

Title: **Be a Berean!**  
Text: **Acts 17:1-15**  
Date: **September 14, 2025**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

Whether we're dealing ideas shared in the church or out in the world, we must learn to always examine all things in light of Scripture. We must, in other words, be like the Bereans!

### 1. The Missionaries Are Explaining

The Old Testament, at first read, seems a bit opaque to us. The meaning of it all seems closed to us. We just can't quite figure out what to do with all the stories and commands and promises and prophecies and all this. But the one thing that unlocks it, the one key that fits the hole, the one piece that opens the whole thing to us . . . is the cross of Jesus Christ.

We have some of Paul's sermons to the Jews. We've already seen in Acts 13, for example, how he tries to show them that Jesus is the Christ from the OT Scriptures in a little more detail. He may well have come back to that well-trod ground. He may have pointed them to Ps. 2 (as he does in Acts 13:33); or Isaiah 53-55 (as he references in Acts 13:34); or Ps. 16 (as in Acts 13:35). But, here's the thing I want you to catch: he could have gone anywhere (e.g. Exod. 17:1-7)!

### 2. The Jews Are Expelling

These Jews are not willing to investigate Paul's claims—however true they may be to Scripture, however compelling the case he's making—for the simple reason that they don't want it to be true.

We really need to square with the fact that, as human beings left to ourselves, in our fallen nature, we are not so much interested in truth as much as we are interested in pleasure. We are not so concerned with getting to the facts as much as we are with getting what we want. This is what Rom. 1 is all about. Go read it. We know the truth about God, his law, his justice and all this. We just don't like it. So we suppress it. We deny it. We expel it. We push it down and push it away.

### 3. The Bereans Are Examining

These Berean Jews weren't closed off to the truth or threatened by the different ideas put forward by Paul. They were open to it. They were willing to hear him out, to listen without immediately rushing to judgment or pushing back. And I think that's so important when it comes to discerning the truth and the will of God. If you come already closed off to this or that possibility because you don't want it to be true, then you won't hear the truth. You'll just sit in your little echo chamber. But if you surrender, if you open your heart to God, and say, "Lord, even if it's inconvenient for me or not what I initially think sounds good, I want to know the truth, reveal yourself to me." He will!

But now there is another side to this. You want to be open to new things, but you don't want to be gullible. These Bereans take in everything Paul brings to them with eagerness, willingness, but they test it, not by the measure of their own intuition or desires . . . but by Scripture. So Luke tells us that they were "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (v. 11).

This is what we should be doing in the church with people who come to us claiming to speak in Christ's name. Be open and humble, but don't be gullible. Take what they say to Scripture and see if it is so.

But this is also how we should be operating out in the world. There are so many ideas and worldviews and value systems being preached at you every day from the culture. And you've got to learn to be like these Bereans with this as well and "daily" evaluate such things in light of God's Word. Don't just imbibe or accept uncritically the assumptions of our culture. Bring it all under the razor's edge of Scripture. Keep that which is true and good but cut away and dispose of what is false.



### Reflection Questions

- Where's one place you were surprised to find Jesus in the Old Testament?
- How often are you in the Scriptures, honestly? Is it your spiritual GPS would you say, or have you been going to something else lately as your first and last authority? What needs to change? How can you be more like these Bereans?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

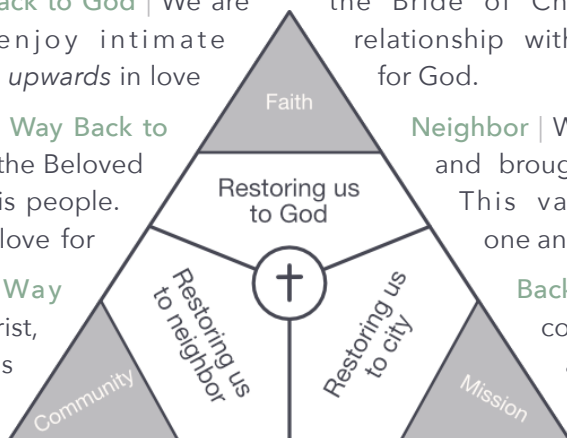
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### North County Home Group!

Our north county Home Group is up to new and exciting things, and we want you to know about it (and join in if you're able!):

- **New Team:** Bob Coffey will now be joined by Alex and Harmony Shyr who will help with some of the facilitating and shepherding.
- **New Location:** The group will start meeting at the Shyr's home in Mountain View.
- **New Study:** The Home Group will continue to meet on second and fourth Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm. They will, however, be starting a new study through the book of Jude (beginning 9/25). They will progress slowly through the verses, reflecting on them both as a group during their meetings and privately through the week. You can expect: personal study segments to complete between 7 weeks of group sessions; verse-by-verse study for comprehension and application; 7 enriching teaching videos. (Note: there are no prep or materials are required to attend the first meeting.)

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us  
at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

Acts 29 Global Prayer Meeting - September 16th

Covenant Membership Class - September 21st!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).