

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

What will you do with  
 Jesus? Mt 27:22



**Preacher / bulletin editor:** Kris Vilander, (256) 472-1065

**E-mail:** kris@haysmillchurchofchrist.org

**Website:** www.haysmillchurchofchrist.org

**Servants during August:**

**Songleader:** Larry (4), David (11),  
 Peter (18), Dwight (25)

**Reading:** Robert

**Announcements:** Marty

**Table:** Larry, Buddy, Mike, Lakin

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (7), Mike (14),  
 Larry (21), Stanley (28)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Billy  
 (4), Marty (11), Stanley (18),  
 Robert (25)

**Singing:** Mrs. Leopard's, 19404 Elkton  
 Road (25)

**Area Meetings:** Cartwright (TBA);  
 Needmore (Haleyville, 18-20)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road  
 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

*"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

Volume 2

August 18, 2019

Number 19

## *Why Do People Refuse to Come to Jesus?*

*Part 1, By Wayne Jackson*

Jesus was in Jerusalem attending one of the annual Jewish feasts (probably the Passover). On this occasion, he encountered a disabled man who had been in his affliction some thirty-eight years. The Lord asked the poor gentleman if he would like to be made whole. After a brief exchange, Christ instructed the man to "Arise, take up thy bed, and walk." Immediately the man was made whole. He picked up his bed and walked, Jn 5:1-9.

Since this remarkable incident occurred on the Sabbath day, the Jewish leaders attempted to accuse the Lord of violating the Sabbath. John, who records this matter, informs us that the Jews persecuted Jesus and intensified their efforts to kill him, cf Jn 5:10-18.

After an extended discourse during which Jesus affirmed his divine relationship with the Father, Christ charged the Jews:

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life," Jn 5:39,40.

There are several important truths in this statement that warrant further reflection.

**Spiritual blindness:** In this statement of Christ, there is the shocking truth that one can be a diligent student of the scriptures and yet not know Christ! Many of the Jewish leaders, particularly the scribes, prided themselves on their rich knowledge of the sacred writings. Why, then, were they unable to recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah, since the Old Testament narratives were filled with prophecies that centered in him? Remember how the Lord had said, "[E]verything written about me in the Law of Moses and the

Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled," Lk 24:44.

Well, the reason they failed to see the Christ of the Old Testament was, as Paul explains the matter, that "whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts," 2 Cor 3:15. Their preconceived notions of what the Messiah ought to be like and do blinded them to an objective evaluation of the character, words, and works of the Lord.

When I think of the many religious scholars of today's religious scene who have spent a lifetime mastering Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek; who have studied biblical lands and cultures; who have become experts in exegesis; and yet, who do not know the Son of God in the genuine sense of the term "know," I am deeply saddened. Knowledge that is not set to action only brings a more severe condemnation.

**Salvation is in Christ Only:** There is the fact affirmed by Christ that there can be no eternal life apart from him. In this age when the spirit of pseudo-ecumenism has invaded the hearts of many, this truth needs to be vigorously pressed. The Son of God made no apology for his declaration:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," Jn 14:6.

There is simply none other in which salvation is to be found:

"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved," Acts 4:12.

If that sounds narrow, so be it! The question is not one of bigotry, but one of truth. Are the claims of Christ true?

Will the evidence support such? That is what it all boils down to; and that is why it is our job to bring men to the Savior!

**Some choose to reject Christ:** The Master here teaches that it is possible to exercise that personal will-power by which men make the decision as to whether or not they will be counted with Christ or against him. Some religions have suggested otherwise. Calvinism asserts that men are so enslaved by inherited depravity that they are completely helpless to respond to the Savior's message until assisted by some miraculous impulse of the Spirit.

But what does that really mean? It puts all the responsibility for their conversion solely with God, and hence, implicates the Lord in wrong-doing if they are not saved!

Here's what the Bible teaches. Man is a volitional creature; he is capable of making choices, cf Gen 2:16,17; Josh 24:15; Isa 7:15; Jn 7:17; Rev 22:17. Accordingly, when exposed to the gospel call, men assume the responsibility for either accepting or rejecting the divine message. If they are thus lost, God certainly is not to blame.

But there is another thought that engages the attention when contemplating John 5:40. Jesus said to those Jews, "Ye will not come to me that ye may have life." Since the message of the gift of Christ is so beautiful; since the facts of his death and resurrection are so dynamic: and, as the blessings offered are so impelling, one wonders how it is that rational people can neglect coming to the Redeemer.


How is such foolishness to be explained? Let's consider several possibilities.

**Some are simply unaware that they are lost:** The Bible teaches that Christ came to seek and save the lost, Lk 19:10. Unless a person is aware of being lost, he will see no need whatever for Christ as a Savior. For many decades society has been told, by rationalistic philosophers and humanistic psychologists, that "sin" does not exist in reality. It is alleged to be the mere imaginative concoction of insecure, religious fanatics.

Oh, man may occasionally be involved in "unacceptable societal behavior" (e.g., murder, rape, robbery, etc.) but these are simply impulses

hammered out by his "evolutionary, jungleistic past" or his so-called "reptilian brain." The secular humanist argues that for such slips of conduct, humanity should actually feel no guilt. Such behavior does not really warrant punishment. "Guilt" is really a dirty word in the vocabulary of many.

Until, therefore, the message of sin, rebellion, and, yes, guilt can be burned into the consciences of our contemporaries, many will continue to see absolutely no need for what Jesus Christ has to offer...


*This article will be continued, God-willing, in the next bulletin, where we will read more "reasons why people refuse to come to Jesus." *

## *How Deep the Father's Love*

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss: the father turns his face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has bro't me life—I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

*The sermon this morning is based upon this song by Stuart Townend, 1995, via Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, 448 *

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Dot Hice** is in the Limestone Health Facility in rehab, and would very much appreciate our prayers, but still requests no visitors; **Tim** has had a rough time, as well, since she has been unable to be at

home with him. Please pray for our sisters **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and don't neglect to pray for **Lois Adams**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Tim Hice**, **Polly McNatt**, and **Hazel Teeples**. 