



17. Are You a Berean?

It troubles me when someone states something as a Biblical fact proven by a particular verse when that verse doesn't say it. The fact may or may not be true ... but the verse doesn't say it. When Paul taught in Berea, a city in Macedonia, as it states in Acts 17:11, "*they [the Bereans] received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*" The Bereans fact-checked Paul's teaching against the Old Testament scriptures. They were NOT spiritually gullible.

I heard a well-known Christian leader say that Jesus said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" as part of a TV broadcast Gospel message. That's a true principle for believers from Matthew 28:18-20 ... and

clearly stated in Hebrews 13:5. But Jesus never said those words. And one of today's most popular TV and radio preachers said that Ecclesiastes 3:11 states that God put a God-shaped vacuum, or hole, inside every person that only God can fill. That verse *actually* says that God puts the concept of eternity in our hearts ... in context meaning we long for eternal significance particularly in our work and activities. But it was Blaise Pascal who originated the God-shaped vacuum idea in the late 1600's. Pascal's original quote has evolved into today's well-known quote about the God-shaped vacuum (or hole) that only God can fill. Google the original quote. It's better than the one you've heard. It's from Pascal's writing in *Pensees* volume 7.

The Bereans didn't believe everything Paul said just because Paul said it. Be like the Bereans. Don't be spiritually gullible. Fact-check what you are taught.