

Who We Are:

Acts 17:10-15

Read Acts 17:10-15 together:

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Bereans *in* the Word.

- ? What does it mean to be “people of the Word?” Does it refer to a narrow band of believers or can it be applied more broadly? Why or why not?
- ? Has the Word of God lost its initial luster from when you first became a believer? What happens when the initial excitement “wears off?” If we’re being honest with ourselves, why is it that at times the Word can be dry, boring, and hard to understand, while at other times it’s alive with meaning that we cannot wait to share? What makes the difference?
- ? What standard can one use to examine the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so? Can the Word of God authenticate itself? Why or why not? What other measures could be used to determine its authenticity?
- ? What is the difference between *believing* the Word and *receiving* the Word?

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
Hebrews 4:12

Bereans *on* mission.

- ? What is the mission of the Bereans?
- ? Hasn’t everybody in the Twin Cities already heard about the mission of the Church? Isn’t that the definition of insanity – doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result? Why or why not?
- ? How can one be *in attendance* but not *on mission*?

- ? Isn't it the job of the pastors to examine the Scriptures? After all, they're the ones who went to seminary. How can one possibly glean new information by daily examining the Scriptures?

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:16-17

Bereans resist the urge to compromise.

- ? Read Acts 17:5-8:

"But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.' And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things."

"Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end, all his disciples deserted him. On the cross, he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God. So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- ? Why are these men inciting a riot over the Word of God?
- ? Are we still on mission if we're not challenging the status quo? What does it mean to "turn the world upside down?" Is this necessary today or are there better approaches?
- ? What is it going to take to be able to take a stand for the Word of God when it means abandoning friends and family? Is it possible in the United States today to have to choose between freedom and embracing the Word of God? Why or why not?
- ? How can one compromise the authority of the Word of God?

Our Vision

Berean Baptist Church exists to see our lives, our community, and our world transformed by the power of the gospel.

- ? What does it mean to be transformed?
- ? When was the last time you saw transformative change as a result of the Word of God? Is this transformative change elusive to see? Why or why not?
- ? How can you be a part of transformative change in someone else's life? Why might you be failing to do it?