

Believers of Noble Character

Description

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Acts 17:10-15

Paul's early mission to the ancient northern Greek kingdom of Macedonia had met with mixed success. There were the notable successes: Lydia and the Philippian jailer and their households; there were new believers, some Jewish and "a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women" at Thessalonica (Acts 17:4). On the other hand there were the attacks by angry mobs, false charges, beatings, humiliation, and imprisonment. God provided deliverance and encouragement. However, Paul's opponents were relentless.

Then there was Berea. The noble character of the Berean Jews was shown in their measured and open-minded response to Paul's message. Instead of defensiveness and fear their response was to receive the good news of Jesus Christ "with great eagerness" and careful examination of the Scriptures (17:11).

Believers today need to strive to be people of noble character. Those who carefully examine all things in the light of God's Word, instead of reacting out of fear or defensiveness.

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