

Open Minds

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:9-15

1. **Many people today say they want to find the right church, but the problem is they really don't have "open minds" in wanting to know what the Bible really teaches about the church and/or salvation.**
 - A. **Having the assurance of Heaven is the most important thing that one can possess. Only true, God fearing, obedient, and faithful Christians have that assurance.**
 - 1) **It would seem like everyone would want to know what it is they must do in order to live on throughout eternity.**
2. **Everyone needs to have the attitude of the Bereans in the first century.**
 - A. **They believed because they took the time to know the truth.**

Acts 17:10-12 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. **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.** Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

3. **Let's look at what the Bereans did back then that led them to belief in Jesus Christ.**

They Kept Open Minds

1. **"They received the Word."**

- A. **These Bereans listened, without prejudice and without gullibility.**
- B. **Without this kind of hearing and learning, no coming to Jesus Christ will ever take place.**

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, **'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.'** Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

- C. **Good listeners always complement the gospel.**
Matthew 13:14-15

2. They received the word **"with all readiness of mind."**

- A. **"Readiness" indicates an eagerness and willingness.**
- B. **Such a mind set is absolutely vital to righteousness.**

2 Corinthians 8:12 **For if there is first a willing mind,** it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

3. **This is the result of an honest and good heart.**

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.**

- 4. **It is important to note at this point that this kind of heart exists before one actually knows the truth. They are seeking it.**
John 7:17

They Kept Open Bibles

1. **“Examining the Scriptures” (in this case the Old Testament).**
 - A. They recognized the scriptures as being authoritative.
 - B. They recognized the need to “prove all things.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

- 1) **Testing the teaching of the Word against what is said.**
 - C. They were not satisfied to take the word of the preacher.
2. **“Whether these things were so.”**
 - A. They knew that any teaching that did not harmonize with scripture could not be so and, therefore, unworthy of acceptance.
 - B. Their subsequent believing was based upon their accepting these things as being so.
Romans 10:17
 - C. Such examining and testing is still vital in our confused religious world of today.
 - 1) We must ask “Are these things so? Examine the Scriptures.”

They Kept Open Schedules

1. **They examined the scriptures “daily.”**
 - A. **Open minds and open Bibles mean little where there is no time for their employment.**
 - B. **In this way, men truly are “redeeming the time.”**

Ephesians 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- C. **Similarly, the Pentecostians received and continued “steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” in a “day by day” involvement.**
Acts 2:41, 46
- D. **Daily involvement with the Scriptures is essential to growing in faith, knowledge, and strength.**

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby**, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

2. **The tragedy of schedules to busy for God and His Word!**

- “No time for God? What fools we are, to clutter up our lives with common things and leave without heart’s gate the Lord of life and life itself ---- Our God!”

---- **Norman Trott**

Conclusion

1. **I am so thankful, very thankful, that I was born into this world with a mother who made sure that my sisters and I were brought up knowing about God.**
 - A. **Although I was raised knowing about God, I realized in time, that I must "search the scriptures" to make sure that what I had been taught and was being taught was according to the Bible.**
 - B. **I learned that even though I believed in God, it was not until I dived into His Word that I learned that some things that were taught and accepted in the local congregation was not being done according to Bible.**
 - 1) **By reading, studying, and applying God's Word in my life, that "the faith" became "my faith."**

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

2. **I encourage you this day to develop a faith in God that is dear to you, a faith that is truly "your faith" so that you will be committed to stand with our Lord no matter what.**
3. **This happens when we "search the scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so."**

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits, whether they are of God;** because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

