proclaims Christ as Lord. (23 Times)

Personally Encourage those facing Persecution: (1:6)

Warn Believer of Dangers of Sexual Impurity: (4:1-6)

Charge Believers w/practical rules of Behavior (5:12-

**A. A Working Church with Faithful Ministers:** (Vs

1) All 3 worked to found this church, (Acts 17) & continued to minister to it through visits & letters.

Paul visited 2nd time on his 3rd Journey (Acts 20:1-2)

Timothy visited to help them: (1 Thes 3:1-6)

All 3 ministers wrote the church twice: (I & 2 Thes)

**B. A Working Church of The People:** (Vs 1)

The Church was the people.

Every believer was equally important to God.

**C. A Working Church Founded on Jesus:**(Vs 1).

(1 Cor 3:10-11) Jesus is the only Foundation & Head.

**D. A Working Church Possesses Grace & Peace**

(Vs 1)

**Grace** = Undeserved favor and Blessings of God's

**Peace**=Secure in God's Love: (Eph 2:13-14)

**E. A Working Church is Stirred to Prayer:** (Vs 2)

(Matt 21:22)(John 15:7)

**F. A Working Church is Stirred Up to Work:** (Vs 3)

1. Faith Stirs a Church to Work: (1 Jn 5:4-5)

2. Love Stirs the Church to Labor: (2 Cor 5:14-15)

3. Hope Stirs the Church to Endure: (Vs 3)

**G. A Working Church is chosen by God:** (Vs 4)

1. Believers are Chosen to be His beloved people.

Called to be separated unto Righteousness: (Eph 1:4)

2. Believers are Chosen to be beloved brethren

Called to respect one another: (Jn 13:34-35)