

John 5:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Analysis

Jesus diagnoses the root problem: 'Ye have not his word abiding in you.' Possessing Scripture differs from having God's word 'abiding' (dwelling, remaining) within. Their proof? 'Whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.' Genuine possession of God's word produces faith in Christ; rejection of Christ reveals the word's absence regardless of biblical knowledge.

Historical Context

The Jewish leaders prided themselves on Torah knowledge yet rejected its culmination in Christ. This paradox—expert knowledge without spiritual understanding—demonstrates that Scripture knowledge differs from having God's word internally transforming us.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between knowing Scripture and having God's word 'abiding' in us?

2. How does response to Christ reveal whether God's word truly dwells within us?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τὸν	λόγον	αὐτοῦ	οὐ	ἔχετε	μένοντα	ἐν	ὑμῖν	ὅτι
And	G3588	word	his	not	ye have	abiding	in	you	for
G2532		G3056	G846	G3756	G2192	G3306	G1722	G5213	G3754
ὅν	ἀπέστειλεν	ἐκεῖνος	τούτῳ	ὑμεῖς	οὐ	πιστεύετε			
whom	he hath sent	G1565	him	ye	not	believe			
G3739	G649		G5129	G5210	G3756	G4100			

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:14 (Word): I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Isaiah 49:7 (Faith): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

John 15:7 (Word): If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 1:11 (Parallel theme): He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 8:37 (Word): I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

Joshua 1:8 (Word): This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.