

“ARE YOU A BEREAN?”

Paul at Thessalonica, the Jews stirred up the people against him. “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people. And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.” (Acts 17:10-14).

We, like the brethren of Berea, must follow their example! We must be willing to learn from what we study and obey God’s Word. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness” (2 Tim 2:15-17).

We are encouraged to follow the example of God’s Word. The brethren of Berea **only had the Old Testament and some letters from the Apostles to study**. “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child [Timothy] thou hast known

the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim 3:14-17).

We are admonished by God’s Word, to **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.** Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Thes 5:21-23).

We must be willing to work for the reward of the Kingdom of God. Our goal is to become like Jesus, the Christ and inherit with Him God’s Kingdom. “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Pet 1:10).

Remember, what the Apostle Paul encourages us to do. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Phil 2:5-6).

As the Apostle Paul concluded his ministry, he exhorts all of us to reach for the mark of our High Calling of God. “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are

before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example” (Phil 3:13-17).

Paul is now ready to be offered for his service to Christ. He knew his departure was at hand. Paul said, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” (2 Tim 4:6-8).

Now brethren, it is our turn to be doing the work God has given us at this end time! Four things we need to do!

1. PRAY
2. STUDY
3. PROVE ALL THINGS
4. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

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