



They Searched the Scriptures Daily (Acts 17:10-12)

“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea” (Acts 17:10a, New King James Version).

- Other Translations: “That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea” (NRSV).
- “But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds” (Acts 17:13).
- “The company traveled westward for some twenty miles, and then left the Roman highway and headed south for about thirty miles to Berea, which was off the beaten trail so to speak” (Wayne Jackson, 215).
- It is not always popular to preach the Gospel. Like Paul and Silas, we may have to escape by night and keep on preaching and teaching in the next place.
- [What should be our response when we teach the Gospel and not only is it rejected, our lives are put at risk?](#)
- [If it meant having to transition to another location to continue teaching the Gospel, what would it take to convince you to move?](#)

“When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews” (Acts 17:10b).

- Other Translations: “they went to the Jewish synagogue” (NIV)
- “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with

them from the Scriptures” (Acts 17:2).

- “Here again the apostle found a synagogue, and made it the starting point of his labors” (McGarvey, 115).
- It was Paul’s custom to preach the Gospel in the Jewish synagogues before teaching it to Gentiles.
- [What customs do you follow when teaching people the Gospel?](#)
- [Why are religious customs that are contrary to Scripture so difficult to overcome?](#)

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica” (Acts 17:11a).

- Other Translations: “more noble-minded” (NASB); “open-minded” (ERV); “more receptive” (NRSV)
- “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (Matt. 13:23).
- “Evidently Paul had used the Old Testament scriptures, and they were examining these to verify what Paul preached” (H. Leo Boles, 274).
- Often, with regard to religious matters, people are close-minded to what the Bible teaches and more readily accept traditions.
- [What should be our response if we discover that a tradition we are following is contrary to God’s Word?](#)
- [How will we know that our tradition is not acceptable with God?](#)
- [Why is searching the Scriptures so very important in this regard?](#)

“. . . in that they received the word with all readiness” (Acts 17:11b).

- Other Translations: “with great eagerness” (NASB); “listened eagerly” (NLT); “they welcomed the message eagerly” (NRSV)
- “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the

word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1 Thess. 2:13).

- "This stands in contrast to the meetings held each Sabbath in Thessalonica" (Bock, 556).
- Far too often we hear people say, "The Bible is boring. Worship is boring. Preaching is really boring. Yet, the Bereans "received the word with all readiness."
- [What do you do to keep the Word of God fresh in your mind and in your life?](#)
- [What steps would you suggest that a new Christian take to keep the study of Scripture as a priority?](#)
- [What do we do at Hamilton Church of Christ promote the study of the Scriptures?](#)

" . . . and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11c).

- Other Translations: "examining the Scriptures" (NASB); "They studied the Scriptures every day to make sure that what they heard was really true" (ERV)
- "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).
- "Their procedure is worthy of imitation by all who have some new form of religious teaching pressed on their acceptance" (Bruce, 327).
- "The people in Berea opened the Scriptures for themselves and searched for truths to verify or disprove the message they heard" (*Life Application Bible*, 2022).
- When we hear a preacher or teacher explain the Bible, we should verify that the truth is being taught by comparing what is said to Scripture.
- [What should be our reaction when we hear something being taught that contradicts what is taught in the Bible?](#)
- [Why should you have your own copy \(either](#)

[in book form or electronic format\) when you attend Bible class or listen to sermons?](#)

"Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men" (Acts 17:12).

- Other Translations: "honourable women" (KJV); "high standing women" ESV)
- "And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas" (Acts 17:4).
- "Included among the Berean believers were not only 'a number of prominent Greek women' but also 'many Greek men'—that is, not just converts from Gentile 'God-fearers.' but also converts who were pagan Gentiles" (Longnecker, 267).
- It is rare for "prominent" people to accept the Gospel message. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, ". . .that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*" (1 Cor. 1:26).
- [What would prevent some "prominent" people from obeying the Gospel?](#)
- [What approach would you use to reach a "prominent" person with the Gospel?](#)
- [If we focus exclusively on the "prominent" are we showing "respect of persons," partiality, or favoritism?](#)

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