

Fully Persuaded?

How do we react when when we hear something new? Do we quickly accept it? Do we immediately reject it? Do we seek God and study it before coming to a conclusion as to whether it is right or wrong?

The Athenians ran to every new thing!

Acts 17:19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? **20** For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. **21** (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

The Pharisees were offended and felt threatened when they heard the new teachings of Jesus. They immediately rejected them and publicly discredited Jesus!

Acts 17:5 *But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.*

Acts 17:13 *But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.*

The Bereans kept an open mind about what they heard. They searched the scriptures and sought God before they came to any conclusions concerning the validity of what they heard.

Act 17:10 *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** These 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. **12** Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.*

Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind!

Rom 14:5 *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*

Acts 17:4 *And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.*

Where does your persuasion come from? Why do you believe what you believe? Do you simply believe what you have heard others say?

Colossians 2:8 *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Or, do you believe what you believe because you have a revelation that came from God?

1Corinthians 2:4 *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: **5** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

How do you react to those who have beliefs that are different than yours?

Romans 14:1 MSG *Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't*

jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Treat them gently.

Confidently place them in God's hand's.

Rom 14:4 *Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*

The Spirit alone can quicken spiritual truth. True knowledge comes by revelation, not debate!

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Do you judge other people in their beliefs, or do you believe that God is able to make other men stand and that he has the power to fully and correctly persuade them in their own minds?

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: