

## READINESS OF MIND

**“These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)**

“Readiness of mind” is an important ingredient in our service to God. When **Abraham** was commanded to make the painful sacrifice of his own son - he was ready to obey. In fact he rose up early in the morning to do it (Gen. 22:3). When **Mary**, the mother of Jesus, was asked to bear the Christ child she also was ready, “may it be to me as you have said”, she told the angel (Lk. 1:38). When **Mary of Bethany** realized that Jesus was going to die she hurried to do something about it. Immediately she broke the jar of precious perfume and anointed Jesus for his burial (Mk. 14:3 - 9). When the people on **Pentecost** were commanded to repent and be baptized they also were ready to obey. That very day about 3,000 souls were added to their number (Acts 2:41). The **Ethiopian eunuch** also heard the Word of God with readiness of mind. He immediately gave orders to stop the chariot so that he could be baptized (Acts 8:38). The **Philippian jailer** also had a ready mind and was baptized with his whole family in the middle of the night (Acts 16:33). The **churches of Macedonia** gave with “readiness” to the poor saints in Judea (2 Cor. 8:11). All of these were like the **Bereans**, who were more noble than those of Thessalonica, for they received the word with all “readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily”.

Down through the years I have many precious memories of people like the noble Bereans who had a “readiness of mind” to do the will of God. Take **Dan Chapman**, for example. He was a retired carpenter, over 80 years old. I met him on our first Sunday with the Christian Church in Oswego, Kansas back in 1957. He volunteered his services as a carpenter and asked if I wanted him to build something. Since the church did not have a tract rack I suggested that he might build one if he had the time. By 2:00 p.m. the same day, he called and said the rack was completed and wanted to know what color I wanted him to paint it.

Another ready worker was **Harold Lass**, an elder at the Curtner Ave. Church where we ministered in San Jose, California back in the 1960s. Not only was he at all the regularly scheduled services each week, but he initiated a calling program, a prayer breakfast for the men of the church, and invited me to pray with him personally at 6:00 a.m. every Monday morning before he went to work. He, like the noble Bereans, had a readiness of mind to do the will of God.

On a missions trip to Mexico some time ago we drove all night, arriving in Harlingen, Texas at about 4:30 a.m. At the Way of the Cross headquarters we found that **Ben Butler** was already up studying the Word of God. As I write these words he is in Louisiana helping the victims of a hurricane. This Fall he is also planning an evangelistic tour in Nicaragua, and a Pastor’s conference in Africa. Obviously he has a readiness of mind to do the will of God.

In the model prayer we are told to pray that the will of God will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). In heaven, as you know, the angels are ready and eager to do the will of God. Jesus taught us to pray that the will of God would also be done this way on earth. It is inconceivable that the angels in heaven would put the commands of Christ on the back burner and wait for a more convenient season. Yet this is precisely what Felix, the governor, decided to do (Acts 24:25) As far as we know he never became a Christian!

Please prayerfully consider these inspired words: **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.** (The King James Version states that God wants to guide us with His eye) **Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.” (Ps 32:8-9)** What about you? Can God guide you with His eye or do you have to be forced to obey like a horse or a mule. Do you approach the Bible with “readiness of mind” like the noble Bereans, or are you waiting for a more convenient season like the Governor Felix? May each of us pray to God with sincerity: **“Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**.