

SERIES

# STUDY FOR APPROVAL

W O R K B O O K 1 O F 3

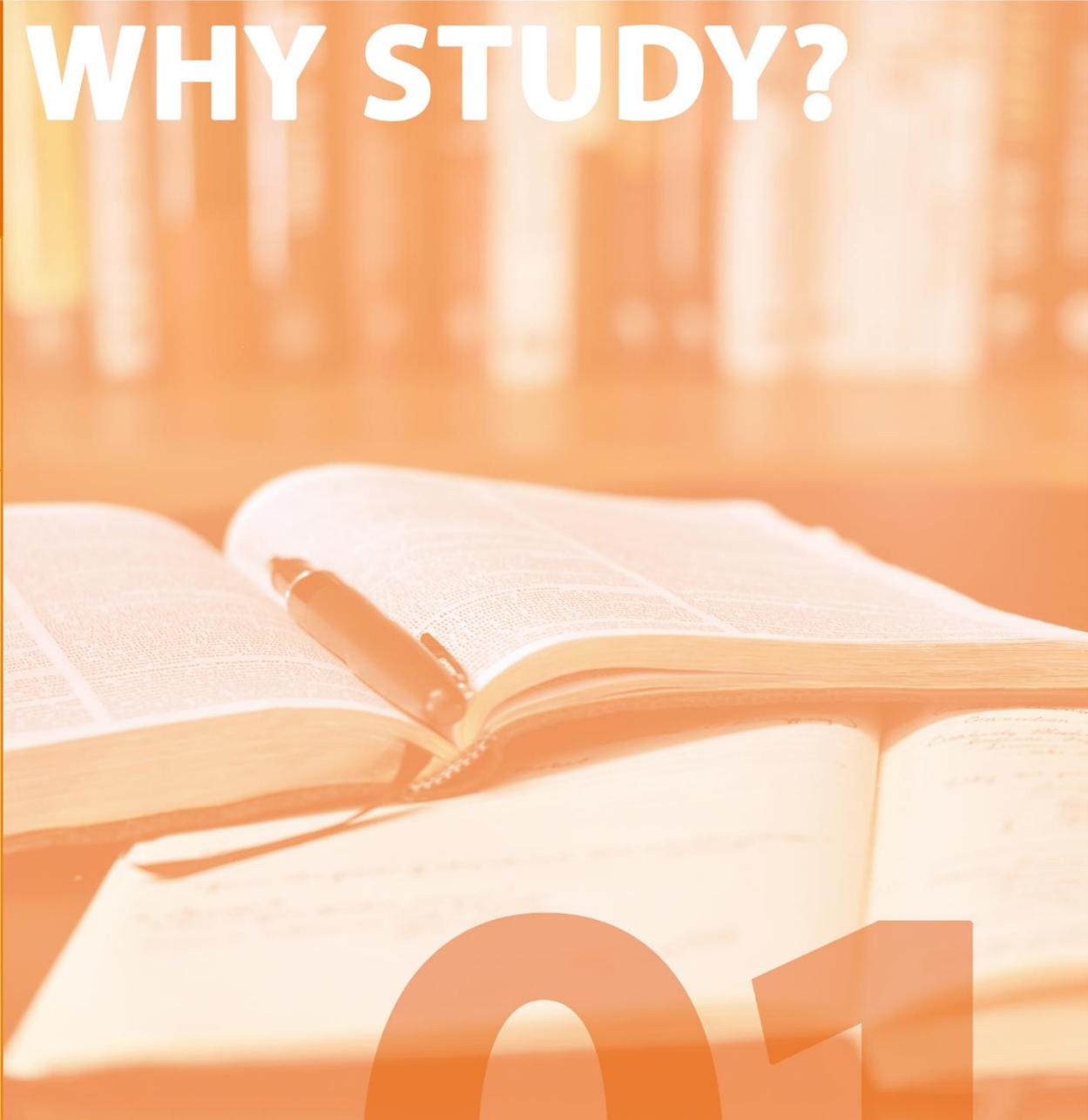
LANGUAGE

ENGLISH

DATE

NAME

# WHY STUDY?



# COGMA 01

C E R T I F I C A T E O F B I B L I C A L S T U D I E S

### My Study Plan:

The **book of Proverbs** provides valuable direction for living a successful life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Proverbs 16:3**

*Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*

Preparing a **Study Plan** before beginning this Workbook will help ensure **successful completion within a set timeframe**. It also helps build the **discipline required for effective study of God’s Word**.

**Do not overlook this important step**, as it will not only support your studies but also highlight the importance of setting **daily and lifelong goals**.

### My Workbook Goals

If the **Workbook requires** six hours and the Assignment one hour, you can calculate the number of pages to complete by your deadline.

1. **Set your start date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Set your completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **How much time will you allocate per study session:** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Number of sessions needed to complete the Workbook:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If each sessions is 30 minutes: Sessions: 6 hours ÷ 30 minutes = 12 sessions)*
4. **Pages to complete per session:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If the Workbook is 36 pages: 36 pages ÷ 12 sessions = 3 pages per session)*
  - Allow **extra time for Workbook Reviews**.
  - Schedule **at least one hour for the Workbook Assignment**.

### My Workbook Journal

Keep a record as you progress through your Workbook for future reference and goal setting.

Date	Pages completed	Date	Pages completed
	Start Date		
			Finish Date

**Congratulations on the completion of your Workbook!**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STUDENT

### FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. After careful reading of each section, complete the activities provided in the Workbook.
2. Correct all your completed activities in this Workbook, using the Answer Book, when instructed to do so, before moving to the next lot of activities.
3. Continue working through your Workbook until all the work is completed.

### CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION
2. WHY STUDY
3. STUDY - IT'S OUR JOB
4. THE WORD CLEANSSES
5. THE WORD IS LIFE GIVING-POWER
6. THE WORD BRINGS PROFIT
7. THE WORD LEADS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS
8. THE WORD PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH
9. THE WORD MAKES US EFFECTIVE WORKERS
10. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE WORD OF GOD
11. SUMMARY

### **Workbook Goals**

This workbook has three main goals:

1. **Exalting Christ as God and Mediator** – To affirm that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man, the one true Savior and mediator for all humanity.
2. **Salvation by Christ's Finished Work** – To show that redemption is received only through Christ's death and resurrection, not by ordinances, rituals, or human merit.
3. **Walking in the Spirit's Power** – To teach that believers, through the indwelling Spirit, are called to live in present holiness, empowered for obedience and witness.

#### **Acts 4:12**

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

#### **Motto**

**“Christ our salvation, Spirit our power, holiness our present walk.”**

### **Important Points:**

- COGMA does not claim to be infallible or the authority.
- Infallibility and authority belong only to God and His Word.

COGMA therefore strongly advises that you prayerfully study the content of each workbook with the heart of a Berean: *“Acts 17:10-12”*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this initial module titled '**Study for Approval**', you will acquire tools for learning how to **study God's Word**. This lesson unveils the principles of effective study.

When we are **born again** and transformed into a **new creation**, we develop a longing to understand as much as possible about the **Word of God** and His **Kingdom**.

Often, we feel a strong desire to study, but confusion arises about **how to study God's Word effectively**.

This series of lessons provides an outline to equip you with the **knowledge and skills required for study**.

## 2. WHY STUDY?

### 1. Increasing Knowledge vs. Seeking Spiritual Truth

'**Why study?**' At first glance, this question seems straightforward with a simple answer. The natural mind might quickly respond, "**to increase knowledge**."

However, **gaining knowledge for its own sake** is not the ultimate goal. **Simply acquiring knowledge is insufficient**.

Many people hold theological degrees and can quote Scripture, yet continue to walk in **darkness**, sinning daily in **thought, word, and deed**.

### 2. The Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge

Genesis 2:9, 17 states:

*"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

There is a significant difference between pursuing **knowledge** and seeking **truth that guides our actions**. **Studying for the sake of knowledge alone** is like eating from the "**tree of the knowledge of good and evil**", which does not **nourish spiritual life**.

Our primary focus should be on **studying to discover spiritual truth** by which we can live. This is equivalent to partaking from the "**tree of life**."

#### i. The Danger of Studying for Knowledge Alone

When we seek knowledge only to increase our own wisdom, it often leads to **arrogance and self-importance**, rooted in **selfishness**. Instead, we should seek **spiritual truth** to align our lives with **Christ's truth**.

We must strive to become **living "epistles"** that reflect these truths in our daily lives.

### 3. The Contrast Between Knowledge And Obedience

#### i. The Example of Building on a Rock or Sand

Jesus highlighted the contrast between **humanistic study** (for knowledge's sake) and **spiritually inspired study** (from the 'tree of life') in the following verses:

**Matthew 7:22-27** states:

*“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*

#### 4. The Purpose of Studying God's Word

The purpose of studying God's Word is to **please God** and **obey His revealed truth**. **Seeking spiritual truth** through study, with the intent to **act upon and obey God's Word**, is fundamental.

On the other hand, **studying simply to acquire knowledge** for its own sake **does not provide a lasting foundation** and leads to **spiritual death**.

##### Conclusion

The reason we study the Word of God is to **please God and obey His revealed truth**. **Studying to seek and obey spiritual truth** is essential, while **studying solely for knowledge** lacks an everlasting foundation and results in **spiritual death**.

**INDEED, STUDYING TO SEEK AND OBEY SPIRITUAL TRUTH IS FOUNDATIONAL, WHILE STUDYING SOLELY TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE LACKS AN EVERLASTING FOUNDATION. ONLY WHEN WE STUDY GOD'S WORD AND LIVE BY WHAT GOD REVEALS ARE WE EATING FROM THE TREE OF LIFE.**

### 3. STUDY – IT'S OUR JOB

#### 1. A Biblical Command to Study

Paul the apostle wrote these words in **2 Timothy**:

**2 Timothy 2:15** states:

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

**Studying the Word is a biblical commandment.** For those of us who are spiritual, this is a significant **blessing and a positive responsibility**.

##### i. **Our Responsibility as Christians**

As Christians, we have a **responsibility**. Demonstrating our **true love** for Jesus and His Word involves **obeying His commandments**. Our goal is to have our lives **moulded by His Word into His image**, to **please Him**.

**1 John 5:3** states:

*“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

## ii. The Revelation of Spiritual Truth

The **revelation of spiritual truth**, gained through proper study, is always **beneficial**, both **spiritually** and **physically**.

It is vital to remember that the **Bible is a spiritual book** and must be understood through **spiritual discernment**.

Scripture, being **God-breathed**, must be interpreted, or revealed to us by the **Spirit of God**, who is our **Teacher**.

## 2. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Understanding

Understanding spiritual truth that benefits our lives is possible only when it is revealed by the **Holy Spirit**, in a way that **enlightens our hearts and minds**. This revelation of God's truth not only **satisfies our hearts** but also **encourages us to walk in His truth**.

**Isaiah emphasizes that God's ways and thoughts are vastly superior to ours:**

**Isaiah 55:8-9** states:

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

### i. The Importance of Correct Interpretation

Correct interpretation of God's Word is **unattainable without the Holy Spirit's assistance**. We also understand that God's Word embodies **love**, and when revealed to us, it will not cause harm but will always bring **spiritual benefit**.

**RIGHTEOUSNESS equates to the RIGHT WAY!**

### ii. Study Gives Confidence

**It is vital to study**—it gives us confidence to know what the **Bible, our manual, says about our job**.

## 4. THE WORD CLEANSSES

### 1. Confession and Cleansing from Sin

The **Word of God** provides clear guidance on how a sinner can be **cleansed from sin**. This involves **humbling oneself in confession**, as stated in **1 John 1:9**:

**1 John 1:9** states:

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

### i. Staying Pure Through the Word

The key to maintaining our salvation and staying **pure** is through **studying the Bible** and living in the **light it reveals**.

**1 John 1:7** states:

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

## ii. Walking in the Light of God's Word

Light becomes active in our lives through **adherence to God's Word**. It is the **Word of God** in Christ that sustains us.

**Jude 1:24** states:

*“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”*

## iii. The Power of the Gospel for Salvation

We must embrace the **Gospel**, for it is the **power of God for salvation**.

**Romans 1:16** states:

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

## iv. The Word Saves and Dismantles Barriers

**Benefits of the Word include:**

- It saves us from **pride**.
- It **dismantles barriers** we have built around ourselves!

Your heart remains **pure** only when you let **God illuminate your path**. **Psalm 119:105** encapsulates this truth:

**Psalm 119:105** states:

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

# 5. THE WORD IS LIFE GIVING-POWER

## 1. Spiritual Life Through the Word

The **Word of God** provides us with **ongoing spiritual life** through its daily sustaining power. **1 Peter 1:23** highlights this:

**1 Peter 1:23** states:

*“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

### i. The Spirit Gives Life

It is through the **Word** that we are **born again**. It quickens us **spiritually**, as stated in **John 6:63**.

**John 6:63** states:

*“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*

### ii. The Word Sustains Spiritual Life

We must study the Bible because it not only **initiates spiritual life** but also **sustains it**.

Just as we need food and drink to maintain **physical life**, similarly, we must **continually absorb God's Word** to uphold our **spiritual life**.

Jesus metaphorically expressed this in **John 6:56**, saying:

*“He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.”*

### iii. The Life-Giving Power of God’s Word

**Job** testifies to the **life-giving power** of God’s Word:

**Job 23:12** states:

*“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”*

## 6. THE WORD BRINGS PROFIT

### 1. Immense Benefits of Studying God's Word

There is immense **benefit** in both reading and studying God's Word. It enhances our **spiritual well-being** and positively impacts those around us, enabling us to **'exhort in sound doctrine and life.'**

#### i. Acting on God’s Word Yields Profit

Studying the Word of God with the aim to **please God** always yields **profit**. True benefit comes from **acting on what God reveals**.

While some attempt to use God’s Word for **physical gain**, such actions are like eating from the **'tree of the knowledge of good and evil'**, leading not to **spiritual life** but to **spiritual death**.

#### ii. True Spiritual Prosperity

**Profit in the truest sense** is realised only when we draw from the **'tree of life'**, seeking what brings **spiritual prosperity and success**.

This **spiritual well-being**—inner peace, joy, fulfillment, and purpose—is essential for **genuine success** in our physical lives.

#### iii. Scriptural Profit in the Bible

The Bible outlines the profit that God's Word offers. Consider these Scriptures:

**3 John 2** states:

*“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”*

**Proverbs 4:23** states:

*“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”*

**Joshua 1:8** states:

*“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.”*

#### iv. Timothy’s Life of Profit from Scripture

The 'profit' evident in **Timothy's life** is highlighted in **2 Timothy 3:14-15**:

**2 Timothy 3:14-15** states:

*“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

## 7. THE WORD LEADS TO SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

### 1. God’s Word Brings True Success

True **spiritual success** comes from **obeying and applying** the Word of God. As we **meditate on Scripture** and live according to its principles, we experience **prosperity** and **success**—not only in a material sense but in our **spiritual lives** as well.

### 2. Obedience to the Word Ensures Success

**Joshua 1:8** reminds us that **meditating on the Word day and night** and acting on it ensures we will be **prosperous and have good success**. This is God’s promise to those who faithfully study and live by His Word.

**Joshua 1:8** states:

*“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.”*

### 3. The Word Produces Inner Fulfillment

By studying the Word, we gain **spiritual riches** such as **peace, joy, and a sense of purpose**. This inner fulfillment is the **true profit** we receive from the Word. God’s Word helps us achieve **balance** in our spiritual life and gives us the **strength and courage** to face any challenges that come our way.

#### BENEFITS: THE WORD WILL MAKE, KEEP, AND INSPIRE US

**The Word of God provides us with:**

- **Wisdom.**
- **Salvation.**
- **Encouragement to grow.**
- **Spiritual strength and guidance.**
- **Inner fulfillment and spiritual success.**

**The Word will make, keep, and inspire us** as we continue to **study** and **live** by it.

## 8. THE WORD PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### 1. Spiritual Growth Through the Word

A man or woman who studies God's Word for **His approval** seeks **spiritual truths** to shape their life. This process not only **liberates from sin** but also fosters **spiritual growth**.

While activities such as **praying more** or **preaching** might seem like paths to growth, they do not achieve what **studying God’s Word** can.

**Peter emphasizes this in 1 Peter 2:2:**

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

### i. What Produces Spiritual Growth?

**Studying the Word of God and acting upon it leads to spiritual growth.**

Don't be dismayed if you do not immediately grasp everything you read and study. **Revelation from God** emerges as we **persist** in our desire to **know the truth** and implement it in our lives.

Maintaining an **inquisitive attitude** and asking questions with the intent to understand will always yield answers. **Jesus attests to this in Matthew 5:6:**

*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*

### ii. The Importance of Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

If you possess a **hunger and thirst** in your heart to study and **walk in the right way**, you will achieve **success** and **please God**. It's common to feel concerned when you don't immediately comprehend the Scriptures you're reading and studying.

Even **Peter** acknowledged that some of **Paul's teachings** were challenging to understand, reflecting the **complexity and depth** of Scripture.

**2 Peter 3:15-17** states:

*“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.”*

### iii. Patience in Understanding God's Word

Even **Peter** admitted having difficulty understanding some of **Paul's writings**. Therefore, don't be troubled if you don't initially comprehend everything you read. **Be patient** and wait on God; in due time, **He will grant you understanding**.

**Focus not on what you don't know:**

- **Trust in God and be patient!**
- **God will teach and reward the diligent student.**

## 2. Avoid Forcing Interpretations

**Br Gil** shares his experience: "I remember studying the book of **Revelation** years ago. I had a preconceived bias about its meaning. When I reached the twelfth chapter, my reasoning collapsed! I realised I had been interpreting from the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**, trying to fit God's Word into my understanding. I was falling into **'the error of the wicked'** as mentioned in **2 Peter 3:16-17**."

Being **casual and careless** can lead to unwittingly sharing in the **"error of the wicked"**. Only your **honesty** and **earnest quest** for truth will safeguard you. **Your genuine pursuit of God's Word** will protect you from such error.

To "wrest" Scriptures, making them conform to personal views, is dangerous and can lead to spiritual demise. Avoid forcing interpretations:

- The Word of God is a spiritual book.
- They are spiritual words.
- They are God's Words.

#### i. God's Word Is Unchanging

Our lack of understanding does not alter God's true intentions in His Words. He is **unchanging**. Consider these Scriptures:

**Malachi 3:6** states:

*"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

**Hebrews 13:8** states:

*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."*

**Psalms 103:17** states:

*"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children."*

#### ii. Be Patient and Seek God's Timing

There will always be aspects of God's Word that we don't immediately grasp. This isn't negative but an opportunity for **patience, prayer**, and seeking **God's guidance**. **He will provide answers in His timing.**

**Br Gil** reflects: "There were times when I asked God for revelation and didn't receive an immediate answer. But, in hindsight, I see God was preparing me to receive the revelation in **His timing.**"

Maintaining an attitude of **inquiry** and **posing questions** with a genuine desire to uncover the truth will always lead to answers.

#### iii. Growing in Grace and Knowledge

Diligent study of God's Word fosters **spiritual growth**, enhancing both **grace** and the **knowledge of Jesus Christ**. As our understanding of God deepens, we grow increasingly **graceful**.

The "**error of the wicked**" that Peter refers to involves manipulating Scriptures to suit **personal interpretations**, taking them out of context, and **misaligning** them with the entirety of Scripture. **Peter warns** that those who engage in such practices do so to their own **detriment**.

#### iv. Growing in Grace and Knowledge of Christ

**Peter exhorts us to grow in grace in the knowledge of Christ in 2 Peter 3:18:**

*"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*

This growth in grace is achieved solely through the **study of God's Word** and the **application** of the truths it reveals.

## v. The Harmony of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation

One of the most powerful keys to studying God's Word is the **harmony** found from **Genesis to Revelation**. There are **no contradictions**. This unity in Scripture will be explored further later in this module.

## 9. THE WORD MAKES US EFFECTIVE WORKERS

Through **Bible study**, we acquire the **knowledge of the Scriptures** necessary to address people's **spiritual needs** and life directions confidently and unashamedly. By studying the Word, we become **equipped to minister God's Word**, which is the **power of God unto salvation**.

Studying the Word enables us to become **effective workers**, skilled in **exhorting** and **convincing** those who dispute or contradict God's Word. This is as **Paul** describes in his letter to **Titus**:

**Titus 1:9** states:

*"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."*

A "**gainsayer**" is someone who **disputes** or **contradicts** God's Word. Through **sound doctrine**, we can effectively **exhort** and **convince** such individuals.

## 10. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE WORD OF GOD?

There are many reasons why we should study the Word of God. Here are some key points:

- **Because it cleanses.**
- **Because it has life-giving power.**
- **Because it has life-sustaining qualities.**
- **Because it is profitable.**
- **Because it causes us to grow spiritually.**
- **Because it causes us to grow in understanding.**
- **Because it makes us effective workers.**

Each of these reasons highlights the importance of diligent **Bible study** as essential to spiritual growth, effective ministry, and daily Christian living.

## 11. SUMMARY

In the module '**Study for Approval**', the focus is on learning how to effectively study God's Word. This study is essential for **spiritual growth**, not merely for **gaining knowledge**. While many may study the Bible for intellectual reasons, the true purpose is to **seek spiritual truth** and apply it in daily life. This is compared to partaking from the "tree of life" rather than the "tree of knowledge of good and evil."

**Jesus** emphasized the importance of building one's life on a firm foundation through **obedience** to God's Word. The goal of study is to **please God and obey His truth**, not just to acquire knowledge for its own sake, which leads to **spiritual death**.

**Studying God's Word is a biblical command**. **Paul**, in **2 Timothy 2:15**, stresses the importance of becoming an approved worker by rightly handling the Word.

Understanding **spiritual truth** is only possible through the **Holy Spirit's guidance**. This revelation is always beneficial, leading to **spiritual growth** and a deeper relationship with Christ.

The Bible not only **cleanses us from sin** but also provides **life-giving power**. **Spiritual life** is sustained through the Word, which is essential for living a fruitful Christian life. **Studying God's Word** makes us **effective workers**, equipping us to minister to others and **defend the faith**.

**The reasons for studying the Word include:**

- It cleanses.
- It has **life-giving** and **life-sustaining** power.
- It leads to **spiritual growth** and **understanding**.
- It makes us **effective workers** for God's Kingdom.

**You should now prayerfully review this workbook and then continue to the assignment which you will submit online to COGMA. The online submission process can be found here "<https://cogma.com.au/>"**

**Church of God Caloundra:** <https://thechurchofgod.com.au>

**COGMA Courses:** <https://cogma.com.au>

**COGMA Media:** <https://cogma.online> (Includes teacher guides)

**Uncertainty to Competence Podcasts:** <https://adminpee.podbean.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585399471540>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/cogma\\_au/](https://www.instagram.com/cogma_au/)

**X:** [https://x.com/COGMA\\_AU](https://x.com/COGMA_AU)

**Zoom Meetings: You are welcome!**

**Sunday 10am AEST: 703 014 424 - Hosted by COG Caloundra**

**Sunday 3pm AEST: 942 164 083 - Hosted by COG Caloundra**

**Sunday 8pm EAT: 429 471 500 (Cogmateam) - Hosted by Lydia Fanuel**