



Russ Weber August 24, 2014

# LEARNING FROM THE BEREANS

# What the Bible says about itself (HCSB)

- Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the **word of our God remains forever.**
- Proverbs 30:5-6 **Every word of God is pure,** He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. **Don't add to His words,** or He will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar.

# What the Bible says about itself

- Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was **created by the word of God**, so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.
- John 8:47 The one who is from God listens to God's words. This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God



# What the Bible says about itself

- Heb 4:12 For the **word of God is living and effective** and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow, it is a **judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart.**
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# What the Bible says about itself

- 2 Peter 3:16 He (Paul) speaks about these things **in all his letters**, in which there are some matters that are hard to understand. **The untaught and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they do with the rest of the Scriptures.**

## Acts 17:10-15

- 10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea. On arrival, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. 12 Consequently, many of them believed, including a number of the prominent Greek women as well as men.

## Acts 17:10-15 (continued)

- 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that God's message had been proclaimed by Paul at Berea, they came there too, agitating and disturbing the crowds. 14 Then the brothers immediately sent Paul away to go to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed on there. 15 Those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible, they departed.

# Acts 17:11 – “Noble minded”

- Eugenes - Noble, open minded, not bigoted, more well-disposed – right state of mind to receive Gospel.
- Good soil

# Acts 17:11 “Eagerness”

- Prothumia - Eagerness, readiness, willingness, rushing forward or zeal
- Paul did not try to convince them that the Scriptures were important or interesting; they did that on their own.

# Acts 17:11 “Examined”

- Anakrino – Examine, judge, sift, interrogate, how one would weigh evidence in a court of law. Thorough examination, to determine the excellence or defects of something.
- Luke 23:14 Pilate while Jesus was on trial

# What should we learn from the Bereans?

- 1. Christians should search the Scriptures for truth.
- 2. Teachers are responsible for what they teach, but individuals are ultimately responsible for what they believe.
- 3. Weigh what pastors tell you is the truth against the teachings of Scripture.
- 4. Be humble (open-minded), be eager, and be diligent when handling God's word.