

October 23

Acts 17:10-11 (NASB1977) ¹⁰ And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 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.*

Carol and I watched the 1941 movie *How Green Was My Valley* recently. One scene took place in the church during a deacons' meeting. The deacons called a young woman who had had a baby out of wedlock to the front where they chastised her, had her admit her sin, and cast her out of the church. The daughter of the main character stood and chastised the deacons as being heartless and unloving. She confronted the pastor with Jesus' own words, "Go and sin no more." She, in turn, was chastised for daring to correct the deacons.

As I watched that scene, I remembered the Bereans, who were described as noble-minded, knowledgeable, and daily examiners of the Word. Thus, they did not hesitate to question even Paul. This was not rude; it was wise. They wanted to make sure that what Paul said was true according to the Scriptures. That character in the movie was not being rude or confrontational. She was being like the Bereans. She examined what those deacons said and corrected them with the word. We are all to be like that. We are not to look for controversies or pointless arguments, but we are to test every word to see if it aligns with the Scriptures. As I thought about that, I wondered how many of us would do such a thing as question a person in authority. To do so seeking the truth is not disrespectful. It is wise. It is necessary to keep us on track. No one should be offended by questions. Jesus was not. It gives one the opportunity to explain the truth, or it opens the door to correct error. We are to be the Bereans of today.