

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for March 20, 2016**

**The Commitment of the Jews**  
**Acts 17:10-15**

Acts 15:36-18:23 records Paul's second missionary journey to Greece and in Acts 17 Paul, Silas and later Timothy have fled persecution in Philippi and arrive in Berea.

**1. Arrival in Berea (17:10)**

Berea was fifty miles southwest of Thessalonica and described by Cicero one hundred years earlier as "off the beaten path," that is, not along the Egnatian Way.

**2. Attitude of the Bereans (17:11-12)**

"Noble-minded" is a comparative compound term that literally means "well born" from "well" (EU) and "family" (GENOS). It speaks of a person born into a higher class of the aristocracy (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:26; Luke 19:12). Those who demonstrate the characteristics of the Bereans show themselves to be children of the King.

The English Standard Version correctly avoids making their great eagerness the reason why they were noble-minded. The text does not state whether the eagerness of the Bereans was the cause or the effect of their noble-minded. Based upon the doctrine of election, it is better to understand their eagerness came from God's work in them.

The difference between the Jews of each city lay with the hearer and not the speaker. Our goal must be to communicate, not manipulate, because ministry is the work of God.

The frequency of involvement in the Scripture is the means to an end. While there is no understanding apart from frequency, frequency itself assures nothing.

The Greek word translated "examining" is a judicial word used to describe a legal process. Like in a trial, we must carefully weigh any teaching against the standard of the scripture.

Individuals have the ability and the responsibility for correct interpretation of God's Word. Stronger churches are filled with people who are eager for the truth of the Word.

The locus of inspiration is the text, not the author (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16).

The fervency for the Word leads to a frequency in the Word, which imparts the fact of the Word. If the Bereans were eager in their examination of the Scripture with only the Old Testament, how much more should we be with the entire Bible?

We have no evidence that Paul ever wrote a letter to the Bereans, most likely because it wasn't necessary. The struggling churches received more attention (cf. Mark 10:45).

### **3. Agitation against the Bereans (17:13)**

The Thessalonian Jews came after Paul in Berea because their goal of silencing Paul was not met. These Jews used the same tactics as they did in their hometown. This mirrored the first missionary journey in Lystra (Acts 14:19).

### **4. Aid from brethren (17:14-15)**

The text is unclear as to whether Paul travelled to Athens by ship or land, but Paul needed to flee to Achaia due to danger in Macedonia and the geography of Greece.

The delay for Timothy and Silas to join Paul in Athens was in order to serve the church in Berea. For the first time we find the original missionary team completely split up (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2). May we be willing to serve the Lord regardless of where the Lord leads us.