

# What does it mean to Be as the Bereans

May 14, 2017 – Acts 17:10-13

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*“As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 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 truth. Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the Word of God at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.”*

What is Mission Work?

You often hear of people who make a Mission Trip. Then as you question them more about where they went and what they did, you will learn that many people think that the definition of Mission Work was: “Going to some country or location in financial need and those individuals who consider themselves Missionaries would dig some wells, or build a school building, or renovate homes or dig drainage ditches or give medical supplies or medical treatment or help teach English a 2<sup>nd</sup> language.”

All of these are very noble causes and wonderful displays of Christian charity and acts of Sanctification in the narrow sense. These are all Good deeds done to let the light of Christ shine in your life. These good deeds of humanitarian aid may be tools that are used to gain entrance into a country that has had its borders closed to preaching the message of Salvation in Christ Jesus. These may be tools used to gain the trust of other countries where the message of Salvation in Christ Jesus has been lacking.

These good works done by Christians may save lives or make the lives of others more bearable and tolerable, BUT these Good Works done by Christians, do not save souls from hell. Our good works, do not save others from hell nor do our good works save ourselves from sin, death and the devil. Yes, it is true, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17, 20, 26) But our works do **not** save us from hell.

The Only One Who has saved us and can save us, or saved anyone from hell is the Lord Jesus Christ and the WORK that HE has done for us by His perfect life for us, His innocent suffering and death on the cross for us, and HIS glorious resurrection from the dead, FOR us.

In order to find a Biblical definition for Mission Work, we must of course look to the BIBLE. We look to God’s - Holy – Inspired – inerrant – infallible – Perfect Word. As we page through the Scriptures, we see again and again that Mission Work is the Preaching and Teaching of Christ Jesus our One and only Risen Savior.

**True Mission Work is the Preaching of the message of Salvation which Christ Jesus won for us, pointing people to the way to heaven in Christ Jesus our Living Savior.**

We see various apostles and disciples in action doing mission work throughout the book of Acts.

Already in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of ACTS we hear the Apostle Peter. He preached the Word of God & Baptized. The People listening were cut to the heart and were brought to faith. 3,000 were brought to faith.

**Acts 7** - Stephen preached, and His message began from God calling Abraham out of the land of Mesopotamia, and through the time of God’s deliverance of Israel from Slavery in Egypt through Moses, to the betrayal and murder of Jesus the Righteous One.

In **Acts 11:19ff** – we learn of those scattered by the persecution told the Good News of the Lord Jesus and how a great number of people believed in the Lord. Then after Saul was converted by the Lord Jesus on the Road to Damascus, the now Apostle Paul went from city to city,

In **Acts 13:5** – in a place called Salamis - Paul & Barnabas proclaimed the Word of God in the Jewish Synagogues.

**Acts 13:14** – In Pisidian Antioch – Paul & Bar – entered the Synagogue and after the reading from the Law and the Prophets, they Preached the Word of God.

**Acts 14:1** – At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went AS USUAL into the Jewish Synagogue and spoke effectively.

**Acts 14:8** – In Lystra a crippled man – Listened to Paul Preach.

**Acts 14:21** – In Derbe – Paul and Barnabas Preached the Good News and won a large number of disciples.

**Acts 16:31** – Paul and now – Silas Preached the Word to the Jailer at Philippi and he and his entire family were baptized.

**Acts 17:2** – As was his custom Paul went into the Synagogue and reasoned with the people from the Scriptures explaining and proving that Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead.

**Acts 17:10** – Paul and Silas were sent to Berea and the Bereans examined the Scriptures to see if what they were saying was true.

Other Passages which show us that Paul went to preach the Word, often at the place of worship in a town = *Acts 17:17; Acts 18:4; Acts 18:19; Acts 19:8; Acts 20:7; Acts 24:10; Acts 26:29; Acts 28:17-31*

When these ministers of the Lord entered a city as Missionaries, they do not enter to supply a medical facility with medication or some earthly blessing, rather they go to the local place of worship, the Synagogue, and begin to Preach Christ Jesus – Savior of the World. Each and every time that Paul and others Preach the Word, it ALWAYS Works. God's Word is Efficacious.

There are those who are brought to faith in Christ Jesus as their One and Only Savior from Sin, and there are those who harden their heart and reject the Word of Christ. When the Word of our Lord is preached, it has results.

*"Consequently faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."* (Rm. 10:17)

In Thessalonica there were those who believed, yet the opposition was so strong that Paul needed to leave the city and he went to Berea.

Today in this text, we heard that the Bereans studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true. The Bereans examined the Old Testament scriptures and compared it with Paul's Words of Christ. Unfortunately as Paul preached in Berea, The Jews in Thessalonica who opposed Paul heard about Paul's success, and went to Berea, approximately 50 miles away, and stirred up and agitated the crowds.

Those Jews who opposed Jesus Christ as the only way to heaven, were so filled with hate for Paul and ultimately for Christ that they traveled the 50 miles from Thessalonica to Bearea to stir things up and to agitate the crowds against the preaching which Paul did concerning Christ Jesus our Savior and theirs.

My Friends in Christ: - Study the Scriptures every day. Don't be led astray by false teachings.

Be as the Bereans. AMEN