



# **GREAT CONTROVERSY**

*“Satan’s End-Time Strategies and God’s Safeguard”*



# SNARES OF SATAN

Great Controversy, ch. 32  
“Identifying the traps of the  
Devil and how to avoid them.”



**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

**— Revelation 12:9 (KJV)**



# SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

- “To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour’s mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he [Satan] seeks to accomplish.”  
{GC 518.1}





# MIND CONTROL

- “With the same object he [Satan] is in attendance when men assemble for the worship of God. Though hidden from sight, he is working with all diligence to control the minds of the worshipers.” {GC 5 | 8.3}



# NEGLECT PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

- “Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind.” {GC 5 | 9.2}





# DOUBT, UNBELIEF, AND OBSTACLES

- “It is his plan to bring into the church insincere, unregenerate elements that will encourage doubt and unbelief, and hinder all who desire to see the work of God advance and to advance with it.” {GC 520.1}



# NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH??

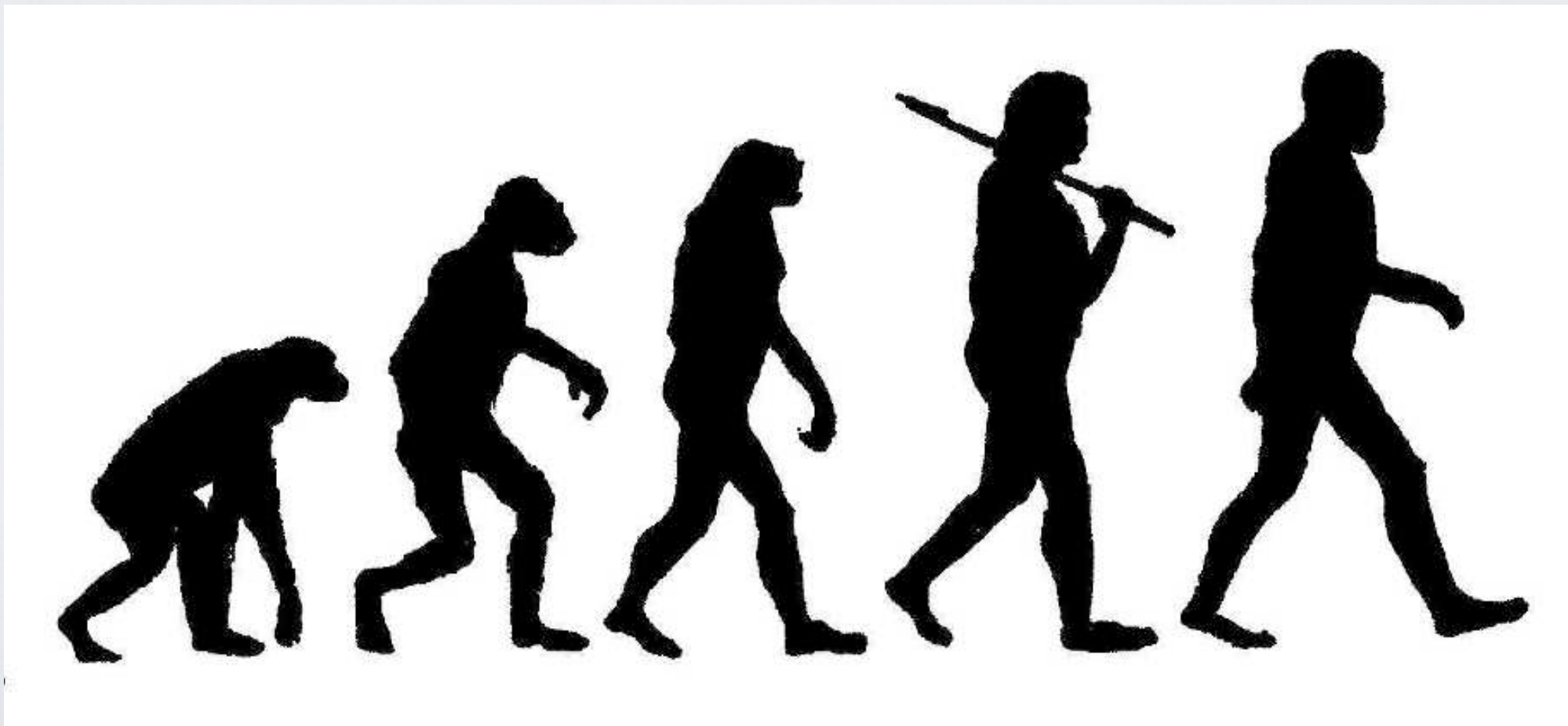
- “The position that it is of no consequence what men believe is one of Satan’s most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel.” {GC 520.2}





# FALSE SCIENCE

- “To many, scientific research has become a curse. God has permitted a flood of light to be poured upon the world in discoveries in science and art; but even the greatest minds, if not guided by the word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to investigate the relations of science and revelation.” {GC 522.2}



# FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

- “It is a masterpiece of Satan’s deceptions to keep the minds of men searching and conjecturing in regard to that which God has not made known and which He does not intend that we shall understand.” {GC 523.1}





# SPIRITUALISM AND THE DEAD

“Among the most successful agencies of the great deceiver are the delusive teachings and lying wonders of spiritualism.” {GC 524.1}





# CHRIST'S DIVINITY ATTACKED

- “Another dangerous error is the doctrine that denies the deity of Christ, claiming that He had no existence before His advent to this world.” {GC 524.2}





# SATAN ISN'T REAL??

- “Still another subtle and mischievous error is the fast-spreading belief that Satan has no existence as a personal being; that the name is used in Scripture merely to represent men’s evil thoughts and desires.” {GC 524.3}

I don't exist either.

-Satan

# PRAAYER IS USELESS

- “Again, worldly wisdom teaches that prayer is not essential... It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” {GC 525.2}



**Prayer**

*How to do nothing  
and still think you're helping*



# ARMY OF DOUBTERS

- “There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His word. Satan stands at the head of the great army of doubters, and he works to the utmost of his power to beguile souls into his ranks. It is becoming fashionable to doubt.” {GC 526.1}





# OVERCOMING DOUBTS

- “There is but one course for those to pursue who honestly desire to be freed from doubts. Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which they do not understand, let them give heed to the light which already shines upon them, and they will receive greater light. Let them do every duty which has been made plain to their understanding, and they will be enabled to understand and perform those of which they are now in doubt.” {GC 528.1}





# THE OBJECT OF TRIAL

- “The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.” {GC 528.3}



# DIVINE COUNSEL

- “Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure.” {GC 530.1}
- “No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. **Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted.**” {GC 530.2}



# TABLE OF SATAN'S SNARES

- Spiritual Darkness /  
Impenitence
- Control / Engross Minds
- Neglect Prayer/ Bible Study
- Encourage Doubt / Disbelief
- Believe Whatever / False  
gospel
- Scientific Research Conflicts  
Written Word
- Forbidden Knowledge
- Spiritualism
- Denial of Christ's Divinity
- Satan Doesn't Exist
- Prayer is Nonessential
- Destroy Confidence in God
- Destroy Confidence in  
Scripture



# SCRIPTURES A SAFEGUARD

Great Controversy, ch. 37  
*“Our Great Need of His Word.”*



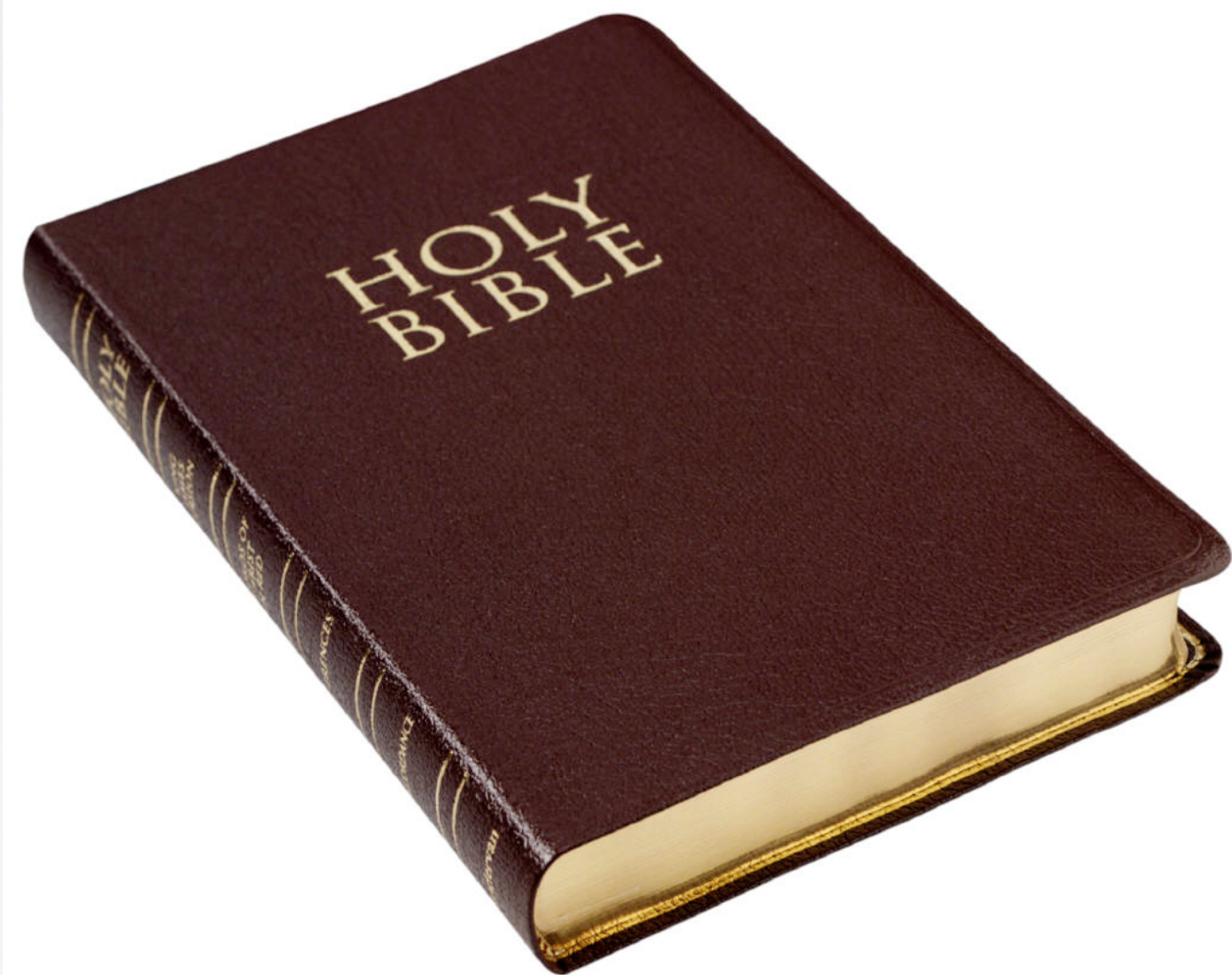
**(For the weapons of our warfare are not  
carnal, but mighty through God to the  
pulling down of strong holds;)**

**— 2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV)**



# BIBLE SAFEGUARD FROM ERRORS

- “The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions.” {GC 593.1}



# BIBLE STANDARD FOR ALL BELIEFS



“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.” {GC 593.1}



# MUST HAVE MIND FORTIFIED BY BIBLE

- “None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand.” {GC 593.2}



# MOST DISDAIN BIBLE TRUTH

- “The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:3).

**That time has fully come.**

The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.” {GC 594.2}

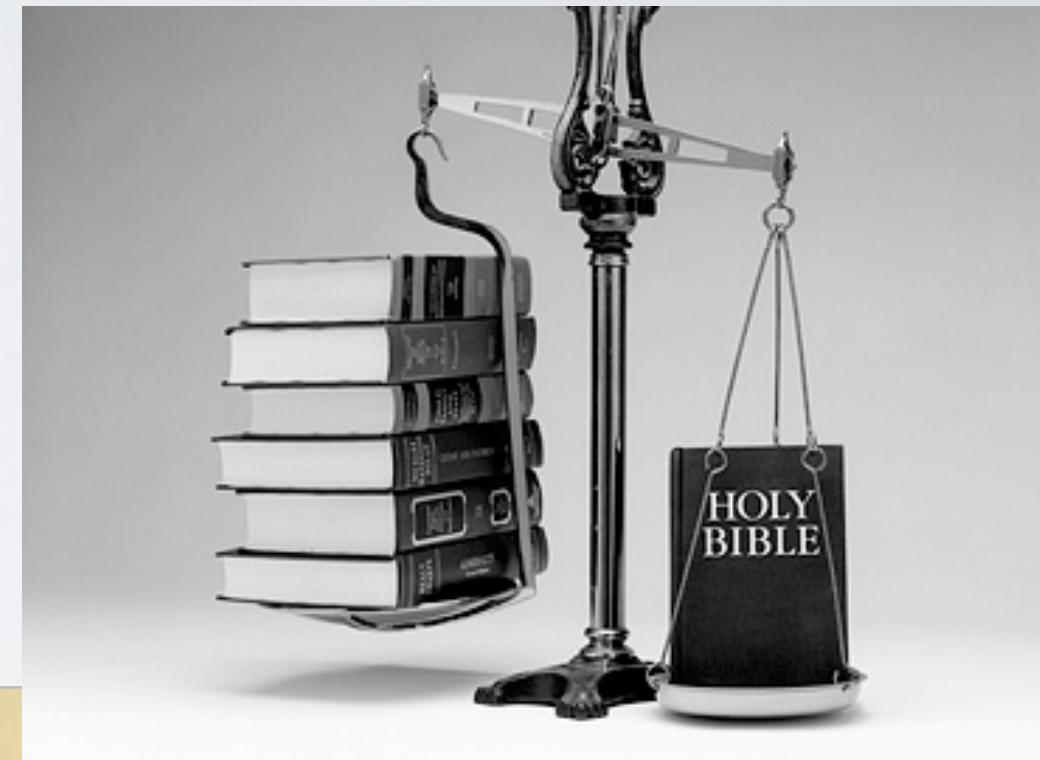
The Queen James Bible





# “I STAND ALONE ON THE WORD OF GOD”

- “The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.” {GC 595.1}



“SOLA SCRIPTURA”

*Show me in the Bible where it says ....*



# IGNORANCE IS NOT EXCUSABLE

- “If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light. {GC 597.2}
- “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 16:25. Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to know the will of God. {GC 597.3}





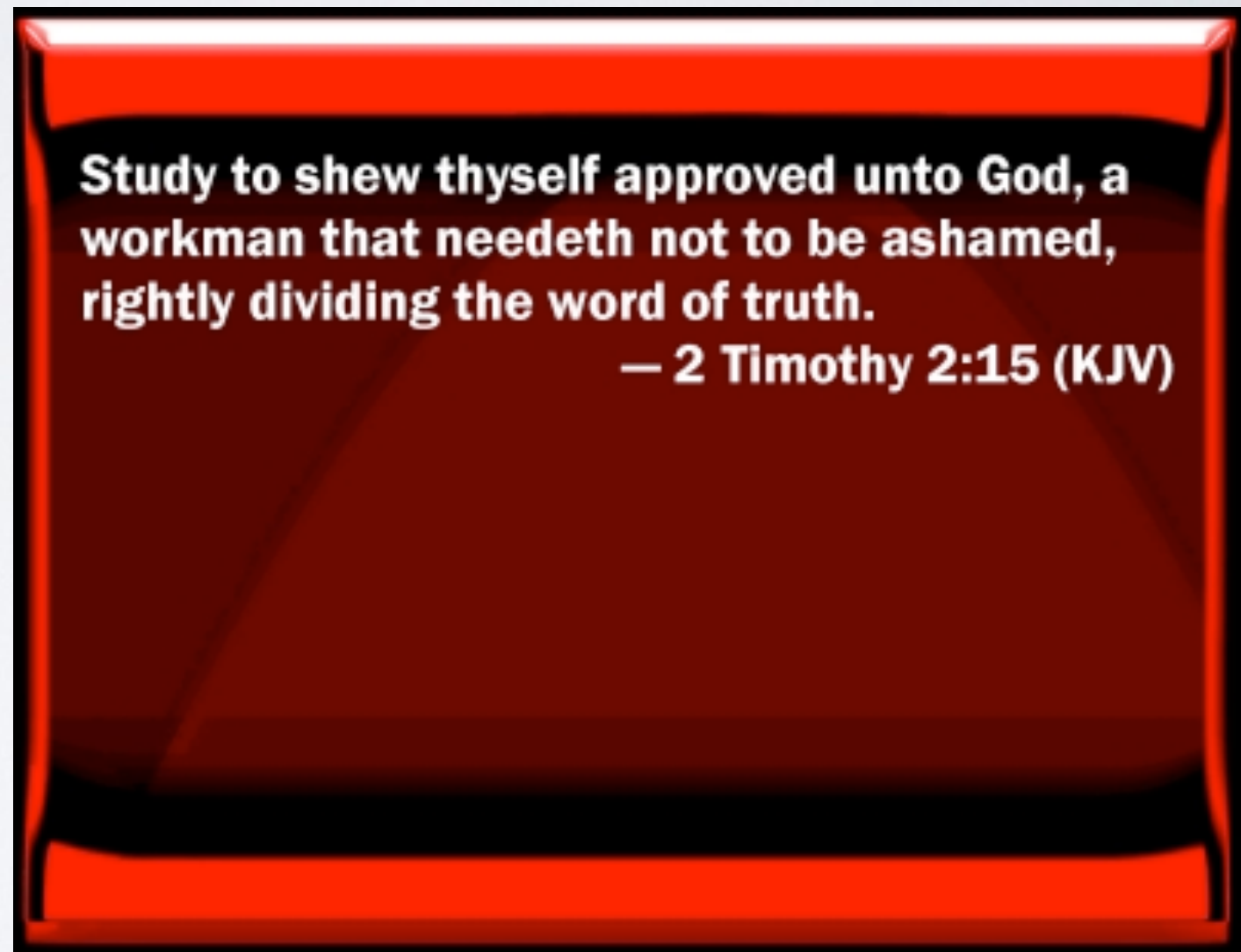
# OUR FIRST AND HIGHEST DUTY

- “It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.” {GC 598.2}



# MAXIMUM EXERTION

- “We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner.” {GC 599.1}





# IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

- “An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness.” {GC 599.2}





# THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

- “The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension.”  
{GC 599.3}





# NEED OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

“Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God’s promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons.” {GC 599.3}





# URGENCY OF BIBLE MEDITATION

“We are living in the most solemn period of this world’s history. The destiny of earth’s teeming multitudes is about to be decided... We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose.” {GC 601.1}





# SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES

- Reveals Satan's deceptions
- Test of every statement and miracle
- Must fortify mind with for last great conflict
- Multitudes do not want
- Opinions, Science, Creeds, Councils, Majority subject to
- Light and truth virtually rejected if within reach
- Ignorance no excuse when opportunity to know
- First and highest duty to learn and walk in light of
- Should exert all powers of mind to study / understand
- Understanding depends on earnest longing
- Should never be studied without prayer
- Temptation appears irresistible from ignorance of
- We need to meditate much upon, especially the judgment