

## Searching the Scriptures



***“Now these were more noble than those in a, Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, searched the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11)***

The passage from Acts 17:11 highlights the noble character of the Bereans who, in contrast to the skeptics in Thessalonica, received the word with a ready mind and diligently searched the Scriptures daily to verify the truth. This Scripture emphasizes the distinction between receptive hearts and those who doubt God's word. The apostle Paul, witnessing the Bereans' consistent and joyful scrutiny of the Scriptures, commended their commitment to understanding the truth about Jesus Christ. The Bereans, guarding against clerical errors, employed three critical approaches in receiving the message of Scripture.

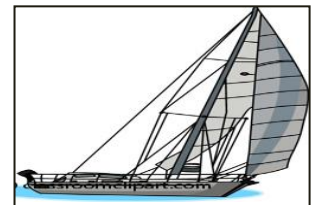
### 1. Acceptance of Scripture as the Word of God:

During Paul's brief visit to Thessalonica, an angry mob forced him to leave the city. Despite the brevity of his visit, Paul expressed gratitude for those who received the message, acknowledging that they accepted it not as the words of men but as the truth of God, transforming their lives (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1:9-10). The Bereans, recognizing the divine inspiration of Scripture, diligently searched its pages, guided by the conviction that it was a revelation from above (Psalm 119:11; 1 Peter 1:22-25).



### 2. Viewing Scripture as Divinely Inspired:

In an era plagued by false teachings, believers faced significant threats. The apostle John cautioned against false spirits, urging discernment in testing them. Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:16, affirmed that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, emphasizing the Greek term "Theopneutos,"



meaning "God-breathed." This term underscores that God, through His Spirit, inspired holy men, securing the revelation and circulation of His word. Peter, in 2 Peter 1:20-21, elaborated on the divine nature of inspiration, debunking the notion that it came from personal interpretation but rather from the movement of the Holy Spirit.

### 3. Acceptance of Scripture as the Source of Salvation:



Believers in the first century recognized the Bible as the source of salvation. The Scriptures declare humanity's sinfulness (Romans 3:23), and God's love manifested in sending His Son for redemption (1 Peter 3:17-18, Rom 5:6-18). The famous John 3:16 verse expresses the message of God's love and salvation through trust in Jesus. Just as Timothy learned from his family and found salvation (2 Timothy 3:15), today's believers rely on the Scriptures for the same life-changing power. The scriptural plan for salvation, rooted in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, remains unchanged (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10; Mark 16:15-16). Those who obey it enjoy the blessings of God's grace (Ephesian 1:3).



In summary, the early Christians received the message of Scripture with a profound understanding: as the Word of God, divinely inspired, and the source of salvation. The invitation allows all to follow the same plan they accepted in the first century. If you desire to serve Christ, please let us know how we can assist you on this journey.

Tes/Quiz.

1. What distinguished the Bereans from the skeptics in Thessalonica, according to Acts 17:11?
  - a. Their wealth
  - b. Their daily scrutiny of the Scriptures
  - c. Their eloquence

- d. Their prominent social status
- 2. How did the Thessalonians receive the word of God during Paul's brief visit, as mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 2:13?
  - a. As the word of men
  - b. As a divine revelation
  - c. With skepticism
  - d. Incompletely
- 3. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, what is the nature of all Scripture?
  - a. Humanly devised
  - b. Inspired by man's interpretation
  - c. God-breathed and profitable
  - d. Open to private interpretation
- 4. What Greek term, mentioned by Peter in 2 Peter 1:20-21, emphasizes the divine inspiration of Scripture?
  - a. Theologia
  - b. Phero/Pheromenoi
  - c. Hieroglyphos
  - d. Logos
- 5. What does the term "Theopneutos" mean in the context of divine inspiration?
  - a. God-breathed
  - b. Divinely transcribed
  - c. Spirit-filled
  - d. Prophetically spoken
- 6. According to John 3:16, what is the result of believing in Jesus?
  - a. Temporary happiness
  - b. Everlasting life
  - c. Wealth and prosperity
  - d. Social recognition

7. How did Timothy come to know the message of Scripture, as mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:15?

- a. Through personal revelation
- b. Attending a formal school
- c. From his mother and grandmother
- d. Through philosophical discussions

8. According to Romans 3:23, what is the universal condition of humanity?

- a. Righteousness
- b. Sinlessness
- c. Sin
- d. Perfection

9. What is the unchanging plan for salvation, as outlined in the lesson?

- a. Good deeds and charity
- b. Strict adherence to rituals
- c. Belief, repentance, confession, and baptism
- d. Intellectual knowledge

10. What metaphor does Peter use in 2 Peter 1:21 to describe how the Holy Spirit moved holy men to speak?

- a. A quill on parchment
- b. A wind-filled sailboat
- c. A burning bush
- d. A flowing river