

God's Nobility

1. The Bereans Are Commended for Their Nobility.

2. They Nobly Handled God's Word.

3. King Jesus Is Extending His Kingdom Over All Things.

CONCLUSION: We have been following the progress of Christ's Kingdom in the book of Acts. In Berea His people are commended for their noble eagerness to hear His Word, commitment to follow it, and daily discipline in measuring all things according to it. They resemble their King in these things and so demonstrate their royal identity. How is our nobility through our relationship with Christ showing through in our daily life? Let us trust our King by His grace to love and obey His Word each and every day!

Second Timothy 3: 16 – 17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the child of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

First Corinthians 15: 35 – 58

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, *we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Colossians 3: 1 – 17

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ **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. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Those in the synogogue at Berea listened to Paul's preaching. He used the Scriptures and it was according to this Word that they judged what He said. Many of them believed that Jesus must be the Messiah because of what the Bible says about Him. God used His Word to bring about faith in them just as He tells us in Romans 10:17. It is the Word of Christ that is the power to save. Let us look to this Word!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 17:10-15; First Corinthians 1:18-31; 5:35-58; 15:35-58; Colossians 3:1-17.** DISCUSS, What is the significance of Christ's kingship? How are we made nobility in Jesus? What role does the King's Word serve? Why? How are we to handle His Scriptures? How does the certainty of His Kingdom coming comfort you? PRAY using this week's prayer.

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 17:10-15; Luke 23:42; 2Peter 1:16-21.** DISCUSS, How are Christ's kingship and His Word related? How does this provide hope for those who believe in Him? MEDITATE on **Second Timothy 3:16-17.** PRAY using this week's prayer.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 17:10-15; James 2:1-13; Romans 10:17.** DISCUS: Why should we give such priority to God's Word? What does it accomplish? How do we get to know it? What does that knowing do in us? Notice how God the Father did what He protected Abraham from. How does this give us confidence? MEDITATE on **Second Timothy 3:16-17.** PRAY using this week's prayer.

Wednesday

READ **Acts 17:10-15; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 3:21-22**. DISCUSS, Where is our citizenship? What is our guide? What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of our calling? Which of these three things (eager receptivity, commitment, or discipline) is most difficult for you? MEDITATE on **Second Timothy 3:16-17**. PRAY using this week's prayer.

Thursday

READ **Acts 17:10-15; First Corinthians 15:35-58**. DISCUSS, As we await our King's return, how do we trust Him together? Do you continually remind yourself and others of the truth of Christ's return? What about His return are you especially looking forward to and why? How do you know He will return? MEDITATE on **Second Timothy 3:16-17**. PRAY using this week's prayer.

Friday

READ **Acts 17:10-15; First Corinthians 1:18-31; 5:35-58; 15:35-58**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Second Timothy 3:16-17**. PRAY using this week's prayer.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 17:1-34**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Prayer for the Week

“O God, help us understand who we are—Your nobles, Your royalty—and to maintain behavior in keeping with You we are. Grant us a continuing hunger for spiritual truth. Make us ever thirsty for the feasts in Your precious Scriptures. Please deliver us from ever accepting teaching about You without examining the Word to see if the things we have read and heard are in fact so. Please watch over Your children, who so easily stray and misunderstand. In Jesus' name, Amen.” *James Montgomery Boice*