

IN THE BOOK #2: IN THE STUDY! ACTS 17:1-12

Paul:

- Reasoned with people (17:2, 17)
- From the Scripture
- In the Synagogue and the markets
- Week after week
- Day after day
- Explaining / fully opening up & proving / setting before them
- That Jesus was the Christ
- As a custom / habit

Luke records that those in Berea were more noble (εὐγενής) than those in Thessalonica!

Acts 17:11 These were more noble (εὐγενέστεροι) 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.

[Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman (εὐγενής) went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.
1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble (εὐγενεῖς), are called:]

Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: **Acts 17:2** And Paul, as his manner (κατὰ δὲ τὸ εἰωθὸς) was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned (διελέξατο) with them out of the scriptures (ἀπὸ τῶν γραφῶν), **Acts 17:3** 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.

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

Acts 17:17 Therefore disputed (Διελέγετο) he in the synagogue (ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις) with the Jews, and with the devout persons (τοῖς σεβομένοις), and in the market (ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ) daily with them that met with him.

Why did Luke (and Paul) consider the Bereans as having a more noble birth / higher birth / better genes?

1. They received the word - **eagerly / gladly!**

Word ↔ Scripture

Acts 17:11 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.

Thoughts:

- **Believers, by the Spirit, welcome the word!**

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened, that** she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **Luke 24:26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? **Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. **Luke 24:45** **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**

Psalms 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, That I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

- **The unsaved do not welcome the word**
- **The unsaved cannot welcome the word**
- **The word / Scripture is foolish to them!**
- **Only the Spirit of God can open anyone's eyes!**

John 8:43 **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. **John 8:45** **And because I tell you****

the truth, ye believe me not. **John 8:46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? **John 8:47** **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**

John 10:27 **My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; **and they have received them**, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man **receiveth not** the things of the Spirit of God: **for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: **he that knoweth God heareth us**; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2. They searched the word – daily!

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, **and searched** (*ἀνακρίνοντες τὰς γραφάς*) the scriptures **daily**, whether those things were so.

The Bereans **didn't read their KJV1611!**

No one would have owned all the scrolls / even most of them. They may have had portions.

Most would have had to read them / have them read in the S

3 fundamental premises:

A. Follow your curiosity / needs / interests / desires

This might include:

B. Use your built-in (as opposed to added-on) moments

What might this include?

C. Establish good rhythms

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate **day and night**.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, And forsake not the law of thy mother: **Proverbs 6:21** Bind them continually upon thine heart, And tie them about thy neck. **Proverbs 6:22** **When thou goest**, it shall lead thee; **When thou sleepest**, it shall keep thee; And **when thou awakest**, it shall talk with thee.

The most important time of the day is → the night before

Last thought, first thought

Basic principles of study:	
Read the Bible	Actually read it!
Read it out loud	Read it daily
Read it quickly	Read it slowly
Read it so as to read it in one year	Read whole / entire sections
Read whole books	Read the Proverb of the day
Read a Psalm a day	Read in multiple translations NIV ↔ ESV ↔ NKJV ↔ KJV

Read in multiple languages	Read in the original language
Read it with helps	Read it without helps
Read it in a study Bible	Read it in a hard copy
Read it on your phone / device	Listen to it read
Read during any and all gaps	Read <u>and</u> discuss with others

3. They experienced the word **positively!**

Acts 17:11 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.**

They, as well as we, find answers, hope, help, love, food / nourishment, peace, grace, God...!

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night. **Psalm 1:3** **And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, And forsake not the law of thy mother:

Proverbs 6:21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, And tie them about thy neck.

Proverbs 6:22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; And when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

Proverbs 6:23 **For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; And reproofs of instruction are the way of life:**

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; It giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalm 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. **Psalm 92:13** Those that be planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. **Psalm 92:14** They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; They shall be fat and flourishing;