

# CLOSED MINDS

## ACTS 17:1-9

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

**BACKGROUND:** In **Acts 17:11** the Bereans had noble minds, which are open minds and are of great value. They are like noble metals such as gold and silver. Unlike the Bereans, the minds of the Thessalonians were closed and they resisted the gospel.

**WITHOUT HUMILITY**—Humility is a foundational attitude on which our relationship with Jesus is based. Paul reasoned with the Thessalonians proving that Jesus was the Messiah. However, with their prideful mindset that did not want to lose control and positions of authority, they opposed the work and knowledge of Jesus Christ. (**Acts 17:1-4, Micah 6:8, fn 6:8, James 4:4-6, fn 4:4-6, Philippians 2:1-11, fn 2:3, fn 2:5**) *How could you teach by example that humility is of great value?*

**WITH JEALOUSY**—From Cain to Joseph's brothers, to the prodigal son's brother, to pulpits and corporate and family relationships, this ancient sin of jealousy reveals dysfunctional behavior, pride, and depravity of our hearts. (**Acts 17:5, fn 17:5, Genesis 4:1-8, fn 4:7, Romans 13:11-14, fn 13:12-14, Galatians 5:16-21, fn 5:19-21**) *How can you help your children not to have closed minds that can lead to jealousy?*

**WITHOUT A STAGE**—It wasn't Paul who had the stage. It was the resurrected Jesus Christ. The Thessalonians were looking for personal significance instead of looking for the Messiah. This state of unreality revealed closed minds and exposed them to the tools of Satan. (**Acts 17:6-9, Romans 2:8, Ephesians 4:15, fn 4:14-16, Proverbs 27:2,21, fn 2:21, Matthew 23:1-12, fn 23:5-7[1<sup>st</sup>]**) *How could the disingenuous praise of children by their parents lead to dysfunctional adults?*

*Pray for one another's needs.*

*Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?*

