



The truth and nothing but.....

May 14, 2018

ACTS 17:10-15 NKJV – (10) Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. (11) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. (12) Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. (13) 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. (14) Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. (15) So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 NKJV – (15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

One day my wife got her tooth pulled and of course she had to eat soft food until she was able to go back to solid food. She asked me to go to the store to get jello (Already made). I went to the grocery store and behold, there was no jello! I went to another store and they had no jello as in the kind she asked for. I'm thinking to myself, "Did everybody get their teeth pulled today?" So I substituted with another soft meal until they had jello in the stores. I remember a lady telling that a certain gas station / food store would have it because she worked there and she stacked the shelves. The service station was out of the way, but I was determined to see if this lady knew what I was talking about or is she telling the truth or is she of her word.

When it comes to scripture, we must be the same way. Willing, determined and patient to get the truth.

The Bereans were residents of the city of Berea in Macedonia. Paul and Silas preached to them during Paul's second missionary journey. These Bereans exhibited several positive characteristics that marked their response to the gospel message.

First and foremost, the Bereans were "more noble" because of their willing reception of the Word of God. Unlike the unbelieving Thessalonian Jews, the Bereans were eager to hear the teaching of Paul and Silas.

Second, the Bereans examined what they heard by comparing it to the Old Testament Scriptures. The fact that they honestly listened and conducted further personal research led many Bereans to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. This expansion of Christianity was not limited to those within the synagogue, but also extended to many Greek men and women in Berea.

Third, the Bereans guarded Paul's safety. When Paul's enemies arrived from nearby Thessalonica, the Berean believers protected Paul by getting him out of the region. They did not turn him over to his enemies or disassociate from him as the Jews from Thessalonica might have expected.

Fourth, the Bereans continued to grow in their faith. After Paul's departure, Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. Why? The Bible does not explicitly say, but one reason was probably to give the Berean Christians a chance to obtain further instruction in the Christian faith.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:10

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Want improved family life? Bring them to church.