

Sunday 5pm - Feb 16

Examining the Scriptures - Are these things so?

Ac 17:11 "...examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so"

1. **Ac 17:11** - What two things are the people of Berea in the Jewish church there (synagogue) commended for?
2. In the situation in **Acts 17**, who was the preacher? What in the text indicates it was not disrespectful or out of place for them to examine his teaching to see if it was so?
3. What were the Thessalonian Christians exhorted to do relative to "prophecies"? **1Th 5:19-12...21-22?**

Applying these exhortations

4. **Mt 11:12** - Below is an excerpt of a discourse by "Pastor" or "Reverend" Dr. Steve Caudle, the senior "reverend" at the Greater Second Missionary Baptist Church in Chattanooga. He reportedly has been pastor of his church in Chattanooga since 2006. Using your tools for Bible interpretation, "examine" Mr. Caudle's use of this Scripture to determine "whether these things are so" and explain why you reached that conclusion.

"sometimes violence is necessary. ... Sometimes the devil will act so ugly that **you have no other choice but to get violent and fight**. Well, **someone might say**, now reverend, you know you shouldn't be talking about violence. **This isn't the Christian thing to do. Well, I will say, why not talk this way because Jesus did**. Jesus said in this in this key verse, didn't he? "The kingdom of heaven suffers"—what? "Violence." And, "the violent take it by force." The kingdom of God is a war zone. It is a battlefield." [boldmine]

5. **Mt 11:11** - Some use this verse to "prove" that the kingdom of heaven was already in existence in the time of John the Baptist, for it says, "the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is..." The argument is, Jesus said people were "in the kingdom" at the time he spoke, therefore the kingdom had to be in existence. Using your tools for Bible interpretation, "test" this conclusion to determine, "whether these things are so" and explain why you reached that conclusion.

Some tips ...

- There is no word for "is" in the phrase "the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven" - Some translations reflect this, for example, the "King James 3," "A Faithful Version," and the "New Revised Standard Version." In this phrase, "is least" translates an adjective.
- Compare **Lk 24:26; Ac 2:32-36; Heb 12:2**. When did Jesus begin to reign?
- See **Lk 10:20; Lk 11:27-28; Lk 12:21, 28-33; Eph 1:3 ... 3:8; Col 2:2-3; Mt 13:44,46**—note the comparisons.