

THE NOBLE BRETHREN OF BEREIA

Acts 17:10-14

Introduction:

- A. Paul and Silas were marked for death in the city of Thessalonica
 - 1) The house where they had stayed was assaulted by a mob of evil men
 - 2) They had been incited by the Jews

- B. Jason had been arrested
 - 1) He was taken to the rulers
 - 2) He posted "security" and was released

I. Paul and Silas Came to Berea Vs. 10

- A. "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea"
 - 1) "immediately" = heutheos = "at once"
 - 2) God's providence guided them
 - 3) Berea, a city of Macedonia about 50 miles west of Thessalonica and 23 miles from the sea.

- B. "who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews"
 - 1) Paul continues his life-long habit
 - 2) He never loses his desire for Israel

II. The Brethren of Berea Vs. 11

- A. They were more noble than the brethren in Thessalonica.
(more of them could read)
 - 1) "noble" = heugenes = "well-born", "of high birth"
 - 2) were better educated, "more educated"

- B. They were open minded
 - 1) "received" = dechomai = "to embrace", "to receive with hospitality", "welcome"
 - 2) "readiness" = prothumia = "predisposition", "willingness", "eagerness", "alacrity of mind"
 - 3) The Thessalonian reception I Thess. 2:13

C. They searched the scriptures

- 1) "searched" = anakrino = ana = "up, again + krino = "to judge", "to estimate carefully", "to judge", "to sift"
- 2) "whether those things were so"
- 3) John 5:39 - "you keep on poring over the scriptures, in the belief that you will find eternal life in them"
- 4) The Bible won't save, trusting the Bible won't save, the truths of the Bible won't save, the person of the Bible saves! Vs. 40

III. The Fruit of Bible Preaching Vs. 12

A. Many of them believed Vs. 12

- 1) When people study diligently they position themselves to accept Bible truth
- 2) Gentiles = "not a few"

B. Persecution continued vs. 13

- 1) These were "zealous" religionists!
- 2) "they stirred up the people"

C. Providence continued Vs. 14

- 1) They sent Paul to the sea
- 2) others stayed