INTRODUCTION:

1. This language was written concerning Christ.

2. When He came into the world He was despised and rejected. John 1: 10 -11; Acts 4: 10 – 12

3. God had send many prophets to the Jews and they had rejected and killed them. Matt. 23: 29 – 34, 37; Acts 7: 51 – 53

4. Last of all, He sent His Son. Matt. 21:37

   (1) He too was despised, rejected and killed. Matt. 21: 38 – 39; Acts 7: 52; 3: 14 – 15; Matt. 27: 34 – 38

5. But the Jews of old are not the only ones guilty – MANY TODAY treat Him the same way.

6. Let us consider some ways He is rejected NOW.

I. HIS AUTHORITY IS DESPISED AND REJECTED.

1. When one rejects Christ’s word he rejects Christ. John 12: 48

2. Christ is God’s lawgiver to His people today. James 4:12; Heb. 1: 1 – 2; Eph. 1: 22 -23; Matt. 17:5

3. Christ was given this authority when God raised Him from the dead. Eph. 1: 18 – 23; Matt. 28: 18

4. Christ will have this authority until He comes again. I Cor. 15: 20 – 26

5. This authority includes:

   (1) Legislative – makes the laws.

   (2) Executive – enforces the law.

   (3) Judicial – interprets the law and determines its application.

6. Any man that goes beyond this authority is under the curse of God. Gal. 1: 6 – 9; II John 9 – 11; I Cor. 4:6
7. The authority of Christ is exercised completely in the New Testament because the scriptures are PERFECT and COMPLETE, therefore SUFFICIENT. II Tim. 3: 16 – 17; II Pet. 1:3; Jude 3

8. Today, many substitute men and things.

   (1) Pope, Bishop, the pastor, Wesley, Luther

   (2) Human creeds, disciplines, conferences, synods, the brotherhood, traditions of men. Matt. 15: 2–9

II. HIS CHURCH IS REJECTED FOR HUMAN CHURCHES.

1. Some say, “One church is as good as another church.”

   (1) Not unless: one founder is as good as another, because different churches have been founded by different individuals – the church of the Bible was founded by Christ. Matt. 16:18

   (2) Not unless: the blood of Christ is unimportant, because Christ’s church cost His blood. Acts 20:28

   (3) Not unless: the churches not mentioned in the Bible are as good as the one spoken of in the Bible. Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16

   (4) Not unless: one head is as good as another, because different churches have different heads – Christ is the head of His church. Eph. 1:22 – 23; 5:23

   (5) Not unless: one baptism is as good as another, because different churches teach and administer different baptisms – there is only ONE baptism to be obeyed today (Eph. 4:5), the baptism of the Great Commission. Matt. 28:19 – 20.

      A. This baptism puts one into the body of Christ – the church. I Cor. 12:13

2. One never reads about a denominational church in the Bible.

III. HIS GOSPEL IS REJECTED FOR HUMAN DOCTRINES AND CREDITS.

1. The gospel is not a flexible standard designed to fit the whims and fancies of the human race.
2. Instead of trying to make the divine standard fit our human concepts and fallible notions; we should make our concepts fit the gospel standard.

3. The gospel of Christ is CERTIFIED. Gal. 1: 11 – 12
   
   (1) To certify is to attest authoritatively; to give certain and exact information – it amounts to a guaranty.

4. The gospel is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Gal. 1: 12; I Cor. 2: 9 – 13

5. What is the CERTIFIED GOSPEL?
   
   (1) It is heaven’s power to save. Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15: 1 – 4
   
   (2) Facts to be believed. I Cor. 15: 1 – 4
   
   (3) Commands to be obeyed – HEAR, BELIEVE, REPENT, CONFESS, BE BAPTIZED.
   
   (4) Promises. Acts 2:38; Matt. 25: 46

(Underwood Hts. 1975)