

Sermon Notes—by David Bennett

BE LOVERS OF THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Text
Acts 17:10-12

¹⁰And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

I want us all to appreciate five points about the Bereans mentioned here. Let's call these the **Five Opens**.

First, the Bereans had **open minds**, a readiness of mind to hearken to God's Word, and this is considered as a noble virtue.

Second, the Bereans had **open Scriptures**; they had the Scriptures available to them, and they obviously could read and understand them.

Third, they had **open schedules**, and applied themselves diligently to daily searching those Scriptures.

Fourth, the Bereans had **open hearts**, so they eagerly and honestly searched the Scriptures to see if the things they had been taught were true, or not.

Finally, the Bereans had **open spirits**. The result of such faithful predisposition to hearing the Word of God, and searching the Scriptures to see if what they were taught was consistent with God's revealed truth, was that many of them believed.

150 AD	The Itala, the first Latin Bible appeared
177 AD	The Gallic Bible came to France
380 AD	Jerome's Latin Vulgate was written
397 AD	Canon of Scripture established at Council of Carthage
735 AD	Anglo-Saxon Bible preached across England
500-700 AD	Latin no longer spoken by anyone except clergy
1382 AD	John Wycliffe—Morningstar of the Reformation—translated Vulgate into English
1450 AD	Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press and the Gutenberg Bible is printed
1494 AD	William Tyndale was born in England
1526 AD	Tyndale's New Testament completed, translated from Greek
1534 AD	About half of Old Testament translated by Tyndale; he was betrayed and captured
1536 AD	William Tyndale strangled and burned at the stake for giving us the Bible in English
1537 AD	John Rogers completes Tyndale's legacy project, the entire Bible in English
1539 AD	The Great Bible by Coverdale and Cranmer done—authorized by the King
1555 AD	John Rogers burned at the stake, the first of Bloody Mary's 288 Protestant martyrs
1560 AD	The Geneva Bible—first study Bible; all translated from original Greek and Hebrew
1611 AD	The King James Bible—the Authorized Version—translated by committee of 47 men

“I HAVE MADE A COVENANT WITH THE LORD MY GOD, THAT HE GIVE ME NEITHER VISIONS NOR DREAMS NOR EVEN ANGELS. FOR I AM CONTENT WITH THIS GIFT WHICH I HAVE: HOLY SCRIPTURE WHICH TEACHES ABUNDANTLY, AND SUPPLIES EVERYTHING NECESSARY, BOTH FOR THIS LIFE AND FOR THE FUTURE.”

Martin Luther