

**Becoming a Berean**  
Developing a "Berean" hunger for the Word of God

**Opening Prayer & Introduction:** This week we heard from special guest Ritchie Johnson, pastor at The Chapel in Cleveland Tennessee, who delivered a wonderful message about being like the Bereans in scripture. The Bereans are cordially loved by Bible students, because when the Apostle Paul first ministered to them, they refused to take his preaching at face value. The Bereans listened to Paul, and then searched the scriptures to determine if the things being taught by Paul were true. Like the Bereans, we should have a Berean spirit today, because there are so many influences chipping away at truth...and especially online.

**Key Scripture:** Acts 17:11 - "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

**Icebreaker Question:** What was your experience with the Bible growing up? Was it accessible to you, or did it seem like something only "experts" could understand?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What made the Bereans "more noble-minded" than the Thessalonians, even though Paul praised the Thessalonians highly? What were the two specific characteristics mentioned?
2. The pastor shared examples from Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 as prophecies fulfilled in Jesus. How does this type of evidence strengthen your faith? Have you ever studied Old Testament prophecies about Jesus?
3. What does the "perspicuity of Scripture" mean in simple terms? Why is this doctrine so important for everyday believers?
4. Paul "reasoned with them from the Scriptures" (Acts 17:2). What does it mean to reason with someone from Scripture rather than just from personal opinion or experience? How can we do this better?
5. The pastor mentioned that men were killed during the Reformation just for translating the Bible into common languages. How does knowing this history change your perspective on having a Bible in your own language?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What's the difference between receiving teaching as "the word of men" versus "the word of God"? How does this affect how we listen to sermons or teaching?

7. In 2 Timothy 3:13-17, Paul warns about false teachers in the last days. How can daily examination of Scripture protect us from false teaching today? What are some examples of false teaching you've encountered?

### **Personal Applications:**

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current "eagerness" or "zeal" for God's Word? What has increased or decreased that zeal in different seasons of your life?
2. The Bereans examined the Scriptures daily. What are the practical barriers that keep you from daily time in God's Word? How can this group help you overcome those?
3. The pastor said his hope wasn't to drive us legalistically but to remind us of the great gift we have. How does viewing Bible reading as a gift rather than a duty change your motivation?

### **Key Takeaways:**

- We can understand Scripture. The central message of the Bible is clear and accessible to ordinary people through the Holy Spirit's help.
- Eagerness + Examination = Noble-mindedness. The Bereans combined passionate desire for God's Word with daily careful study to verify truth.
- Scripture is our defense. In days of false teaching, our protection is examining everything against God's Word, not just accepting what we're told.
- The Gospel is the foundation. Paul focused on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus—this is the message that saves and should be central to our witness.
- We've been given a gift. Access to Scripture in our own language is a privilege many died to give us—we shouldn't take it for granted.

**Closing Prayer:** Pray that God would awaken your heart for the scriptures and give you a burning desire to dig deeper into God's Word. Pray also that we would be less susceptible to strange ideas, and search the scriptures for continuity, and in community, to discover what things are true and right.