



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 sig-

nificance 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.

www.NotJustMilk.org ... written by John D. Morris III

You may freely copy, use and translate this document.