

# Why People Refuse Christ

John 5:39-47

Introduction: In John 5:39-47, Jesus has a conversation with the Jews. Jesus discusses the reasons why the Jews would not accept him as the Christ. In verse 40, Jesus says, "*But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life.*" Why did the Jews refuse to come to Jesus? Why do people today refuse to come to Christ? Is it because people want to die without any chance of saving their eternal souls? The Jews refused to accept Christ for the same reasons people today refuse to come to Christ.

## I. Text of John 5:39-47

A. Christ points out that though they have the scriptures (O.T.) and though they believe they have eternal life and though they have the words of the prophets that testify of Christ, they still refuse to come to Christ. How could they miss the obvious? Yet, religious people in the world today have the scriptures (O.T. & N.T.). Most of them believe they have eternal life and they still refuse to obey Christ and his words. Has anything changed that much?

B. Christ gives three reasons why they refuse to come to Him. 1) They do not love God (vs. 42). 2) They seek the honor of men (vs. 44). 3) They don't believe the scriptures concerning Christ (vs. 45-47). Please notice how similar these reasons apply today as we study.

1. They do not love God. Other things they love more.

a. The love of sin and unrighteousness (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

b. The love of this world (1 John 2:15-17).

c. The love of money (1 Tim. 6:8-11).

d. The love of ease (Luke 12:16-21). The rich man had plenty.

He wanted the easy life and so he stored for himself (Rom. 12:10-11).

e. The love of relatives and self (Luke 14:26).

2. They desired the honor of men.

a. The love of praise (John 12:42-43).

b. Paul, when he was known as Saul, was highly respected of men. But he gave that honor up for Christ (Phil. 3:7-8).

3. They don't believe the scriptures concerning Christ.

a. Moses prophesied of Christ (Deut. 18:15; Gen. 49:10).

b. Jesus taught that they would not believe him (John 3:11-12, 18-19, 32; Luke 22:67; John 10:20-24, 33; John 12:37, 48).

c. Today they don't believe Jesus' own words (Mark 16:16).

II. No one can know God unless they come to Christ (Matt. 11:25-30). That invitation is open to you today.

Conclusion: Why not come to Christ (John 1:11-12)? If we come to Christ, he will not refuse us (John 6:37). Why not come to Christ right now?