

**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 September:**

**Songleader:** Stanley (1), Larry (8),  
 David (15), Peter (22), Dwight  
 (29), Stanley (10/6)

**Reading:** Larry

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** David, Peter, Marty, Stanley

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (4), Mike (11),  
 Larry (18), Stanley (25), Kris (10/2)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Larry  
 (1), Kris (8), Billy (15), Marty (22),  
 Stanley (29), Robert (10/6)

**Singing:** TBA (22)

**Area Meetings:** Eastside (8-10); Kelly  
 Springs (8-11); East Florence (15-  
 20); Q&A re: Issues of the 50's &  
 60's, Bill Hall, Calhoun College,  
 Health Sciences Rm 105,  
 9/5,12,19,26 7PM

**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

September 1, 2019

Number 20

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

*Part 2, By Wayne Jackson*

*In the August 18<sup>th</sup> bulletin, we read of the first reason given as to why people refuse to come to Jesus: some are simply unaware that they are lost. What are some other reasons?*

**Some will not come to Christ because they are not convinced of His uniqueness:** The time was, in days gone by, when most of our neighbors revered the name of Jesus. But that day is rapidly vanishing. We are living in an increasingly unbelieving world. Many of our fellows no longer even believe in the existence of God. They have been taught from elementary school onward and via the modern media outlets that the universe is eternal and self-sustaining.

Again, we are taught that man evolved from an animalistic ancestry. They say the Bible is not the Word of God, but is merely a collection of ancient fables. And Jesus Christ,

though he may have been a remarkable teacher and a benevolent influence of antiquity, nonetheless, is not the unique Son of God and the Savior of the world.

My friend, without an accurate knowledge of who Christ is, you just are not going to be drawn to him. The study of "Christian evidences" is one of the crying needs of our time. "Is the Bible true? Is Jesus the Son of God?" These are questions which Christians answer affirmatively, but which precious few are prepared to deal with when confronting those who have not been raised in the environment of Christian influence.

**Some do not come to the Lord because, due to false teaching, they have concluded that they are already associated with Him:** In Acts 19:13ff, you can read of certain "strolling Jews" who feigned the ability to cast

out evil spirits. Part of their exorcism routine was to invoke the name of Christ. But their fakery was dramatically exposed.

There is something we can learn from this case: not everyone who claims connection with Jesus Christ actually enjoys such a union. I think this is a biblical truth that some of us need to be reminded of. Correct teaching and an accurate understanding of the message must precede obedience to the gospel. Under the Mosaic system, a person was physically born into a covenant relationship with Jehovah. As a result, they had to be taught to know the Lord after their birth into that covenant relationship.

But under the New Testament economy, it is different. This is one of the very points of emphasis in the great prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31ff. The prophet declares: “no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and teach his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD,” v34.

In this age, we are taught before we enter the new covenant relationship with Christ. Christianity is a taught religion. Jesus announced:

“And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me,” Jn 6:45.

One does not learn error and, at the same time, obey the truth. Denominational clergymen have taught a perverted gospel

(cf Gal 1:6-8), and many have sincerely, though erroneously, been led to believe that a false doctrine is genuine Christianity.

It is the sacred responsibility of every child of God to show the distinction between truth and error, to draw the line between primitive Christianity and modern sectarianism, and to call others back to the Bible.

And some of our preachers have ceased to proclaim this distinctive message and are assuming postures that will lead our people into destructive apostasy.

***Some will not come to Jesus because they are unwilling to pay the price He requires:*** If you would follow Christ, you must be willing to forsake all that is in conflict with Heaven’s requirements. A person must be willing to deny himself, take up the cross daily, and follow his Lord, Lk 9:23.

The Savior urged men to count the cost before assuming the role of discipleship, and he who is not willing to renounce any obstacle to the faith cannot be a follower of Christ, cf Lk 14:25-35.

A tragic example is that of the rich, young ruler. He was consumed with materialism. When, therefore, the Lord demanded that he sell his possessions and then follow him, the young man sorrowfully departed from Christ, Mt 19:16-22. He was unwilling to pay the price!

For some, forsaking worldliness is too great of a demand (cf 2 Tim 4:10)

for discipleship. Others cannot afford the time. And so they trade the few moments of time for eternity.

The excuses are many; the result is the same. Other priorities crowd out the Christ.

***Some will not come to the Lord because they fear failure:*** We have heard the excuse many times: “I would become a Christian. But I know I just couldn’t hold out.” Do you not realize that when you turn to Christ, that you are but a babe in the faith? Don’t we understand that Heaven is sympathetic of human frailty? Hasn’t Jesus promised to be with us “all the days,” Mt 28:20 ASV?

Yes, we will make mistakes, and frequently. But we will repent of those things and learn to grow in spite of our blunders. What if one reasoned: “I will not marry because so many marriages end in divorce”? Surely that would be unsound thinking. What if the farmer argued: “I will not plant, for there was a crop failure in ‘42”? He would go hungry!

Don’t fear failure. Do your best to serve your God. And promise yourself

to be progressively learning and responding to the truth.

***Some do not come to the Christ because of what they see in professed Christians:*** Listen, no one will be excused for his own disobedience in the Day of Judgment because he was influenced by someone else’s sorry example. Each person is responsible for his own activity, 2 Cor 5:10.

Be that as it may, it is a fact that cannot be denied — some of the Lord’s own people are his worst enemies. By their coarse and wretched lives, they drive away many from the truth even before they have opportunity to know the gospel.

In some places, the morals of members of the church are far inferior to those of false religionists. And in most areas, corrective discipline in the church is a totally unknown practice. Surely Jehovah will not hold us unaccountable for such deliberate neglect.

Yes, there are many “excuses” why men reject Christ; there are no reasons! 📖

*Ooops! There was no bulletin last month due to time constraints; we’ll try not to let that happen again... 😊*

## Remember in Prayer

Please remember our sisters **Ruth Black** and **Madelene Britnell**, both in nursing homes; and don’t forget to pray

for **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.** 📖