

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

examining the Scriptures daily

Decade of Availability Holy Spirit U-Turns

In Philippi the missionaries were accused of ‘troubling’ the whole city. By the time they got to Thessalonica the charge had risen to “turning the world upside down.” Following the Holy Spirit will often result in a divine U-turn.

A. Opening the Word vv. 1-9 At Thessalonica

1. **Opening and alleging:** v. 3 These two words express an important truth about Biblical interpretation.

(1) **Opening:** Greek—to make open or to explain. To open in the sense of ‘revealing something that was hidden—or revealing the true meaning.’

(2) **Alleging:** Greek—to present or place alongside and set before. Some translate this word as ‘demonstrate.’

(3) **The words together:** These two words taken together mean to ‘break the rind to find the kernel.’ As we break open the Word of God we find His truth revealed.

2. **Three things opened:** v. 3

-Christ must die

-Christ must be resurrected from the dead

-Christ is the Messiah

3. **Divine U-turns:** vv. 4; 6-8 The phrase ‘turned upside down’ in v. 6 means to make a U-turn. For those who heard and believed the message of Jesus—they made a divine U-turn to follow Him (v. 4). This of course caused much trouble for those who had rejected the message of the Gospel.

B. Receiving the Word vv. 10-15 At Berea

Once the Word has been opened we must ‘receive’ it.

1. **More noble:** The meaning of ‘noble’ here is that they were NOT prejudiced against the Gospel.

2. **Received the Word:** So why did they receive the Word? **Do you have these three things in your life?**

(1) **Readiness of mind:** Or ‘eager’ of mind. This means that they were eager to learn TRUTH. They were eager to hear and to learn—they gathered to study!

(2) **Searched the Word:** Before they receive anything they check it out. They make sure that what is being preached or said is REALLY in God’s Word.

(3) **Daily in the Word:** This has two meanings. (1) They kept looking every day until they found the answer and (2) they developed a daily habit of reading His Word.

C. **Walking in the Word** vv. 4; 12 These first believers became The Church at Thessalonica and Berea. Paul wrote to them later and said in *1 Thessalonians 1:6-7*

“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.”

Are you an example of Christ to all the people around you?

Acts 17:1-15 (KJV)

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 **Opening and alleging**, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4 **And some of them believed**, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;**

7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

8 And they **troubled the people and the rulers of the city**, when they heard these things.

9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

10 And 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.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

14 And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.

15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.