

How to Hear God

September 10, 2006

Acts 17.1-12

*"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**'"*
John 8.31-32

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

'What is truth?'" John 18.37-38

The question of Pilate is precisely the same question people are asking today, "What is truth?" How do you know what is true? Is there absolute truth, that is, truth which never changes, or is truth relative?

God has given mankind absolute truth in the form of the Scriptures — the Bible. In our text today, we see an illustration of what can happen when people correctly respond to the Word of God. Here, we will find several principles which can enable us, not only to discover the truth, but to apply it to our lives.

*"Now **the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians**, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17.11*

We read in verse 11 that the people in Berea were **of more noble character than the Thessalonians**. Why were they nobler? The answer to that question is found in the way they reacted to the Word of God.

They Received the Message

*"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they **received the message** with great eagerness..." Acts 17.11a*

They Examined the Scriptures

*"...for they received the message with great eagerness and **examined the Scriptures** every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17.11b*

They Believed the Word

*"Many of the Jews **believed**, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men." Acts 17.12*

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Romans 10.17

Isaiah 6.8-13; Amos 8.11-14

"The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'This is why I speak to them in parables:

Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.'

For this people's heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means." Matthew 13.10-18

"If any man is willing to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself." John 7.17