

(Acts 17:10-12, NIV84)

As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 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. Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Are you an information junky? Do you follow all the posts of your friends on Facebook? Do you watch the news and find out what's going on in the world with keen interest? Do the latest press releases of the rich and famous capture your curiosity? Are you always keeping your ear to the ground for the latest on what's happening in your neighborhood?

Watching the news can be depressing or downright frightening. Keeping tabs on entertainment news can be rather unwholesome. Following Facebook posts or the local neighborhood talk may only serve to feed our lust for gossip. There are so many ways we can become gossips these days, all under the guise of "being active in social media."

Staying informed has value but, if you really want to be "in the know," spending time in God's word is invaluable (i.e., priceless). Therefore, put down the device, turn off the TV, and open the Word. There you will discover God's rich plan for your life and for your soul. You'll read of His love and concern for you and you'll find peace for today and for all your tomorrows.

Growing in the knowledge that matters with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

May 20

Take God's Word for It

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. Psalm 118:9

We all can learn a lesson from the newly-converted Christians in Berea. We are told in Acts 17:11 that they not only believed the Gospel which Paul and Silas had preached to them, but that they also "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so". They wanted to be sure that the things Paul had told them were, in deed and in truth, the Word of God!

We will do well to follow their example. Though we are to honor those in authority in the church (our pastors, our teachers, our church leaders), we are to rest our hope of eternal life not on the word of any man, but only on the Word of God.

It is comparatively easy in our everyday life simply to follow the leader and ask no questions. That is not the way the Lord expects us to operate in matters spiritual. We are to make sure that our Leader is Christ and that the Word on which we base our hope is his. That means going back to the Scriptures again and again to see "whether or not these things are so". Do we believe the Gospel merely because we take some person's word for it, or because we take God's Word for it?

When was the last time we opened our Bible for serious study? When was the last time we sat in on a Bible class and took an active part in the discussion? Christ told the religious leaders of his day not to get hung up on traditions handed down by men but (literally) to "ransack the scriptures" to make sure they had found God's eternal truth.

Speaking to those who had come to faith in him, he later said: "If ye Continue in my word, . . . ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Notice, it is his Word in which his beloved must abide-not in the speculations nor in the pious traditions of men. Therefore, let us abide in the truths which he has spoken and which his inspired apostles later preserved in written words.

Lord, may I always rest my faith only in You and Your Word, and not in the traditions of men. Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)