

PREFACE



FREE TO CHOOSE

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

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Choices. They are a fact of life. We all have to make them about everyone and everything. Nothing is stagnant. Not to choose is a choice in itself. Indecision is not an option. This is never truer than in the life of a Christian. The choices made every day progressively move the Christian to greater maturity, more discerning of truth, or further away, more open to fallacy.

Any choice, no matter how sincere, is only as good as the foundation on which it is based. Each decision must be evaluated in light of the underpinning of the Word of God. Today as in times past there are voices which are calling from each theological persuasion giving rise to many and conflicting views regarding the role of good works, the power of the Spirit, perseverance, and spiritual guidance, to name a few. Some are based on truth, others on myth or tradition that have been perpetuated over time.

The responsibility of Christians is to be able to tell the difference and to choose truth over myth. Like the Bereans of Acts 17, they are to examine “the Scriptures daily to see whether [the things taught] are so” (v. 11). Like those receiving the exhortation from Paul in 2 Timothy 2:15, today’s believer is to “be diligent to present

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[himself] approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

The foundation on which the Christian faith is built is Jesus Christ and the life structure resting on that foundation must be constructed with discernment, meticulous study, and careful application. An erroneous premise will have erroneous consequences now and for eternity.

The sobering responsibility of each believer in this awesome endeavor is that God has allowed him to be *Free To Choose*.