

Be a Berean **Acts 17:1-15**

A brief tale of two cities closely connected and contrasted, 17:11,13

Thessalonica thugs force Paul to move out of town. 17:1-9

- ❖ Paul and Silas arrive with boldness (I Thess. 2:1,2) but can only stay three wks.
- ❖ Paul reasoned, explained, and gave biblical support to *persuade* (17x in Acts), as in 18:4, 19:8,26, 26:28). This ≠ oratorically persuasive tactics, I Cor. 2:1-5.
- ❖ Jealous Jews gather thugs/lowlives to riot against Paul and Silas. The charge against them is sedition, as in Lk. 23:2-4, Jn. 19:12,15.
- ❖ Though Paul's stay here is brief, the church will thrive, I Thess. 1:6-9, 4:6-9.

Noble-minded Bereans become a model for us. 17:10-15

- ❖ This unique compliment offers a direct contrast to the Thessalonians: *noble-minded* = objective, thinking person, an open inquisitive mind, as seen by the *eagerness to examine*, (legal contexts in Acts: 4:9, 12:19, 24:8, 28:18).

What a noble-minded person does not do:

What a noble-minded person seeks to do:

*This was a cardinal principal of the reformation!

- ❖ Thessalonian Jews follow Paul and Silas to Berea and stir up the crowds, as occurred earlier in Acts 14:19. Silas and Timothy stay put, but Paul is compelled to leave for Athens.

