

# Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs

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Have you ever found yourself in a situation where someone has challenged you? I vividly remember one such occasion. I had just finished my Sunday morning sermon. I was feeling quite confident that I had made an inspiring delivery. A few moments passed when one of the men of our congregation approached me, "Pastor you misquoted one of your scripture references." I was caught off guard by his comment and

could feel my emotions rapidly rising. He opened his Bible and showed me where I had made my mistake. He was right! It was one of those moments when God graciously tempered my response. Instead of responding defensively, I was able to acknowledge my error with grace. The Lord used this dear brother to emphasize to me once again an important Biblical truth, *examine everything*.

Because of the fallibility of mankind we are instructed to test all things against the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Here are two such references written by the Apostle Paul. "And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth." Acts 17:11 (New Living Translation) Again, Paul writes, "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NASB) Not only were Paul and his teachings under the magnifying glass, he praised those who put him there and encouraged all Christians to have that same *Berean mindset*.

There is no speaker, author, minister or, for that matter, any Christian who can afford to completely reject the honest scrutiny of others. As with most criticism, there is usually some element of truth. Whatever percentage is accurate, no matter how small, own it. You will prove yourself wise if you humbly make the needed adjustments and then thank those who have brought their concerns to your attention.

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