

John 5:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Analysis

'But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?' The final verse creates devastating logic: if they don't believe Moses' writings (which they claim to follow), how will they believe Jesus? Scripture rejection leads to Christ rejection. Inability to receive written revelation precludes receiving living revelation. Those who deny the truth of Scripture have no foundation for receiving Christ.

Historical Context

This verse connects Old Testament authority with Christ's authority. To reject Moses is to reject the foundation on which Jesus built. The religious leaders' treatment of Scripture—adding traditions, missing its Christ-centered purpose—explained their treatment of Jesus. Scripture and Christ stand together.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does reception of Scripture relate to reception of Christ?

2. What does this verse teach about the authority and purpose of the Old Testament?

Interlinear Text

εἰ δὲ τοῖς ἐκείνου γράμμασιν οὐ πιστεύετε πῶς
If however G3588 his writings not you believe how
G1487 G1161 G1565 G1121 G3756 G4100 G4459

τοῖς ἐμοῖς ρήμασιν πιστεύσετε
G3588 My words will you believe
G1699 G4487 G4100

Additional Cross-References

Luke 16:31 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Luke 16:29 (Parallel theme): Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.