

# THAT YOU MAY KNOW

*Those Who Bear Witness*  
John 5:31-47  
May 1, 2022

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.

- John 5:39-40

## I. FOUR WITNESSES

- In Jewish history, the testimony of witnesses was paramount to the enacting of justice (Ex. 20:16; Duet. 17:6, 19:15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19).
- Jesus concurs that even his testimony concerning himself would not stand up in a Jewish court of law (Deut. 17:6; 19:15).
- Jesus calls to his account not two, not three, but four witnesses:
  1. John the Baptist (Vss. 33-35)
  2. Jesus' signs (Vs. 36)
  3. God the Father (Vss. 37-38)
  4. The Scriptures (Vss. 39-40)
- Jesus desired that the Jews be saved from their sin, but he also knew that "the love of God" was not in them (Vss. 34, 42).
- The Jewish Scriptures bear witness of a coming Savior (Vs. 39; Luke 24:25-27).
- People are not damned because they are not sought, they are damned because they refuse to come to Jesus (to receive him) and so be saved (Vs. 40; 2 Thess. 2:9-12).
- Many Jews felt that Moses was their great intercessor before God. In fact, the one they looked to for salvation would be the one who would condemn them before God (Vss. 43-47).

## II. A DOUBTING WORLD

- The great obstacle between a lost world and a saving God is not so much heinous sins, but the singular sin of unbelief (Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 10:9-10; 2 Thess. 2:9-12).

**KNOW:** We have no excuse for rejecting Christ in our culture. Many have born witness regarding Christ, so when we reject him and his gospel, we reject a truth that has been verified.

**DO:** Confirm your faith with the many testimonies bearing witness to Christ.

### Suggested Reading:

*Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* by J. Warner Wallace (LifePoint Library #131WAL)

*The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel (LifePoint Library #232STR)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### **Please Read John 5:31-47**

1. What is Jesus driving at as he concludes this discourse with "the Jews?"
2. When Jesus says that if he testifies concerning himself, his testimony is not "true," what does he mean? Is he a liar?
3. Why is man's testimony about Jesus not ultimately satisfying (see John 2:24-25 for a help here).
4. Discuss the four witnesses to Jesus' authenticity. What, if any, is more convincing to you? Why?
5. How is it that a person can "search the Scriptures" and still miss the gospel?
6. Why are people lost? How are people saved? (See vs. 40.)
7. What is a specific application point for you from this passage?