

Second, the Bereans' diligent study of Scripture made it unnecessary for Paul to write corrective letters to this church. Much of Paul's writings were to bring doctrinal or behavioral correction to the church he was addressing. When believers vigorously consume the Bible, God easily brings correction without sending a pastor or leader. Holy Spirit-led Scripture study alone is more than adequate to make the needed changes.

*"All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**: (17) That the man of God may be **perfect, thoroughly furnished** unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

As we see in the passage above, Paul encourages Timothy in the importance of Scripture. God will use His Word in believers' lives to equip us for all good works. Scripture is the source of sound doctrine, rebuke, correction, and learning the way of righteousness.

Paul knew from his experience that the Bereans would go to the source whenever a problem arose.

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### Deceptions Avoided

As noted above, the Bereans likely didn't require letters of correction or warning written to them because their practice of **relying on God's Word protected them from deception**. Here is Jesus' answer to the question, "What is the sign of the end of the world and your return?"

*"And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**" (Matthew 24:4)*

Our place of safety in Christ is to love the truth. The Bible is the ultimate authority for all spiritual truth.

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### Conclusion:

#### **Abide in Christ and let His Words Abide in You**

*"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If ye abide in me, **and my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**" (John 15:6-8)*

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By: Robert Dallmann

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*"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. (11) These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:10-11)*

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### No Epistles To Berea

Even though the Bereans are only mentioned a few times in Scripture, these believers hold a place of eternal acclaim.

This writing will ponder why the Bereans are not spoken of more often in the Bible and why there are no letters written to the believers in Berea.

As we continue, we will speculate as to why Scripture includes no letters to these noble people.

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# WHY ARE THERE NO EPISTLES TO THE BEREANS?

## More Noble

Acts 17:11 (quoted above) tells us that the Bereans were “more noble” than the Thessalonians. Here is a thought: how would you feel if a notable and highly respected preacher or theologian wrote this about your church? If your church is the Berean equivalent, it would be a good feeling, but what if your church was the Thessalonian equivalent?

The fact that the Holy Spirit, through Luke, gives accolades to the Bereans in contrast to the Thessalonians is essential. The definition of the Greek word translated as “more noble” is also thought-provoking.

Here is the Strong’s Concordance definition: *“well-born, i.e. (literally) high in rank, or (figuratively) generous”*

This definition is fascinating. The Bereans were “well born” in contrast to the Thessalonians. They were higher in rank. Perhaps they were more generous in their **reliance upon the Word of God**. In any case, absolute dependence upon Scripture won them applause from the Holy Spirit through Luke of being “more noble.”

Being “more noble” than the Thessalonians might lead you to expect they would be mentioned more often than the church at Thessalonica. But such is not the case! The Thessalonian church received two epistles from Paul, while the Bereans did not receive any.

So, what is the difference?

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## Readily Received Paul’s Preaching

Believers in BOTH churches eagerly received the Apostle Paul’s teachings. Each group embraced the instruction they obtained via Paul. Followers of Jesus from both cities benefitted from the spiritual enrichment Paul offered. However, only the Bereans are recorded as having TESTED Paul’s doctrines against the Scriptures.

**It is so vital to search the Scriptures to validate doctrines that the Holy Spirit applauds the Bereans and calls them “more noble” than the Thessalonians.**

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## Tested Paul’s Preaching Against Scripture

We must understand the scenario. The followers of Jesus in Berea were listening to the teachings of the Apostle Paul. We know Paul as the human author of much of the New Testament. Yet, the Holy Spirit gives accolades to these believers for **checking the Apostle Paul’s words against the Scripture**.

Christians today should likewise hold the Word of God ABOVE every pastor, teacher, or spiritual leader. If the person you are listening to contradicts the Bible, believe the Bible!

Sadly, some will add or force their favorite teacher’s doctrines into the Bible when it is not there.

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## Exegesis vs. Eisegesis

These words are theological terms with “scholarly”

definitions that can be easily simplified.

\* **Exegesis** = you believe what the **Bible actually says**

\* **Eisegesis** = you believe what you want or **wish the Bible said**

Obviously, being an exegete is the correct method of approaching the Bible and being an eisegete is the wrong way.

Listen earnestly to the preachers and teachers God brings your way. Take notes and then diligently search the Scriptures to verify the accuracy of the teaching you received.

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## The Bereans Did Not Need Letters Of Correction

We began this writing with the question, “Why Are There No Epistles To The Bereans?” Now, we will speculate on the answers to that question.

First, it may be that Paul felt no need to write warning letters to the believers of Berea. Paul was likely confident that when some slick, deceiving preacher came to town, the overall church in Berea would study the Word of God and arrive at sound doctrine. Typically, those who are solely reliant upon Scripture are rarely tolerant of false teachers and their doctrines; deceivers would find no prey in a solid area like Berea.