

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Being NOURISHED by God's Word produces humble discernment: we receive the truth eagerly, examine what we hear by Scripture, and respond faithfully when we discover that it is so.

Fed by Truth. Formed Together. Fueled for Mission.

A SERMON SERIES ON DISCIPLESHIP THAT GROWS

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- COLOSSIANS 3:16

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NOURISHED:
Fact Checking the Faith
Acts 17:10-15

SERMON NOTES

How Do We Know What Is True?

- Something is not true because it sounds plausible, everyone believes it, we want it to be true, or someone we respect tells us it is true. Something is true because it is so. Reality is what it is regardless of whether we recognize it, understand it, accept it, or like it.
- The gospel makes an enormous claim: God has acted in history. The promised Messiah has come. He suffered, died, and rose from the dead. His name is Jesus. If that claim is true, nothing could be more important than how we respond to it.

Set in Their Ways — The Thessalonians

- Some in Thessalonica were persuaded by Paul’s preaching, but others became hostile when his message challenged what they already believed.
- There is a huge difference between saying, “I’m not convinced this is true” and “I will not allow this to be true!”
- We must remain humble enough to let God’s truth confront us, correct us, and change us.

Endlessly Curious — The Athenians

- The Athenians were interested in hearing and discussing new ideas, but curiosity alone is not faith. We can continually investigate truth while keeping it safely at arm’s length.
- At some point, seeking the truth must lead us beyond simply asking questions. We must be willing to recognize the truth when we find it—then go where it takes us.

Captured by the Truth — The Bereans

- The Bereans were not fact-checking Scripture; they were fact-checking Paul by Scripture. God’s Word stands over the preacher as well as the hearer.
- Paul’s message rested on two realities: what God had said and what God had done. God’s revelation in Scripture and God’s saving action in history converge in Jesus Christ.
- Christian faith begins with the God who speaks and the God who acts. Faith is not merely believing truths about Jesus; it is believing in Jesus.
- A sermon should never replace our own engagement with Scripture. A sermon ought to send us back to the text.
- God has not given us His Word merely to provide accurate information about Him, but so that, by His Spirit, we might know, trust, love, and follow Him.

FIVE MINUTES IN GOD’S WORD

A Seven-Day Bible Reading Plan

Five minutes. One passage. With God.

- **Monday: Test What You Hear**

Read: 1 John 4:1-6

Reflect: How does this passage teach me to take spiritual claims seriously without simply accepting everything I hear?

- **Tuesday: Examine Everything Carefully**

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Reflect: What does it look like to examine what I hear carefully, hold firmly to what is good, and reject what is false?

- **Wednesday: Truth that Leads to Christ**

Read: John 5:31-30

Reflect: According to Jesus, how can someone carefully search the Scriptures and still miss the One to whom the Scriptures point?

- **Thursday: Open My Eyes to Your Truth**

Read: Psalm 119:17-24

Reflect: What does this prayer teach me about the humility and dependence I need as I seek to understand God’s Word?

- **Friday: Hearing and Believing**

Read: Acts 16:11-15

Reflect: What does Lydia’s response teach me about the relationship between hearing the gospel and God graciously opening our hearts to receive it?

- **Saturday: Knowing the One We Believe**

Read: 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Reflect: How does Paul describe faith as more than knowing truths about Christ and instead as personally knowing and entrusting ourselves to Him?

- **Sunday: Made for More**

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

Reflect: If Jesus possesses all authority and sends His disciples to make disciples of all nations, what does faithful participation in His mission require of me?