

Week of June 3-June 9

BE A BEREAN

Scripture Reading: Read Acts chapter 17

When my dad came to Christ at the age of 56, he dedicated himself to being a student of the Word of God. He took Paul seriously when the apostle challenged Timothy: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* My dad spent hours every morning devouring the Scripture, reading the Bible cover to cover year after year. He had a passion for truth and would sometimes become frustrated when he heard sermons or read Christian literature that deviated from God’s Word. He used to call such teachings “granola theology” because he said it was filled with nuts, flakes and fruits!

While eating granola for breakfast can provide a healthy source of nutrition, being a granola Christian can be quite harmful. That’s why the Berean believers we read about in today’s chapter provide such an important example for us. Luke declares, *“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”* In spite of Paul’s sterling credentials and his obvious “signs & wonders” ministry, the Bereans refused to take what he said as gospel indiscriminately or naively. Luke implies their reason for doing so was not because they were antagonistic to Paul or critical of his preaching (Notice, the Bereans are described as having a more noble character than the Thessalonians [who chased Paul and Silas out of town.]) They just wanted to make sure what Paul said lined up with the truth of Scripture first before they accepted it.

We need Berean believers today who regularly check out what is being taught or preached to them rather than swallowing everything they hear or read since not everything that claims to be Christian lines up with the Word of God. In addition, the Bible repeatedly warns of false teaching that will become prevalent in the last days (See *I Timothy 4:1-2; II Timothy 4:3-4*). This is why it is important more than ever to grow in our knowledge of the Word and become mature for *“then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming”* (*Ephesians 4:14*).

I thank God for my father’s investment in the Word and for the importance he placed in our home on knowing, loving and living the truth. He challenged me to be a Berean and it has paid rich dividends in my calling as a pastor. Being a Berean, however, isn’t just for pastors. It’s for the entire church. Become a Berean today.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Take some time today to evaluate your knowledge of the Word. Do you have a solid and sound biblical foundation? Are you able to discern truth from error in what you see and hear based upon the principles of God’s Word? If you answered “no” to one or both of these questions, then commit yourself in prayer to becoming a student of the Word and living like a Berean.

Take-a-way: *Don’t be a granola Christian. Be a Berean instead.*