

The Willful Rejection of the Testimony of Christ Deity John 5:30-40

³⁰ “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Jn 5:30–40). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

Introduction:

After signing [an executive order](#) earlier this month that seeks to relax restrictions on the political activities of tax-exempt churches, President Trump said the order was an important affirmation of the American identity. “We’re a nation of believers,” [he said](#). Trump is right in one sense — [69 percent](#) of Americans say a belief in God is an important part of being American — but he’s wrong demographically:

Atheists constitute a culturally significant part of American society.

.....a [new study](#) suggests that the true number of atheists could be much larger, perhaps even 10 times larger than previously estimated.

The authors of the study, published earlier this year, adopted a novel way to measure atheist identity. Instead of asking about belief in God directly, they provided a list of seemingly innocuous statements and then asked: “How many of these statements are true of you?” Respondents in a control group were given a list of nine statements, such as “I own a dog” and “I am a vegetarian.” The test group received all the same statements plus one that read, “I do not believe in God.” The totals from the test group were then compared to those from the control group, allowing researchers to estimate the number of people who identify as atheists without requiring any of the respondents to directly state that they don’t believe in God.¹

The study concludes that roughly one-quarter ([26 percent](#)) of Americans likely do not believe in God.²

While this result is fairly stunning and not consistent with any published survey results, there is good reason to suspect that

more direct measures significantly underestimate the number of atheists.

The American religious tapestry is continually being re-stitched as new religious groups slowly gain acceptance. Atheists have been on the fringe for quite some time.

They remain one of the country's most disliked "religious" groups: Only **30 percent** of Americans have a "warm" view of atheists.³ **Research** has also shown that even as America has grown increasingly accepting of religious diversity, atheists have been the exception.

Americans **express a considerable degree of intolerance** toward atheists. More than half of Americans believe atheists should not be allowed to put up public displays that celebrate their beliefs (for example, **a banner** highlighting Americans' freedom from religion under the Bill of Rights). More than one-third believe atheists should be banned from becoming president, and similar numbers believe they should be denied the opportunity to teach in public schools or the right to hold a rally.

And therein lies the problem: The stigma attached to the atheist label may prevent Americans from claiming it or sharing their beliefs with others. In certain parts of the country, pressure to conform to prevailing religious practices and beliefs is strong. A reporter with The Telegraph writing from rural Virginia, for example, **found** that for many atheists, being closeted makes a lot of sense. "The stakes are high," said a Virginia Tech graduate who was raised Christian but is now an atheist. "Do I want to be supported by my friends and family, or am I going to risk being kicked out of clubs and organizations? It's tempting just to avoid the whole issue."

The fear of coming out shows up in polling too. A [2016 PRRI survey](#) found that more than one-third of atheists reported hiding their religious identity or beliefs from friends and family members out of concerns that they would disapprove.

But if atheists are hiding their identity and beliefs from close friends and family members, how many might also refuse to divulge this information to a stranger? This is a potentially significant problem for pollsters trying to get an accurate read on the number of atheists in the U.S. It is [well documented](#) that survey respondents tend to [overreport their participation](#) in socially desirable behavior, such as voting or attending religious services. But at least when it comes to religious behavior, the problem is not that people who occasionally attend are claiming to be in the pews every week, but that those who [never attend often refuse to say so](#). Americans who do not believe in God might be exhibiting a similar reticence and thus go uncounted.

Another challenge is that many questions about religious identity require respondents to select a single description from a list. This method, followed by most polling firms including PRRI (where I work as research director), does not allow Americans to identify simultaneously as Catholic and atheist. Or Jewish and atheist. But there are Catholics, Jews and Muslims who do not believe in God — their connection to religion is largely cultural or based on their ethnic background. When PRRI [ran an experiment](#) in 2014 that asked about atheist identity in a standalone question that did not ask about affiliation with any other religious group, we found that 7 percent of the American public claimed to be atheist. Asking people about God in a multiple-choice format is self-evidently problematic. Conceptions of God vary substantially

and are inherently subjective. Does a belief in mystical energy, for example, constitute a belief in God? When Gallup recently asked a yes-or-no question about belief in God, 89 percent of Americans reported that they do believe. But, in a separate poll, only slightly more than half (53 percent) of Americans said they have an anthropomorphic God in mind, while for other believers it's something far more abstract.

Many survey questions also do not leave much room for expressions of doubt. When PRRI probed those feelings of uncertainty, we found that 27 percent of the public — including nearly 40 percent of young adults — said they sometimes have doubts about the existence of God.

Attitudes about atheists are quickly changing, driven by the same powerful force that transformed opinion on gay rights: More and more people know an atheist personally, just as the number of people who report having a gay friend or family member has more than doubled over the past 25 years or so. Despite the fears that some nonbelievers have about coming out, 60 percent of Americans report knowing an atheist. Ten years ago, less than half the public reported knowing an atheist. Today, young adults are actually more likely to know an atheist than an evangelical Christian. These personal connections play a crucial role in reducing negative feelings. A decline in stigma may also encourage more atheists to come out. This would allow us to provide a more accurate estimate of atheists in the U.S. — is it 3 percent, 10 percent, or 26 percent? — and could fundamentally change our understanding of the American religious landscape.

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Review

1. Jesus Heals the lame man that was unable to get to the pool when the water was stirred.
2. The setting is the Sabbath day. and out of hundreds of invalids blind, lame and paralyzed are lying all around.
3. Jesus selects ONE sovereignly to heal on the SABBATH day
4. This sets the stage for the rest of chapter as a declaration of the Deity of Christ.
5. The Jews leaders seek to persecute Jesus because he did this things on the Sabbath
6. He claims that he is only doing what the Father does
7. The attempt to kill him because he claimed equality with God.
8. He then states his equality
 1. He does only what His Father does
 2. The Father loves the Son and shows Him all things
 3. The Father gives life, The Son gives life
 4. The Father gives all judgement to the Son
 5. All honor should come to the Father and Son equally
 6. All must believe the words of Son and Father to be saved
 7. The Son has life and resurrects the dead
 8. The Father has life and the Son has life

9. The Son has authority has right to execute Judgments

So really you can say that Jesus took the opportunity to drill deeper on the reality of him being God. not only His claim to be God but that everything God does He does. Everything He does God Does.....

Lesson:

Now we move to another very important part of this Passage This is more of the declaration of his Deity, but not just what He says, He brings witnesses to Testify.

Jn 5:31–32

³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true

I think it is important to realize that these statements that Jesus makes are not just for theological discussion, but as He indicates, it is for salvation.

Jn 5:34

but I say these things so that you may be saved

In the text from verse 36-47

There are 3 witnesses that are brought Forth

A. The Works of Jesus i.e. Miracles

B. The Words of the Father

C. The Words of Moses

Not only does Jesus claim equality with God but he has witness to that reality.

But that will not be that focus this morning. I want you to notice the response. It is absolutely amazing and astounding.

That in the face of so much evidence they would remain unbelieving

The only way you could get more evidence that what Jesus has given would be to be transported back in time and stand on the portals of heaven and watch God create everything.

There never has been a time since the creation of the world that so much evidence was given to verify that Jesus is who He claimed to be.

Also there has never been a time that the rejection of Christ was so profound,

It communicates that we are dealing with a more severe problem than the presentation of the message. Or whether the logic is sound. Or if we have found more proof that the Bible is true.

This is a nature problem.

Mans nature.

Something is seriously wrong.

Jn 5:18

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jn 5:38

³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

Jn 5:42

⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you

Jn 5:43

⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me.

Jn 5:47

⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Jn 5:40

⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life

This is the Case throughout the Gospel of John .

Jn 1:11

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

The New King James Version. (1982). (). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jn 8:45

45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

Jn 12:36–39

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 Therefore they could not believe,

Jn 8:47

⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

Jn 8:37

37 “I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

Jn 8:43–44

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do

Jn 10:24–26

24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

Going back to John 5:40

Jn 5:40

⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life

refuse—-not willing

theló: to will, wish

Tense: Present

Mood: Indicative

Voice: Active

Original Word: θέλω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: theló

Phonetic Spelling: (eth-el'-o,)

Definition: I will, wish, desire, am willing, intend, design.

Cognate: 2309 *thélō* (a primitive verb, NAS dictionary) – to desire (wish, will), wanting what is *best (optimal)* because someone is *ready* and *willing* to act.

2309 /*thélō* ("to desire, wish") is commonly used of the Lord extending His "best-offer" to the believer – wanting (desiring) to birth His persuasion (faith) in them which also empowers, manifests His presence etc. See **2307** (*thelēma*).

NOT

ou, ouk, ouch: not, no

Original Word: Οὐ

Part of Speech: Particle, Negative

Transliteration: ou, ouk, ouch

Phonetic Spelling: (oo)

Definition: no, not.

3756 *ou* – *no* ("not"). **3756** (*ou*) *objectively* negates a statement, "*ruling it out as fact*."

So Why is it that so much evidence and so much truth and so much confirmation of truth can be given and most do not believe it.

Or better, Why do you believe it. Are you just nuts, off your rocker, crazy, intellectually deprived.

What makes you believe and most not believe. They have all the same evidence, all the same truth, All the same history. in fact some have had far more evidence than you and yet they did not believe.

Hebrews. 6:1

6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying

- again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
 - 3 And this we will do if God permits.
 - 4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
 - 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
 - 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.
 - 7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;
 - 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned.

There is a larger problem here.

Its not education

Its not having enough evidence

Its not having enough persuasion

Its not oratory skill

Its not logic

Its not how you present the truth

ITS Deeper

LOOK at Eph. 2

- 2:1** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
- 2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
- 3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

It is a nature issue

Were (emetha) is **imperfect tense**, which speaks of continuous action or state of being. Our totally depraved condition before salvation was a continuous one, from birth on without a cessation of that condition.

By nature (5449) (**phusis/physis** from **phúo** = to bring forth) (note contrast with "by grace" in [Eph 2:5-note](#)) refers to that which is innate and implanted in one by nature. It refers to our natural condition and means that we didn't have to develop to become children of wrath. "By nature" denies any process of development so that we were born with the destiny of children of wrath.

phusis: nature

Original Word: φύσις, εως, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: phusis

Phonetic Spelling: (foo'-sis)

Definition: nature, inherent nature, origin, birth.

5449 phýsis – properly, inner nature, the underlying constitution or make-up of someone (something).

“Nature,” in *Greek*, implies that which has *grown* in us as the peculiarity of our being, growing with our growth, and strengthening with our strength, as distinguished from that which has been wrought on us by mere external influences: what is inherent, not acquired (Job 14:4; Ps 51:5). An incidental proof of the doctrine of original sin.

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 344). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Spurgeon once said

“He who doubts human depravity had better begin to study himself.”

Comment: Or simply look in the mirror each morning!

Children (5043) (**teknon** from **tikto** = to give birth to) is a word for children that emphasizes the birth relationship. Paul's point is that we were born children having Adam's depraved nature (**Ro 5:12**) and were thus fully deserving of the wrath of God.

Children of wrath could be rephrased "children destined for wrath." We were worthy of and subject to God's wrath. Praise God that in Christ He provided a way of escape from our imprisonment in Adam!

Eph 4:17–18

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

(Ro 8:7–8)

7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

areskó: to please

Original Word: ἀρέσκω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: areskó

Phonetic Spelling: (ar-es'-ko)

Short Definition: I please, serve

Definition: I please, with the idea of willing service rendered to others; hence almost: I serve.

700 *aréskō* – properly, *satisfy* (make good on something, *LS*); hence to please, winning someone's favor (affection, approval) because *meeting their expectation* (especially by being in moral *agreement*).

dunamai: to be able, to have power

Original Word: δύναμαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dunamai

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-nam-ahee)

Short Definition: I am powerful, am able

Definition: (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.

Cognate: **1410** *dýnamai* (a primitive verb) – to show *ability* (power); *able* (*enabled* by God), *empowered*. See the cognate-noun, **1411** /*dýnamis* ("ability, power").

Why I Trust The Bible, this is what I wrote. “Unbelievers cannot accept legitimate proof because they are blind to it. The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned – ” 1 Corinthians 2:14 – “only as the Holy Spirit does His regenerating work as He opens the mind, tears off the scales of blindness, gives life

and plants the understanding of God's revelation, only then do people believe that the Bible is the Word of God and trust it."

JM

"In light of this I suggest a change in our approach. We have been saying prophecy has been fulfilled, the Bible is scientifically accurate, miracles were performed with eyewitnesses, the biblical message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ results in a revolutionary change in the lives of persons who believe. Because of all these proofs, we reason the Bible is the Word of God."

And then I wrote, "Instead, I propose that we declare the Bible is the Word of God, therefore prophecy has been fulfilled, miracles have taken place, scientific statements are accurate and lives have been transformed."

Listen to John Calvin. "The Scriptures alone exist as the means by which God has been pleased to consign His truth to perpetual remembrance. The full authority, which they obtain with the faithful, proceeds from no other consideration than that they are persuaded that they, the words of Scripture, proceeded from heaven as if God had been heard giving utterance to them." This he says in his *Institutes*.

He further says, "The Scriptures themselves manifest plainly that God is the speaker. We are never established in the faith of this doctrine until we are indubitably persuaded that God is the author. Being illuminated therefore by Him – " that is the Holy Spirit – "we no longer believe either on our own judgment or that of others that Scripture is from God, but in a way that surpasses human judgment we are perfectly assured that it has come to us by the ministry of men from the very mouth of God. We feel the

firmest conviction that we hold an invincible truth, this by the Holy Spirit.”

William Niesel said that Calvin considers the word of the Bible, quote, “As a dead and ineffectual thing for us if it is not divinely vivified – ” given life – “and so soon as it is separated from Him – ” that is, Christ – “it becomes a dead body of letters without soul.” He understood that you only believe the Scripture when the Spirit of God gifts you with that faith and confidence.

Confident trust in the Word of God and the Scripture is then not the result of rational arguments and the work of human intellect and reason or emotion. It is the work of the Spirit in the heart.

Our confidence in the Word of God comes from the Spirit of God. It is a component of the sovereign gift of regeneration.

Traditional approaches have been to try to prove the Bible to unregenerate people by amassing all kinds of evidences that they can process through their fallen intellects in the futility of their mental function and the ignorance that is in them and the darkness of their mind and the hardness of their heart and the callousness and sensuality of their soul. We can amass all the prophetic evidences, scientific evidence, miraculous evidence, historical archeological evidence, the evidences of transformed lives.

And in the end, while certainly all of those are reasonable and a true representation of Scripture, they cannot take the scales off the blind eyes; they cannot give life to the dead soul.

1 Co 1:18–2:5

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly (**foolishness—gk.moron**) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, **the world did not know God through wisdom**, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

{THE intellectuals and arguments, elite, philosophers, the universities, }

1. Human wisdom cant save

2. Miracles don't save

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were

powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that **no human being might boast in the presence of God.** ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, **“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

2 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.