

The Story of the Bereans: How to Test for Truth

July 9, 2023

Isaiah 59:21, CEV – The Lord says: “My people, I promise to give you my Spirit and my message. These will be my gifts to you and your families forever. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17, NLT – You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

God Gave Us the Bible to...

- _____

John 1:18, NIV – No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

- _____

Psalms 119:160a, ESV – The sum of your word is truth.

- _____

Ephesians 2:10, GW – God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do.

Main Passage: Acts 17:10b-12, NIV – On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

How to Test for Truth

1. _____

Romans 10:17, NCV – So faith comes from hearing the Good News, and people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.

Mark 4:3-9, NLT – the Parable of the Sower

According to Jesus, when am I a bad listener?

- When _____
- When _____
- When _____

God's Word also says I'm a bad listener...

- When I'm in love with _____

Proverbs 18:2, NLT – Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

- When I choose to _____

Proverbs 14:15a, NLT – Only simpletons believe everything they're told!

2. _____

Proverbs 23:23, NLT – Get the truth and never sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment.

Proverbs 23:23, LB – Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get.

1 John 4:1, NLT – Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

2 Timothy 4:3-4, NLT – For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths

2 Timothy 3:5, NCV – They will act as if they serve God but will not have his power.

Romans 12:2a, NLT – Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Matthew 7:24-25, NLT – [Jesus said,] "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."

3. _____

James 2:17, GNT – If [faith] is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

Jeremiah 1:12b, NIV – The Lord said to me, "...I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

Matthew 5:14-16, GNT – [Jesus said,] "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."