

bond, usually money for the fulfillment of the judgment. This "security" may have even included Jason's house, though we are not told this in scripture. In this particular case part of the judgment seems to be that in order for Jason to be free, Paul and Silas had to leave Thessalonica, and probably a written statement was then made by Jason and those other brethren with him that they were to see to it that Paul and Silas immediately leave town. Additionally it seems that part of this statement included wording that Paul and Silas would not return to Thessalonica. Any later efforts to have this bond canceled were apparently unsuccessful, thus we read this statement from the Apostle Paul in 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17 & 18 -- *But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. 18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

ACTS 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.* Here we find another of those many "midnight" experiences noted in scripture. Paul and Silas were "sent away" by night unto Berea. This "midnight" experience really had a positive tone to it however. Paul and Silas were lovingly sent away unto Berea by brethren who had a deep concern for their welfare. Possibly Jason and some others accompanied them. Perhaps the brethren of Thessalonica had close ties with those of Berea, and knew that Paul and Silas would be welcomed there. No doubt as Paul and Silas left Thessalonica by night they reviewed with each other their accomplishments in Thessalonica. And we too know some of what they accomplished there by reading and studying Paul's epistles to the THESSALONIANS.

One of the first things that you will notice in studying 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS is the mention of Timothy's name. We don't read of Timothy accompanying Paul and Silas from Philippi unto Thessalonica, but perhaps he did. At any rate Timothy was not asked to leave Thessalonica like Paul and Silas were, ACTS 17:10 tells us as much. It may be that a period of time elapsed, and then Timothy left Philippi tracing the footsteps of Paul, which later took him unto Thessalonica. Timothy could then very well have further established those Saints in Thessalonica. Obviously the Saints at Thessalonica knew who Timothy was, for his name is included in both epistles addresses. Later in life, in PHILIPPIANS 2, Paul would write his heart felt thoughts on Timothy, stating in PHILIPPIANS 2:19 *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*

One final reflection concerning Thessalonica. We know from studying these first ten verses of ACTS 17 that Paul and Silas were at Thessalonica at least three weeks, and maybe a bit longer. Those that latched onto Paul's gospel did so in this short period of time. And Paul didn't hold back anything in the lessons he was able to teach them. Those that believed were readily willing to receive Paul's gospel. Paul concludes each of the five chapters of 1 THESSALONIANS with references looking forward to the coming of the Lord. It seems he knew that he wouldn't be back, but was quick to point them in the proper direction, and having them constantly looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, and for His soon coming. They learned these truths in a short period of time, having readily latched onto Paul's gospel. How fast are you willing to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

## The Establishment of the church at Berea

ACTS 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.* Berea was located about 60 miles southwest of Thessalonica. It would have taken Paul and Silas, and whoever was traveling with them, at least two full travel days to get there, possible more. Berea wouldn't be known today if Paul hadn't visited it, and Luke recorded this in scripture. Berea had a couple of rivers running through it, and was known to have streams of

water in every street. One source notes that Berea means "well watered" for this very reason. Not much else is known about Berea, other than what we read here in scripture.

Once again we find Paul after arriving at Berea being diligent as an Apostle, and almost immediately we find him going into the synagogue of the Jews. Paul, having been brought up a Pharisee, no doubt wore the clothes of a Pharisee when first attending these synagogues of the Jews. Furthermore recall that Paul was trained according to the perfect manner of the law by Gamaliel, so he truly knew how to conduct himself during a synagogue service. Fellow Jews in a way looked up to the Pharisees, and so we get a glimpse as to how it was that Paul got to address the assemblies at these Jewish synagogues. They simply asked him if he had anything to say to go ahead and speak. {Review ACTS 13:15}. Paul then would simply expound the gospel given unto him by Jesus Christ Himself, reasoning with them out of the Old Testament scriptures the facts concerning Jesus Christ; that He is the risen Saviour; that through Jesus Christ one may receive forgiveness of sins; and that by Jesus Christ all that believe on Him are justified from all things; and to the Jew this meant that they were by Jesus Christ even justified from all things, even things from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses. {Review ACTS 13:16-41}. This is what Paul preached everywhere he went, and Berea would be no exception.

We then read this statement in ACTS 17:11 *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.* We see an eagerness, and a willingness here at Berea to receive Paul's gospel. In verse 12 we find that many of them believed there in Berea. There are three thoughts expressed in verse 11 that further shows the enthusiasm of the Berean Saints.

First we read that these Berean Saints *...were more noble than those in Thessalonica.* This simply means that they were more noble minded, that is more inclined to candidly inquired into the doctrines of Paul and Silas. Implied in this statement is that a better manner, and attitude was held by these Berean Saints toward Paul and Silas. In other words they were much more friendly to them than those of Thessalonica had been.

Secondly we read that the Berean's *...received the word with all readiness of mind.* There is a big difference between "received," and reject. These Berean's didn't reject the preaching of Paul and Silas, but rather *...received the word with all readiness of mind.* "Receive" here means: to receive favorably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject. And what did they "receive?" It was the word of God preached by Paul in the power of the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance of faith that these Berean Saints readily latched onto as their own. And note how they "received," it was *...with all readiness of mind,* which means with a willing mind did they receive Paul's gospel. One commentator put it like this: they received Paul's gospel with "all readiness, as a hungry man receives his food, and greedily feeds upon it, or as a man ready to perish receives and lays a hold of anything that offers for his safety."

Because these Berean's *...received the word with all readiness of mind...* we find a natural progression to the third point made in verse 11, which was they *...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* This searching the scriptures is what makes believers good Bible students. Further this searching the scriptures daily is what makes believers full overcomers. (More on this a little later). We all have preconceived notions what is right, and what is true, and yet with open minds we need to search out the scriptures and find out for ourselves whether even these things are so. How do you know if the preacher is telling you the truth? You need to search the scriptures for yourself to see if these things are true. The word "searched" here in verse 11 means: to investigate, examine, enquire into, scrutinize, sift, question, to hold an investigation. Such is the more noble frame of mind that was found in Berea. They investigated the scriptures daily whether those wonderful things spoken by Paul were really true.

Knowing the Apostle Paul like we do, it wouldn't have taken him long to introduce these Berean believers to the fact that they also needed the power of the Holy Ghost in their lives to reveal unto them the very things they were studying and reading about in these Old Testament scriptures. Jesus Himself made sure His disciples knew the

importance of receiving the Holy Ghost. Note once again as we read some scriptures from JOHN how Jesus emphasized the importance of receiving the Holy Ghost. JOHN 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. JOHN 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: JOHN 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ...13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ...15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Let's talk about the scriptures again for a moment. The scriptures that those of Paul's day had to search were the Old Testament scriptures. Any reference made to the scriptures in the Bible references the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus Himself summarized in one sentence what the Old Testament scriptures contain when He stated in JOHN 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.* What Jesus was telling those He was talking to here was that the Old Testament scriptures themselves don't contain eternal life, but rather the Old Testament scriptures witness of Jesus Christ the Son of God, and those that believe in Him have eternal life. Again back in JOHN 3:15 Jesus speaking of Himself stated: *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* Paul stated it like this in ROMANS 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Jesus went on and told these unbelievers in JOHN 5 the following: *46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?* The Apostle Paul, as Saul of Tarsus, knew the Old Testament scriptures better than any man who ever lived, but it took the revelation of Jesus Christ Himself for Paul to see that it was indeed Jesus who was so often, and in so many different ways spoken of in these very same Old Testament scriptures. It was through these same Old Testament scriptures that Paul received from the Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Ghost, the gospel that he preached.

Another name for the scriptures is the word of God. Again the word of God is nothing more than one of the many names and titles of Jesus. In REVELATION 19:13 Jesus is called The Word of God. In JOHN 1 we find that Jesus, The Word of God, was in the beginning with God, that without Him was not anything made that was made, and that this Word of God was made flesh, and dwelt among us full of grace, and truth! I know that is more than most of us can take in at one sitting, and yet it is true. The scriptures, the very word of God are important to us; they are eternal life to we believers. The wise and prudent desire to hear the word of God. In LUKE 11:28 we read these words of Jesus: *...blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.* In ROMANS 10:17 we read: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* HEBREWS 4:12 states: *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Again in HEBREWS 11:3 we find a hint at just how powerful the word of God is: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.* Again recall what Paul wrote to those at Thessalonica in 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.* If you want to get to know Jesus better, get to know the word of God, and be like the Berean Saints who searched the scriptures daily to see if those things spoken by Paul were indeed really true. There are 45 scriptures which use the phrase "the word of God;" 45 is the number of PRESERVATION.

Recall again the two on the way to Emmaus in LUKE 24. Jesus joined Himself unto them, yet kept it from them who He was. As they walked together Jesus spoke to them out

of the Old Testament scriptures, and Luke records it this way: LUKE 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.* Jesus spent some time fellowshiping with these two out of the Old Testament scripture, then He revealed Himself unto them, and vanished out of their sight. LUKE 24:32 records what happened next: *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* This was the very same thing that was happening to those at Berea who believed Paul's preaching, for their hearts were burning within them as he preached to them, and opened unto them the Old Testament scriptures. So excited were they *...that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* {ACTS 17:11}.

We made quick mention earlier that searching the scriptures daily is what makes believers full overcomers. {See page 379}. What made the Old Testament worthies of faith, the full overcomers that they were? It was faith. Again ROMANS 10:17, which we just read, tells us: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* The word of God we have shown to be the scriptures, the word of truth. Paul wrote Timothy in 2 TIMOTHY 2:15 to *...Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* Think about that for a minute. Paul was encouraging Timothy, an Apostle himself, a student of the Apostle Paul, a pastor, minister, and a teacher, Paul was reminding him to study the scriptures, and be like those Berean Saints who *...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* {ACTS 17:11}. Don't you think each one of us should do the same? We should, especially if we long to have God's best in our own lives.

Those that have God's best during this church age will be in the Bride of Christ. Those who are alive at the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who will be in the Bride of Christ are pictured by the Philadelphian church of REVELATION 3:7-13. There are some important points that we covered concerning the Philadelphia church during our "Hearing" study, which is good for us to review, for it emphasizes the importance of knowing the word of God. REVELATION 3:8 *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name...* . Note the fact that they of Philadelphia have *...kept my word...* . What a vast difference we find here in the church of Philadelphia when compared with the previous three churches of Pergamos, Thyatira and especially Sardis; churches who knew very little of the word of God. Jesus emphasizes the fact that the Philadelphian Saint knows the word of God, and even more importantly has kept the word of God, for He twice makes note of this fact: first in REVELATION 3:8 *...and hast kept my word...*; and second in REVELATION 3:10 *...thou hast kept the word of my patience...* . These are high water mark statements made by the Lord concerning the New Testament worthies of faith. The Lord doesn't waste words or use words loosely, and wants those who have ears to hear, to note what His word is, and what it states.

Once again we are reminded of ROMANS 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* My opinion, and your opinion doesn't count, for it is the word of the Lord that really matters. Many other scriptures emphasize this same point also. PSALMS 33:6 *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.* Further the word of the Lord is enduring as noted in ISAIAH 40:8 *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.* The Philadelphian full overcoming Saints know the word of the Lord, and have patiently received it, and further have yielded to the mighty working power of the active Holy Spirit to be a hundred-fold fruitful. MATTHEW 13:1-23, MARK 4:1-20, and LUKE 8:4-15 all tell of the parable of the sower, which is about the sowing of the word of God, where the importance of knowing the word of Lord is emphasized.

We will read this story from LUKE 8. LUKE 8:4 *And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: 5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell*

among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. Again our lesson here concerns REVELATION 3:8 ...and hast kept my word...; and REVELATION 3:10 ...thou hast kept the word of my patience...

Fifteen times in scripture the Lord uses the phrase "my word". Fifteen is the number of REST. The Philadelphian Saint rests in the word of the Lord. In the following portions of scripture note the importance emphasized by the Lord of knowing His word. ISAIAH 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. In JOHN 5:24 we read: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

In PSALMS 119 we read the phrase "thy word" thirty-five times, and find the following statements made, which are very familiar to the Philadelphian full overcomer: Thy word have I hid in mine heart,...{verse 11}. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. {verse 16}. My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word. {verse 28}. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. {verse 38}. ...I trust in thy word. {verse 42}. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. {verse 50}. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word. {verse 74}. ....I hope in thy word. {verse 81 & 114}. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. {verse 105}. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. {verse 133}. Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. {verse 140}. Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word. {verse 154}. Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. {verse 160}. ....my heart standeth in awe of thy word. {verse 161}. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. {verse 170}.

Compare again these two statements made to the church of Philadelphia: REVELATION 3:8 ...and hast kept my word...; and REVELATION 3:10 ...thou hast kept the word of my patience... . As we compare these two portions of scripture, note a period of growth and development between the two. Think of it like this; the Lord states thou ...hast kept my word..., and then to re-emphasize He states again ...thou hast kept the word of my patience... noting this time that they have grown with patience in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The emphases of this portion of REVELATION 3:10 is on patience, especially on the kind of patience required of the Lord to learn, and then know His word. ROMANS 15:4 reads: For whatsoever things were



written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. In JAMES 1:2-4 we read: 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. This was the first portion of scripture that I studied after I was filled with the Holy Ghost, and it was like Brother Hill was right there with me explaining what this meant. The Holy Spirit was emphasizing to me in my life at the age of sixteen the importance of learning patience, and knowing the patience of the Lord, and in essence the patience of scriptures. And how patient has He been with you and me over the years? And how long has He patiently waited for that soon coming day when He can take that bridal company to Himself? HEBREWS 12:1 & 2 helps answer this question. HEBREWS 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (More on this scripture in a minute.)

There are a few key points to remember when considering patience. Patience requires time, and is defined by steadfastness, constancy, endurance, and perseverance. Looking back I wish I would have learned JAMES 1:5 before I learned JAMES 1:2-4. JAMES 1:5 states: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. I don't recall asking the Lord for patience, but I have asked in the past for some things that showed my lack of wisdom at the time. If a potential full overcomer asks the Lord for patience he, or she, is really asking for trials. I don't think any of us in our right mind want trials, but it is the trials and the trying of your faith that brings patience. Again this is stated in JAMES 1:2 & 3; My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. The Apostle Paul made mention of this same fact also in ROMANS 5. ROMANS 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. So we see that trials and tribulations is the way the Lord works in our lives, if we let Him, experience, hope, and perfection. Again JAMES 1:4 reads: But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Note that the Philadelphia type Saint let's patience have her perfect work to grow them up into maturity of godliness, and maturity of faith. The Apostle Peter stated the same thing this way in 1 PETER 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Later James wrote more about patience stating in JAMES 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. And then he recalled the tested life of Job, and wrote: JAMES 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, {very kind and full of pity} and of tender mercy. What gave Job the ...patience of Job...? Trials! Job himself stated this in JOB 23:10 -- But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

We read this of Job starting in JOB 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him:

every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. 12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. 13 He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14 And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. 15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. 16 After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. 17 So Job died, being old and full of days.

Note in verse 15 that Job's daughters were fairer than all the women of the land. This means they possessed a beauty that was above and beyond any other women of the land. Spiritually it hints to us of qualities found in the Bride of Christ. We are told in verse 14 the names of Job's last three daughters, and in their names we find further qualities manifested in the Bride of Christ. Jemima comes from a root word meaning warm used in the sense of affectionate; hence a dove. The same thought is expressed in THE SONG OF SOLOMON 1:15 *Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.* The doves eyes symbolize discernment by the Holy Ghost. These eyes see things afar like the Old Testament worthies of faith did, which is recorded for us like this in HEBREWS 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.* The Apostle Paul prayed for us in EPHESIANS 1:18 requesting that: *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,...* Those New Testament full overcomers who have their far seeing dove eyes enlightened are again seen in REVELATION 4:6 *...full of eyes before and behind.* On your own look up EZEKIEL 1:18 and see the same description *...full of eyes round about them...*

Daughter number two of Job's last three was named Kezia meaning cassia. Cassia is an aromatic herb, and was one of five ingredients of the holy anointing oil found listed in EXODUS 30:22-25. Five of course is the number that speaks to us of grace, and the Bride of Christ will be found full of grace also, having drawn closest to Him who is full of grace and truth, Jesus. Cassia has a smell similar to cinnamon, and was used in scenting the queens garments in PSALMS 45:8.

Job's third daughter after being tried was Kerenhappuch. Kerenhappuch means "horn of paint," and as such probably doesn't mean too much to us. However looking further into the root of this name we find that "horn" means a flask, which is a container for oil. The oil speaks of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Spirit filled believer. This word "horn" also comes from a root word meaning "rays of light." Truly the Bride of Christ shines because of the "rays of light" reflected in her life from Jesus. Study these qualities found in Job's daughters, and see what comes from a fruitful life tried in patience like Job's was.

In focusing on the New Testament full overcomers, those who are in harmony with the Lord, and willing to suffering with Him, the Apostle Paul encouraged in HEBREWS 12:1 & 2 to *...run with patience the race that is set before us...*, stating: *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,* 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. All of these statements are made to Saints, believers on the Lord Jesus Christ, and our focus is upon the Philadelphia full overcomers, the New Testament worthies of faith! Along the lines of patience consider the following two scriptures as further encouragement. PHILIPPIANS 4:6 *Be careful {anxious, impatient} for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* PSALMS 27:14 *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

What brought us to review all of this is the statement found in REVELATION 3:10 *...thou hast kept the word of my patience...* I am confident that there were those in

Berea of ACTS 17 fame who further learned and ...kept the word of my patience... like the Philadelphia Saints do.

ACTS 17:11 *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.* Brother Hill used to note that it is thought that the Apostle Paul was at Berea for a period of time between six weeks, and three months. We are not told in scripture how long a time Paul was at Berea. Yet during his stay at Berea, the Berean's were given all the tools necessary to become full overcomers. Note also in verse 12 the great percentage of those who believed there at Berea: *...many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.* Once again we have few names given us as to who these people were. We do know from ACTS 20:4 of one man, Sopater of Berea, who accompanied Paul on his later journeys.

Of those that believed there in Berea were *...honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.* It is thought by some scholars that these particular Greeks were well educated upper class citizens. Paul himself came from an well educated upper class background, and could very well relate to these people, and communicate to them both in Latin and Greek, as well as speak Hebrew to the Jews. To such an educated man these *...honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few....* would not have a hard time paying attention. Thus the Apostle Paul was able to win these *...honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few...* unto the Lord.

By now we know that nearly everywhere Paul went he also faced opposition inspired by Satan in the lives of unbelievers. This opposition often times is what moved Paul along from one place to another, and in the end made him the famous Apostle that the Lord intended him to become. All of this opposition was inspiring the Apostle Paul to learn what he would later write in ROMANS 8:28. ROMANS 8:28 reads: *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* Usually the opposition that Paul faced came from those to whom he was preaching, however in Berea the opposition Paul eventually faced came from those unbelievers of Thessalonica, some of whom heard him preach at Thessalonica. 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. 14 And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.*

Note that only Paul was sent away from Berea. Why only Paul? ACTS 14:12 informs us that Paul was "the chief speaker." Since Silas wasn't "the chief speaker" the opposition wasn't as eager to shut him up as they were Paul. Perhaps they thought that Paul couldn't function without Silas or Timothy. This also created an opportunity for Silas and Timothy to take their place as Apostles. Neither one of these two had up to this time been perceived as leaders, but rather followers only of the Apostle Paul. Certainly neither Silas nor Timothy were seen as "the chief speakers," so it was thought that neither of them would impose a threat. We are not told in scripture exactly when Timothy rejoined Paul and Silas, but obviously he was with them here at Berea.

## Paul at Athens

ACTS 17:15 *And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.*

In the above verse we find the Apostle Paul is brought to Athens. Those "*that conducted Paul*" were, no doubt, Berean Saints, recent converts of the Apostle Paul. In verse 14 we read that Silas and Timothy stayed behind at Berea, and further established the Saints of Berea in the gospel. Paul would have several days travel time, probably a couple of weeks with the Berean Saints "*that conducted Paul,*" during which time he would be able to further establish them also.