

Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so (Acts 17:10, 11).

Notice the two things germane to the point: 1) The Bereans received the word with great eagerness and 2) they were “examining the Scriptures *daily* (emphasis added), to see whether the things taught were actually true.

That, of course, shouts at us that the scriptures are the final authority—not feelings and emotions, not what Grandma said, not what we heard on late night religious radio, but the actual, written, *scriptures*.

When the scriptures are not our final authority, we will generally believe either the ideas of our peer group or the pronouncements of whatever self-proclaimed “authority” we happen to hear!

Be gravely careful to ask yourself, “Who told me that and why did I choose to believe it?” in any and every important issue of life, but especially things that have to do with “**life and godliness**” (II Peter 1:3). In this verse, God is telling us that the Bible we have in our hands gives us all we need, “**...through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**”

Just as Jesus prayed in the garden the night of His arrest, “**Sanctify them in truth, thy word is truth,**” (John 17:17.) Just as Jesus said, “**...you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,**” (John 8:32). Without believing and knowing the truth, we cannot be sanctified!

If your closest friends are not godly, you will not be godly. Why? “**Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals**” (I Corinthians 15:33). Spend time with “bad company” and you will become like them. Spend time with Jesus (in the Book) and you will be like Him! (Jesus was not merely addressing teenagers in this verse!)

Learn to ask yourself routinely, “Who told me that and why did I choose to believe it?” Let the kids hear you do it; then teach them to ask themselves the same thing. Have home drills wherein each family member practices asking himself or herself the same question.

The best defense against false beliefs, secular or religious is to 1) know what God’s word says, and 2) know why you believe what you believe! Memorize: “**Sanctify them in truth, Thy word is truth!**”

