

July 12th – Filter Everything Through Scripture

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
(Acts 17:11)

The missionary journey of Paul and Silas eventually brought them to the city of Berea. Upon their arrival, they did what they were prone to do – they went to the synagogue in an attempt to share the good news about Jesus. Scripture tells us that the Jews in Berea “were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica.” The Thessalonians had just recently attempted to seize Paul and Silas, but when they could not find them, they concentrated their persecution on their friend, Jason.

Though Paul and Silas received a poor reception from many in Thessalonica, they were received more fairly in Berea. The Bereans “received the word with all readiness.” In other words, they were willing to listen as Paul and Silas shared the truth about Jesus. But, the Bereans didn’t just take the missionaries’ word for it – instead they “searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” They took it upon themselves to find out if their words matched those of Scripture.

Have you ever heard someone say, “Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear?” Unfortunately, that’s not terribly bad advice. Why? Because many things we see and hear are not true. Before we automatically affirm what we’ve been told, we need to run it through the filter of the Bible. If what we’ve heard passes the test of Scripture, then we can stake our lives on it. If not, then we must cast it aside as falsehood. Don’t be gullible or naïve – filter everything through the Word of God.