

ACTS: Berea

Acts 17:10-15

A Warm Welcome (v. 10-12)

- After the arrest and release of Jason and others, the newly formed Christian community sends Paul & co. out of town by night
- They are sent to the city of Berea, about 50 miles inland to the west
 - It would have been about a 3-days journey
- Berea, which is the modern-day city of Veria, Greece, lays on the eastern slopes of Mt. Vermion in the Olympian Mountain range
 - About 60 miles north of Mt. Olympus
 - It was the capital of one of the four divisions of Macedonia
- Again, Paul visits the synagogue to preach first to the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles
- However, unlike in Thessalonica, the Jews here welcome him
 - They are called noble: a quality connected with openness, tolerance, & generosity
- They are also eager to hear what Paul has to say
 - They meet daily, not weekly
 - They search the Scriptures to verify the claims being made
- Because of this commitment to the truth, many of them believed in Jesus
 - Both Jews and Greeks
- The Bereans wanted to make sure that who they are and what they believe were rooted in God's Word
 - To this day, it is what they are most known for
- We must be careful to do the same

Trouble Follows (v. 13-15)

- The Jews in Berea seemed to have no problem with Paul's preaching about Jesus
 - But others from Thessalonica heard about Paul's success and started causing problems
- Again, the crowds are riled against the Apostles
 - But this time, it is Paul alone who is singled out
- Paul leaves town, being escorted to the coast
 - And eventually all the way to Athens
 - Whether he traveled by boat or along the coastal road is unknown
- However, Silas & Timothy stay behind in Berea to continue to train up the newly formed Church
 - They later meet up with Paul in Athens after he sends his escorts back for them (Acts 18:5)

So What?

- The Church in Berea was careful to let Scripture define who they were?
- Do we do the same?

Meditation Verse: *Acts 17:11*