

## ACTS 17; October 18; Why Were The Bereans Noble (v 11)?

### ANALYSIS:

1. What three cities does Paul visit in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the Jews at the synagogue in Berea compare with those at Thessalonica? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What caused Paul to be stirred in his spirit while at Athens?  
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4. What was the goal of the philosophers who gathered at Mars' Hill?  
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5. As Paul spoke at Mars' Hill, what did he say God commanded all men to do? \_\_\_\_\_

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Who were the philosophers that confronted Paul at Mars' Hill? The Epicureans followed the ideas of Epicurus who lived 341-270 BC. He taught the aim and end of life for every person is his own happiness, meaning primarily pleasure. He wrote: "Pleasure is our first and kindred goal." "By pleasure we mean the absence of pain in the body and trouble in the soul." While he lived by a simplicity verging on asceticism, and kindly treated his friends, his theories serve man's depravity of justifying license and selfishness. The Stoics embraced a philosophy, founded by Zeno about 308 BC, of self-repression which calmly accepted life's challenges as unavoidable. They embraced "a system of particular duties, such as purity of one's self, love toward all men, and reverence toward God." Apart from the gracious revelation of God-breathed scripture, man is bankrupt to make any sense of why we are here and what our goals ought to be. Paul boldly and plainly introduced these educated elite to their UNKNOWN GOD, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Ruler of all mankind, Who cannot be represented by silver or gold or stone, Who commands all men to repent because He will judge all men by the MAN (Christ Jesus) Whom He raised from the dead.

Count your blessings and raise your thanksgivings to your Heavenly Father if you are a Bible-believing worshipper of Jehovah God! Do not envy or lust after man's imaginations, for Paul had little fruit in Athens among the worldly wise. "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things ... the weak things ... and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence" (I Cor 1:26-29). Be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures daily.

### HELP:

1. Thessalonica, Berea, Athens (vs 1, 10, 15).
2. Those of Berea were more noble in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (v 11).
3. He saw the city wholly given to idolatry (v 16).
4. Either to tell or to hear some new thing (v 21).
5. Repent (v 30).