



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# God's Word Rejected and Received

**Scripture:** Acts 17:1-15 (See also Mark 4:3-9, 13-20)

**Memory Verse:** Mark 4:20

“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

## For My Family:

As Paul and Silas continued their missionary journey, trouble still followed them. They left Philippi and traveled about 100 miles to a city called Thessalonica. They were only there for three weeks, but in that time, “a great multitude” believed. Those who did not believe were angry at Paul’s message. They stirred up an angry mob to get rid of Paul and Silas, accusing them of causing trouble, turning the world upside down with their message that Jesus was King. Jason, one of the new believers, made a payment to the rulers of the city, promising that Paul would leave to prevent more riots and trouble. Paul would later write to the new believers in this city and we still have those letters today: 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

Paul and Silas went away by night to another city called Berea. Again, they shared the Gospel in the synagogue, and these Bereans “received the word with all readiness.” Like the good soil in the parable of the sower, they accepted God’s Word into their hearts, but they didn’t take Paul’s at his word. They “searched the Scriptures” to find out if the things Paul was saying were really true! You don’t have to believe everything people tell you about the Bible. You can go look for yourself! The Bereans did this every day, and as they studied God’s Word for themselves, “many of them believed.”

We can learn an important lesson from the Bereans. We shouldn’t necessarily believe everything we hear. When you sit in church, or with your family for devotions, you should read God’s Word for yourself and see that what you are being taught really matches up with what the Bible says! This doesn’t mean teachers aren’t important. They are! That’s why Paul left Silas and Timothy behind, so they could continue to teach the Bereans God’s Word and answer all their questions. So be a Berean! Read the Bible and study it every day. When you do, God’s Word will transform your life to look like Jesus.

The men who were stirring up trouble accused Paul of turning the world upside down, but they had it wrong. They were the ones who were upside down! God’s Word helps us see things as they really are. There are many who think they are alive, but are dead in sin, many who think they are free, like the jailer, but are held captive by sin. They walk around on their hands with their feet in the air and tell you that you are the one who’s upside down! This is sad, but it shouldn’t discourage us. Instead it should lead us to pray for the truth of God’s Word to transform the lives of those who reject Him, and encourage us to, like the Bereans, continue to read God’s Word every day, study it, and accept it. As we do, we will only learn more and more that it is exactly what we need to help us believe and to keep on believing.

## Questions for Young Children:

Who followed Paul and Silas to each city? What did they do?

What big lesson did we learn from the Bereans' example?

How can you study God's Word even if you can't read yet or don't understand all the words?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What was the result of the Bereans searching the Scriptures for themselves?

Why isn't it enough for us just to read or listen to God's Word?

What does God's Word bearing fruit in our hearts look like?