



“Real Nobility”

A Study of Acts 17:10-15

“¹¹Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
- Acts 17:11 (ESV)

Thessalonians had hearts and minds that were suspicious, hostile, and even hardened to the Gospel. Bereans were curious, friendly and even receptive to the Gospel.

“¹¹And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven... ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand... ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”
- Matthew 13:11,13,15 (ESV)

The mysteries of God are difficult to stumble upon when our hearts are hardened (2 Cor. 3:14), our minds are depraved (1 Tim. 6:5); our thinking is futile (Rom. 1:18-21).

Nobility in the Kingdom of Jesus has to do with our faithful receptivity and our diligent pursuit of the truth of the Scriptures. (see John 5:39-40 and 1 Timothy 3:14-17)

Better Days series / week 9

Pastor Doug Melder

July 9-10, 2011

“I am a creature of day, passing through life as an arrow passes through the air. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God; just hovering over the great gulf till, a few moments hence, I am no more seen, I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing: the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God... Far away from the busy ways of men, I sit down alone, only God is here. In his presence I open, I read his book from this end, to find the way to heaven.”
- John Wesley

“...continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- 2 Tim. 3:14-17 (ESV)

- Pray often that God would open your eyes and turn your heart towards His Scriptures. (see Psalm 119:18 & 36)
- Think and dig into the mysteries of God. (see 2 Tim. 2:7 & Prov. 2:4)

A web resource: <http://www.youversion.com/>
A book resource: Piper, John. *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God*. Crossway. 2010

Small Group Questions

1. Would you say that your story has more resembled the Thessalonians or the Bereans? (Thessalonians had hearts & minds that were suspicious, hostile, and even hardened to the Gospel. Bereans were curious, friendly and even receptive to the Gospel.)
2. Pastor Doug talked about the condition of our minds. Read the Scriptures associated with each description of the mind on the front of the notes. What do these reveal about our minds and how have you seen these truths play out in your own life?
3. Define true nobility according to the Kingdom of Jesus. How noble do you think you are? What can you do to grow in nobility?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Tim. 2:7, Prov. 2:4, Psalm 119:18 & 36. What do these Scriptures teach us about the Scriptures?