

Acts 17:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—Luke commends the Bereans' noble (εὐγενέστεροι) character: openness to Paul's message combined with rigorous Scriptural verification. **Received the word with readiness** shows eager receptivity, not skeptical hostility. **Searched the scriptures daily** (ἀνακρίνοντες τὰς γραφὰς) means careful examination—the same verb used for legal investigation. **Whether those things were so** doesn't doubt Paul but tests his teaching against Old Testament authority. This balance—teachable spirit plus biblical discernment—models proper response to preaching.

Historical Context

Contrasts with Thessalonian Jews' hostile rejection (vv.5-9) which forced Paul and Silas to flee by night to Berea. The 'scriptures' meant the Old Testament (Septuagint), examined to verify Paul's claims about Messiah. Many Bereans believed (v.12) because Scripture confirmed Paul's gospel. This incident established the 'Berean' label for Christians who test teaching against Scripture.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you balance teachability ('readiness of mind') with discernment ('searched the scriptures')?
2. What 'scriptures' do you use to verify contemporary preaching and teaching?

Interlinear Text

οὗτοι	δὲ	ἥσαν	εὐγενέστεροι	τῶν	ἐν	Θεσσαλονίκη	
These	G1161	were	more noble	G3588	than those in	Thessalonica	
G3778		G2258	G2104		G1722	G2332	
οἵτινες	έδέξαντο	τὸν	λόγον	μετὰ	πάσης	προθυμίας	
in that they	received	G3588	the word	with	all	readiness of mind	
G3748		G1209	G3056	G3326	G3956	G4288	
τὸ	καθ'	ἡμέραν	ἀνακρίνοντες	τὰς	γραφὰς	εἰ	ἔχοι
G3588	G2596	daily	and searched	G3588	the scriptures	whether	were
		G2250	G350		G1124	G1487	G2192
ταῦτα	οὕτως						
those things	so						
G5023	G3779						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 34:16 (Parallel theme): Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

John 5:39 (Word): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Proverbs 9:9 (Parallel theme): Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Matthew 13:23 (Word): But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Proverbs 1:5 (Parallel theme): A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

1 Thessalonians 1:6 (Word): And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

Proverbs 8:10 (Parallel theme): Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

Isaiah 8:20 (Word): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Psalms 119:100 (Parallel theme): I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.