

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

If I told a child that I was going to make a chocolate cake and that the ingredients are, broccoli, lemon juice, pumpkin seeds, and cow liver, they would not know any better until they are taught the right way to make a cake and what the correct ingredients are, and they would learn this by reading a cookbook, as well as by a master baker teaching them.

But you know those are not the correct ingredients to make a chocolate cake. But do you know what the correct ingredients are? Maybe you say one of the ingredients is flour, which is correct, but what kind of flour? Did you know there are many kinds of flour, and there is even what is called “cake flour”? Well, you won’t know unless you check it out for yourself, and you won’t know all the ingredients to make a chocolate cake, unless you check it out as well, and you find that by reading a cookbook, not a book on how to raise chickens.

In today’s verse, this was being addressed to what are known as the Bereans and they were called this because they were from Berea.

† **Acts 17:10** *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

This was also addressed to the Hebrews when they were taught that:

† **Hebrews 5:12-14** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

But we as believers also have the responsibility to make sure what we are being taught is right and correct, because our eternal life depends upon it, because there are so many false teachings out there, and so many watered-down gospels, that the truth has taken a backseat to these lies, and many are following them. Yet didn’t Jesus warn us about them!

† **Matthew 7:15** *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

Peter, who listened to Jesus teachings also said:

† **2 Peter 2:1** *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

So, how do we know when we are hearing false teachings verses the truth? Jesus told that as that well.

† **Matthew 7:16-20** *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

Are these teachers of God's word, building the Kingdom of God, or their own kingdom. Are they wanting to fill their churches with a mass amount of people, or are they preaching the true gospel, and training up believers, and sending them out to build more churches to build the Kingdom of God?

Even us, are we looking for numbers, thinking that the more we share the gospel, and the more that turn to Jesus makes us more spiritual than others? Do we brag about the things we have done for the Kingdom of God. Or brag on God, who in His Grace and Mercy has allowed us to be a part of what HE IS DOING, for HIS Kingdom?

We must remember that it's not a matter of what we are doing, but rather what our motives are behind what we are doing. Is it for our glory, or for the Glory of God. If no one sees us doing things for God, are we okay with that, or do we need the motivation of others saying how great we are for the things we are doing for God's Kingdom?

The Bereans did not search the scriptures so others could say how godly or great they were, rather they did so to make sure they were hearing and following the truth of God's Word, not man's.

† **John 8:31-32** *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

† **Ephesians 1:13** *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*