

## Session 5

Acts 17:10-11 tells us “The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

<sup>11</sup> Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.”

Noble minded (experts) examining the Scriptures to see if things were so. One highlight of a pastor’s ministry is when someone comes to them and asks or questions something they said in a sermon, or a view they took on Scripture. As a pastor begins to defend their stance, they might begin drawing from a knowledge base that exceeds their own ability. Our contacts and sources for education become our expert witnesses and the beauty of defending Scripture is there are HUNDREDS of years of (experts) to draw from. The challenge still comes with deciding what to believe and what view or stance is correct.

I’m not a stickler for much and it usually takes a lot to get me stirred up, but one thing I dig my heels in on is sticking to what Scripture says. I always strive to put context to the setting, the people, the social and political climate of the text. I want people to know what Scripture says, not what I think it says. I am no expert; however, I do draw informed conclusions about God’s word built on the pillars of some that have come before me.

Do you have a database or knowledge base from which you draw your own conclusions about Scripture? Is it reliable? Do you believe everything you see and hear about God’s word? Has your view on scripture ever been vetted by the local church or a biblically responsible person of influence? What we choose to believe about God’s word and those speaking about it is critical to the advancement of the Kingdom.

Father, Scripture today is more readily available than ever before. Along with availability comes EVERYONE’S opinion on your Divine Word. Might we have great discernment to distinguish truth from heresy and be bold to confront with the truth of Your word and love. ~ Amen