

FOR ALL MY BLESSINS (SISTERS) !!

Basics of Chapter Three (#3) Bible Study – “Reading vs. Studying”

- **Question #1** – Look up all the verses because trying to match them doesn’t work, we have too many bible versions. So, I will list the verses here and you can look them up and make notes, or whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to do:
 - Job 32:8
 - Psalms 119:34
 - Psalms 119:125
 - Proverbs 2:2
 - Proverbs 4:5
 - Proverbs 16:16
 - Proverbs 19:8
 - 1 Corinthians 14:20
 - Ephesians 1:18
- **Question #2** - John 5:39
- **Question #3** – Romans 10:17 - (READ PAGES 31-33 the information portions)
- **Question #4** - Acts 17:10-12
- **Question #5** - Look up these “noble” verses – They will be:
Luke 19:17 and Matthew 25:21 and Esther. 6:9
- **Question #6** – Look up the word received.
- **Question #7** - Look up the word “readiness” and these verses I found
Acts 17:11 and 1 Corinthians 8:11.
- **Question #8** - Psalms 44:21- Psalms 64:6- Psalms 77:6 - Psalms 139:23-
Proverbs 25:2 & 27- Matthew. 2:8 - John. 5:39 - John 7:52- Acts 17:11 -
1 Peter 1:10- Proverbs 18:17 & 28:11- Romans 8:27

(Be sure and read pages 34/35 top of 37 and all of 39).



Chapter Three (3) – “Reading vs. Studying”



Introduction Verse - Acts 17:11 – Page 31 – (Lets read in our book pages 31-31)

¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (BB Page 1622) See information from The Berean Church from website at the end of our questions in these lesson notes.

Question #1 – (We will look up these verses in our class, there are so many bible versions, that when I used my bible and tried to match with the book, verse by verse, it was not clear enough, so I just looked up the verses so I could learn what God had for me today- WE ARE READING FOR UNDERSTANDING!).– Page 32

- a. **Job 32:8** - But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.
- b. **Psalm 119:34**- Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.
- c. **Psalm 119:125** - I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.
- d. **Proverbs 2:2** -turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding.
- e. **Proverbs 4:5** - Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.
- f. **Proverbs 16:16** - How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!
- g. **Proverbs 19:8** - The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.
- h. **1 Corinthians 14:20** - Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.
- i. **Ephesians 1:18** - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

Question # 2 - John 5:39 – Page 33

³⁹You **study the Scriptures diligently** because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that **testify about me.**

Question # 3 - Romans 10:17 – Page 34

¹⁷Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message,** and the message is heard through the word about Christ. **(READ PAGE 34-35 OUTLOAD)**

Question # 4 - Acts 17:10-12 – Page 35

¹⁰As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the **Berean Jews were of more noble character** than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day** to see if what Paul said was true. ¹²As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. **(Give handouts with information I received on the Bereans)**

Question # 5 – Has us look up verses on “noble” – They will be: Luke 19:17 and Matthew 25:21 and Est. 6:9 and See below: -Page 36

(HAVE GIRLS LOOK UP THESE VERSES FOR THIS QUESTION)

Luke 19:17 “**Well done,** my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because **you have been trustworthy** in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

Matthew 25:21 “His master replied, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful** with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Esther. 6:9- **Let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble officials. And let him see that the man whom the king wishes to honor is dressed in the king’s robes and led through the city square on the king’s horse. Have the official shout as they go, ‘This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!’”**

Question #6 – What does received mean?

To be given or presented with or paid, experience, undergo. – Page 36

Question #7 – What does readiness mean? (HAVE GIRLS LOOK UP THE WORD AND VERSES) I found **Acts 17:11** and **1 Corinthians 8:11** verses below: *Readiness means- preparedness, fitness, willingness, eagerness.*- Page 37

Acts 17:11-And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

1 Corinthians 8:11-So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer^[a] for whom Christ died will be destroyed.

Question #8 – What verses on searched? - Page 38
(GIVE GIRLS VERSE TO LOOK UP)

Psalms 44:21- God would surely have known it, for he knows the secrets of every heart.

Psalms 64:6- God would surely have known it, for he knows the secrets of every heart.

Psalms 77:6 - When my nights were filled with joyful songs. I search my soul and ponder the difference now.

Psalms 139:23- Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Proverbs 25:2 & 27- It is God’s privilege to conceal things and the king’s privilege to discover them. And 27 - It’s not good to eat too much honey, and it’s not good to seek honors for yourself.

Matthew. 2:8 - Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too

John. 5:39 - “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!

John 7:52- They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!”

Acts 17:11 - And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

1 Peter 1:10- This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you.

Proverbs 18:17 & 28:11- The first to speak in court sounds right until the cross-examination begins. AND Rich people may think they are wise, but a poor person with discernment can see right through them.

Romans 8:27 - And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

READ PAGE 39!

Who were the Bereans in the Bible?

Answer: The Bereans were residents of the city of Berea in Macedonia. Paul and Silas preached to them during Paul's second missionary journey. The account of Paul and Silas in this location is recorded in [Acts 17:10-15](#). It reads,

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.

These Bereans exhibited several positive characteristics that marked their response to the gospel message. **First and foremost**, the Bereans were "more noble" because of their willing reception of the Word of God. Unlike the unbelieving Thessalonian Jews, the Bereans were eager to hear the teaching of Paul and Silas.

Second, the Bereans examined what they heard by comparing it to the Old Testament Scriptures. The fact that they honestly listened and conducted further personal research led many Bereans to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. This expansion of Christianity was not limited to those within the synagogue, but also extended to many Greek men and women in Berea.

Third, the Bereans guarded Paul's safety. When Paul's enemies arrived from nearby Thessalonica, the Berean believers protected Paul by getting him out of the region. They did not turn him over to his enemies or disassociate from him as the Jews from Thessalonica might have expected.

Fourth, the Bereans continued to grow in their faith. After Paul's departure, Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. Why? The Bible does not explicitly say, but one reason was probably to give the Berean Christians a chance to obtain further instruction in the Christian faith.

In summary, the Bereans have long been seen as a positive example of how a person or community should respond to biblical teaching. We are called to eagerly learn from God's Word and, no matter who the teacher is, to investigate new teaching in comparison with the Bible. **The practice of the ancient Bereans is a model for all who desire to grow spiritually today.**

The Berean Church -Sermon Notes from their website:

Although the Bereans were eager to hear from God, they were not at all foolish or gullible people. Their attitude was, "You have brought us a good message, let us also see it from the Scriptures."

I want you to pretend for a moment that you are a first-century Berean Jew. Now suppose one Saturday a stranger comes into your synagogue and addresses the congregation. He says that his name is Paul, and he brings you the exciting news that the long-awaited Messiah has finally come! No, he didn't actually restore the kingdom to Israel, as expected. In fact He was murdered a few decades ago by the Romans.

But, Paul says, that this is exactly what was supposed to happen to the Messiah, and he seems to prove it from Scripture. So now what do you do? If you are of noble character, you begin to search the Scriptures yourself to see if what Paul said is true.

Luke tells us that these Jews at Berea were, **"Examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."** The word "examining" comes from the Greek *anakrino*, and means: "to investigate." The word is used in the New Testament of judicial investigations. We see an example of this in:

And Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. (Luke 23:13-14 NASB)

The scriptures, which the Bereans were investigating so diligently, were the Hebrew Scriptures, the First Testament. Paul's preaching about Jesus had to harmonize with the predictions of the First Testament prophets. The Bereans wanted to make sure that what Paul was preaching was indeed the truth of God's word. So they examined the scriptures daily. We all need to be following the example of the Bereans and search the scriptures daily.

Think about this: the Bereans were taught by the most famous apostle and theologian of the early church, and the human author of at least 13 New Testament books. They may have heard about him casting the demon out of the slave girl, and the prison being destroyed as they sang praises to God. Yet, they searched the Scriptures when Paul taught, to see if his teaching was truly Biblical! They would not accept Paul's word at face value, but wanted to know if these things were so.

When they heard Paul teach, their settled reaction wasn't, "This guy has lost his mind." It wasn't, "This is a heretical doctrine, a suffering Messiah." Instead, the Bereans wanted to know, "Are these things so? Is this man teaching us the truth? Let's search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so."

Notice that the Bereans response to this strange teaching was to examine the Scriptures. It doesn't say they asked their rabbi, or discussed it with their friend who is an expert on the Messiah. They went to the Bible, which is the only inspired document there is. They searched the Scriptures, i.e. of the First Testament, to see whether these things were so; to see whether the promises and types corresponded with the alleged fulfillment in the person, works, and sufferings of Jesus Christ.

We do not know that a man's teaching is correct just because he is on the radio or television, or because of where and how much he has studied, or any other factor, until he has spoken, and we have examined the Scriptures for ourselves to see if his teaching squares with the Word of God as a whole.

One of the major differences between Roman Catholicism and Protestants pertains to their views of Scripture. The Roman Catholic Church has believed and taught for centuries that only the Pope and other Scripture specialists can reliably interpret the Bible.

Such an attitude led the Catholic Church to restrict the Bible's access to common people--including the so-called "lay members" of their own fellowship. For example, Martin Luther was trained as a Catholic priest, but had never seen a complete copy of the Bible until he had earned a doctorate and was teaching at the University of Wittenberg.

When he discovered a copy of the whole Bible in the university library, he was enthralled and declared: "If I could have a Bible for my own, I would desire no other earthly treasure." The Bibles in early Catholicism were in Latin--a language the common man could not read. Luther brought down on his head the wrath of the powerful and politically motivated Catholic Church by translating the Bible into German. Some men, such as, John Wycliffe, who wanted the Bible in the language of their own people--whether German, English, Dutch, or French--had to pay with their lives for translating or attempting to translate God's word.

The Catholic Church would still prefer their people to allow the Pope and his official representatives to interpret the Bible. Roman Catholicism cannot survive the test of Scripture.

The Bereans were characterized by a great confidence in the Word of God, as God's authoritative source of revelation and as the standard by which all teaching and conduct should be appraised. In fact, there are a lot of Christians who call themselves

Bereans, because they like to identify with these noble folks. This is why we named this Church "Berean Bible Church," we wanted this church to be known for its diligent, daily searching of the Scriptures. We all need to seek to be Bereans in our handling of the Word of God. Let us ask God to give us the love and eagerness to study God's Word and to test the teachings of all men.

Sadly, in our day, not many believers have the Berean spirit. George Gallup contends that fewer than 10 percent of evangelical Christians could be called deeply committed. He says that the majority that profess Christianity don't know basic teachings and don't act differently because of their Christian experience.

Most Christians today don't know their Bibles, they don't examine them daily or even weekly. They hear things taught, and they believe them without ever searching the Scriptures. Ask your average Christian, "What is God like?" What is the first thing they will tell you? "God is love"! Is that true? Yes, it is absolutely the truth:

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:8 NASB)

To say that God is love is the truth, but is it the whole truth? No! Love is one attribute of God, but He has many others: holiness, mercy, grace, justice, omniscience, immutability, wrath, sovereignty, and on and on we could go.

God's attributes are His characteristics, excellencies, or qualities exercised visibly in His work of creation, providence, and redemption. We call them attributes, not because we add them to the essence of God, but rather because they inhere in Him. They were and ever will be His. They tell us something about God's substance, His invisible essence.