



# FAMILY STUDY

Be A Berean



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## "Be A Berean"

### Check it Out for Yourself!

This week in TruthQuest, we studied the importance of examining the Scriptures as the Bereans did in Acts chapter 17. Though the Bereans are mentioned only briefly in this passage, they are commended for examining the Scriptures every day to see if the things taught to them by the Apostle Paul were indeed true. This admirable practice not only opened the minds of the Berean people to teachings that they might otherwise have been unwilling to accept, but it protected them from false teachings.

The Jews in Berea did not react to the gospel with hostility as had been the case in other places, because the Bereans examined their Scriptures themselves and found the Biblical proof that Jesus was, in fact, their Messiah. In those times, as in our own, there were also false teachers ready to ensnare people into believing unbiblical teachings. By examining the Scriptures every day as the Bereans did, we can be protected from false teachings and have a clearer understanding of the Truth.

This Family Study included Bible passages which demonstrate the need to examine the Scriptures and the benefits of doing so. We encourage you to study these passages with your family this week, and may God bless you as you study His Word!

### The Thessalonians vs. the Bereans

#### Acts 17:1-15

To begin, we suggest that you read Acts chapter 17, verses 1 through 15. Compare how the people of Thessalonica and the people of Berea responded to the gospel. Although many in Thessalonica gladly received the gospel, the Jews were jealous. Instead of considering the possibility that Paul was teaching the truth, they caused trouble for Paul. On the other hand, the Bereans examined their Scriptures to see if what Paul taught was true. The Jews in Berea could have responded with hostility as the Thessalonian Jews did, but the Bereans opened their minds AND their Scriptures to see if there was truth to Paul's teaching, and by doing so, they FOUND the Truth.

### Test Everything...

There are many false teachings in the world today, from evolutionism to relative truth and more. If we accept these false teachings, our faith in God is derailed, because the Bible is completely incompatible with such false teachings. It is more important than ever to view the teachings of man with a critical eye, using the Truth of God's Word to test everything. These Scripture passages highlight this point.

Matthew 7:15

2 Timothy 4:3-5

Matthew 24:11

2 Peter 2:1

Acts 17:11

1 John 4:1

1 Thessalonians 5:21

### The Truth of God and His Word

The Scriptures are our compass and our guide. God's Word is the perfect, unchanging and absolute Truth of God. Throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as Jesus spoke to the people, He would begin His statements with the phrase, 'I tell you the truth' (or "Truly I say to you," or "Verily I say unto you..."). God DOES tell us the truth. It is IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), and we can always count on His Word to tell us the truth. These Scripture passages highlight this point.

Psalms 31:5

John 8:31-32

Proverbs 30:5

John 14:6

Isaiah 45:19

John 17:17

John 1:14

John 18:37

John 1:17

1 Timothy 3:15

John 3:21

Hebrews 6:18

### Checking it Out...

It is a good practice for any believer—especially today—to be like a Berean and to regularly examine the Scriptures to check the truthfulness of the things we're told. But, how do we do that? Here are some suggestions.

### Concordances

A concordance is a dictionary-style listing of words used in the Bible. Under each word listing is a list of Scripture verse references which use that word. For example, to see what the Bible says about greed, you could look up words associated with greed in a concordance, such as 'greed,' 'money,' 'store,' (as in 'store up') and so on. You can then look up the Bible verse references listed for these words to see what the Bible says about them. Some will be relevant to your study, and some won't, but this method can shed a great deal of light on the Bible's teachings about specific topics.

Many Bibles have abridged concordances in the back. You can also purchase an EXHAUSTIVE concordance, which includes EVERY word in the Bible and all the verse references in which the words are used.

### Books and Commentaries

There are also a number of books designed to help you find topics quickly in the Bible, as well as commentaries about what the Bible teaches on particular topics. Use caution, however, remembering that these resources are dependant on the interpretations of flawed and sinful man! These resources won't always be right and need to be examined themselves!

### Read, Read, Read!

Perhaps the best recommendation is to simply make Bible reading a priority in your life. The more you read, the more familiar you become with the Scriptures and what they say! So, be like a Berean and examine the Scriptures every day—and may God bless you as you do so!