A man with a beard and glasses is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. He is sitting at a wooden table, looking down at an open Bible he is holding with both hands. The room is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source in the background creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Why Study the Bible?

Part 1

35 And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin!

36 Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword by the famine, and by the pesti-

Ezek. 37:26 Deut. 31:6, 8; [Ezek. 39:29; Jer. 31:33]
41 Deut. 30:9; Is. 62:5; 65:19; Zeph. 3:17
Jer. 24:6; 31:28; Amos 9:15 truly

42 Jer. 31:28; Zech. 8:14, 15
43 Jer. 33:10
44 Jer. 17:26 Jer. 33:7, 11 Heb. shephelah Heb. Negev

the prison saying, 2 Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): 3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

4 For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah, which have been pulled down to fortify against the siege mounds and the sword: 5 They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but only to fill their places with the dead.

Before knowing the “how” of study, we must understand the “why”!

after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; (but) I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.

21:4-7; 32:5
6 Jer. 30:17; Hos. 6:1
7 Ps. 85:1; Jer. 30:3; 32:44; Amos 9:14
Is. 1:26; Jer. 24:6; 30:20; 31:4, 28; 42:10; Amos 9:14, 15
8 Ps. 51:2; Is. 44:22; Jer. 50:20; Ezek. 36:25, 33; Mic. 7:18,

iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. 9 Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth,

19; Zech. 13:1; [Heb. 9:11-14] 9 Is. 62:7; Jer. 13:11

32:36-41 However, one day God will restore Israel to the Land and eternal salvation along with their return to the ancient land (cf. 33:8, 9, and Ezek. 36:26)

Correct action,
flows from
correct thinking.

Many Christians today are *frustrated* with their lack of follow through and success in personal Bible Study.



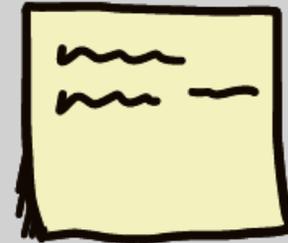
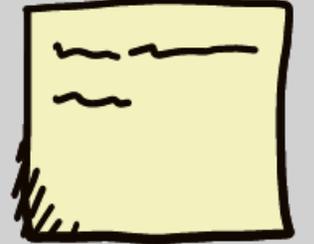
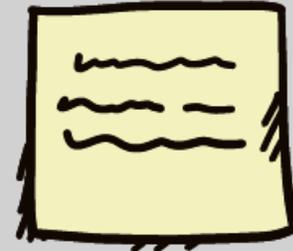
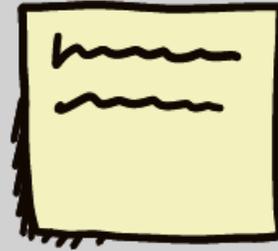
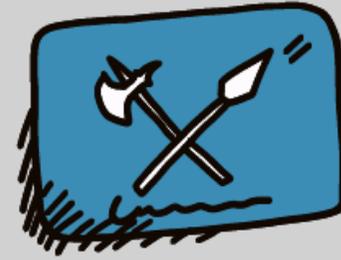
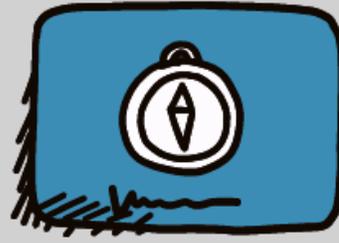
As a result,
many Christians
are always
looking for
a new method
for studying...



However, what is
really needed
is a new *mentality*
towards
the Word of God!

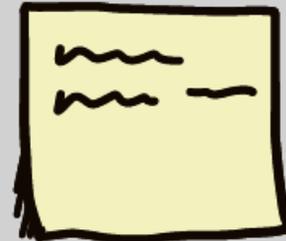
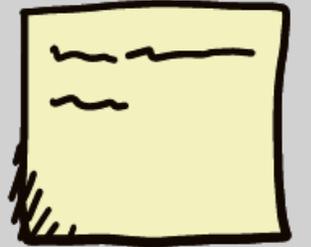
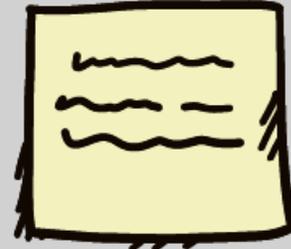
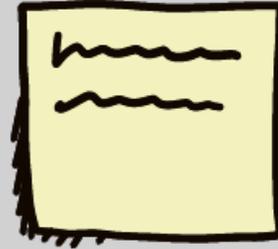
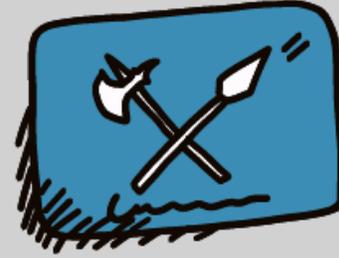
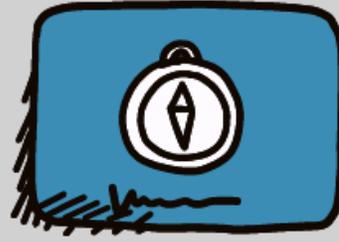


Any method
will likely
work well if
the mentality
is correct.



And even the best methods will likely fail if the mentality is

incorrect.



The main reason 'why'
many Christians aren't
actively studying
the Word of God...
is because they aren't
thinking *accurately*
about the Word of God.

The main reason 'why'
many Christians aren't
actively studying
the Word of God...
is because they aren't
thinking accurately
about God.

God cares
about motives.

Correct motives can make a
particular action “right”...
And incorrect motives can make
the same action “wrong”.

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when
he prophesied about you:

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain; their teachings
are merely human rules.’

Matthew 15:7-9

These people honor me with their
'quiet time', but their hearts are far
from me. They study in vain; their
methods are merely human efforts...

Correct motives can make a
particular action “right”...
And incorrect motives can make
the same action “wrong”.

What are the correct motives for;

Obeying God?

Serving God?

Giving to others?

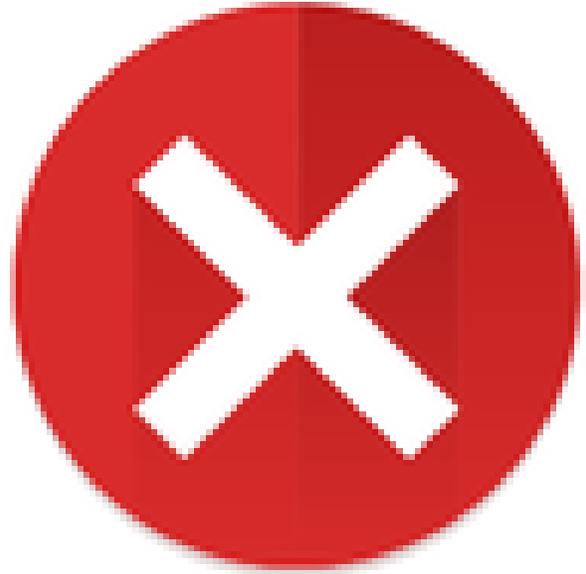
Loving your spouse?

Studying your Bible?

Incorrect reasons

for obeying, serving, studying...

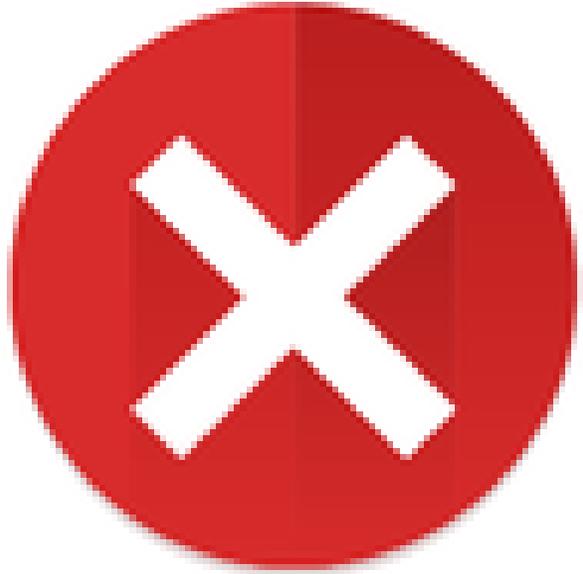




To be a
better Christian.



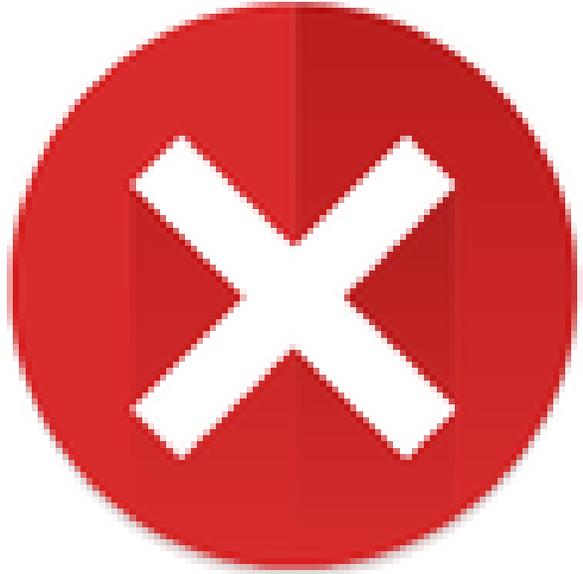
To be **pleasing**
to God.



Because we
are **told** to.



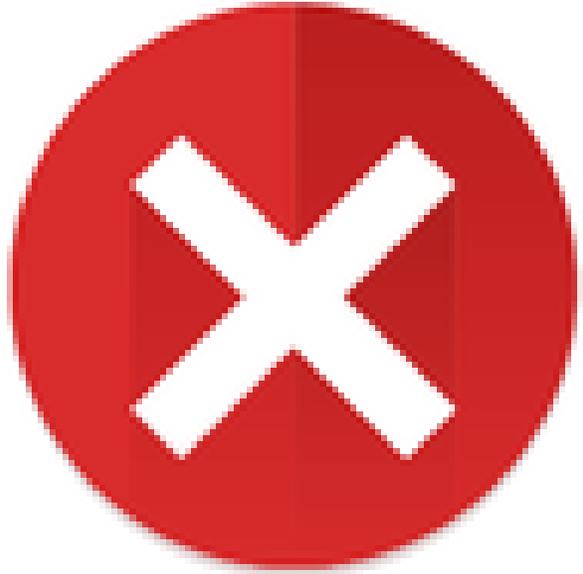
Because we
ought to.



Because God
wants me to.



In order to
not feel guilty.



To **feel better**
about myself.



To **impress** others.

We have all experienced
**how futile these
motives can be**
in creating lasting obedience
to God...

The correct reason
for obeying, serving, studying...



Today, I want to try to lay out
**an argument for the
true and lasting motive**
for obeying, serving, studying
etc...

The true and lasting motive
for *obeying* God, *serving* God,
studying the Word of God...

**is because those actions are in your
and my best interest. They are for
our ultimate good and eternal joy.**

God has created us with an
insatiable longing for
joy, happiness, pleasure,
satisfaction, meaning and
significance.

God has also created us such a way that true joy, happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, meaning and significance **can only be found in Him & His will & His glory.**

God has also created us such
a way that when
**we find our true joy, happiness,
pleasure, satisfaction, meaning
and significance in Him...**

He is glorified by us.

(Even more glorified than if we did just obeyed out of pure duty.)

God therefore is not asking us
to **suppress our desire for**
joy, happiness, pleasure,
satisfaction, meaning and
significance...

God is actually imploring us
to **satisfy our desire for**
joy, happiness, pleasure,
satisfaction, meaning and
significance...in going hard
after Him, His will & glory!

God is also warning us
not to gratify our desire for
joy, happiness, pleasure,
satisfaction, meaning and
significance...in lesser, created
things or self.

Because when we
gratify our desire for joy
in lesser, created things or self...
God is not only not glorified...
we do not obtain true
happiness & satisfaction.

This concept is found all over
scripture, and next week we
will look further at those...
but here is one for today...

John 15:8-11

When you produce much fruit,
you are my true disciples. This
brings great glory to my Father.

“I have loved you even as the
Father has loved me.

Remain in my love.

John 15:8-11

When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that **you will be filled with my joy**. Yes, **your joy will overflow!**

When you obey my
commandments/bear much fruit,
you will not only bring **glory** to
God...but your **joy** will also
overflow.

On what basis did Jesus make his appeal for the disciples to obey?

To be **pleasing** to God?

To be a **better** disciple?

Because you **ought** to?

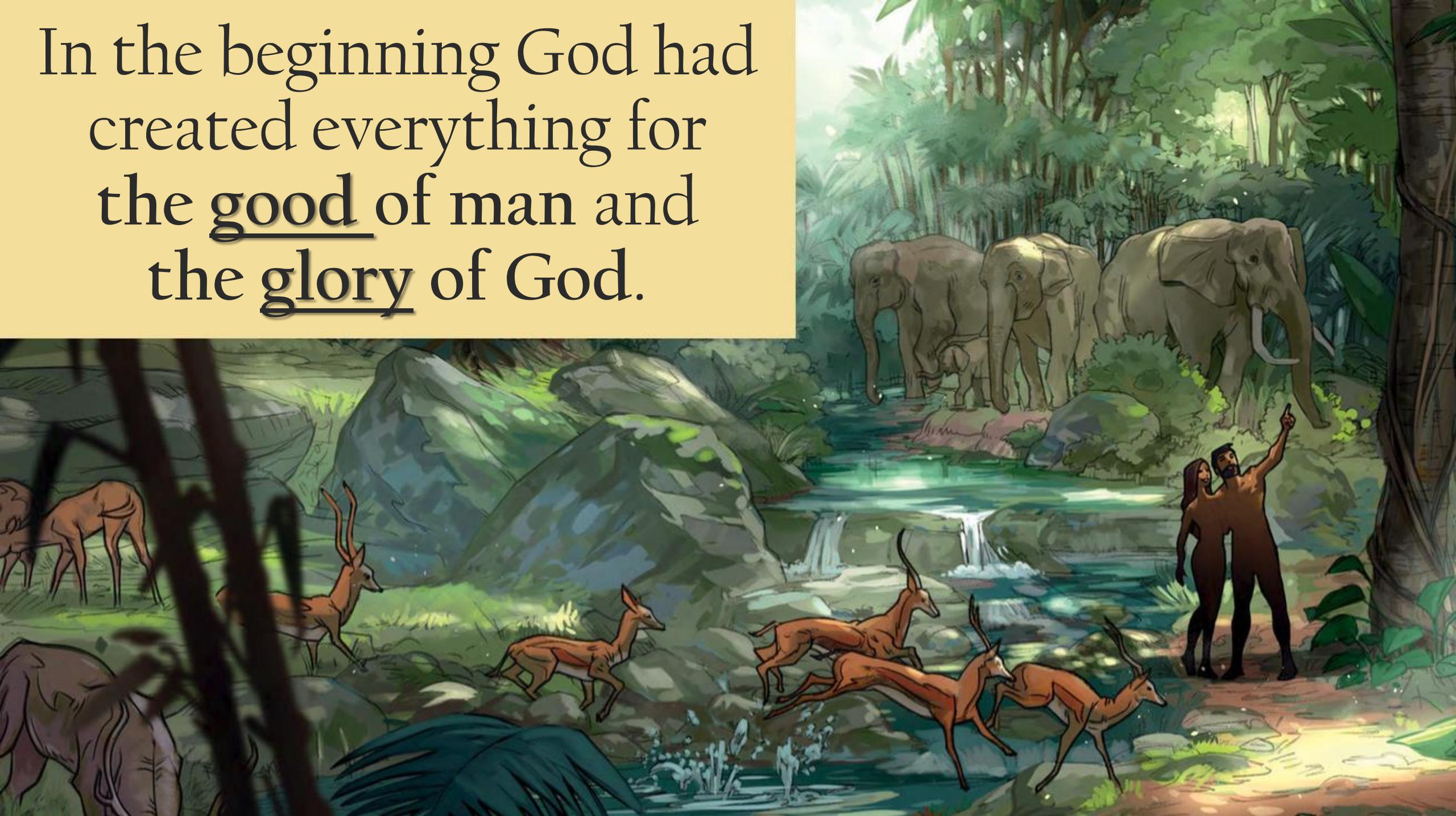
Because **God wants** you to?

On what basis did Jesus make his appeal for the disciples to obey?

I have told you these things so that
you will be filled with my joy.

Yes, **your joy will overflow!**

In the beginning God had created everything for the good of man and the glory of God.



The LORD God said,
“It is not good for the
man to be alone...
Gen 2:18



It is not good for the man...

Best Glad Better

Very well Happy

Pleasing

It is not
the best
for the man to be alone.

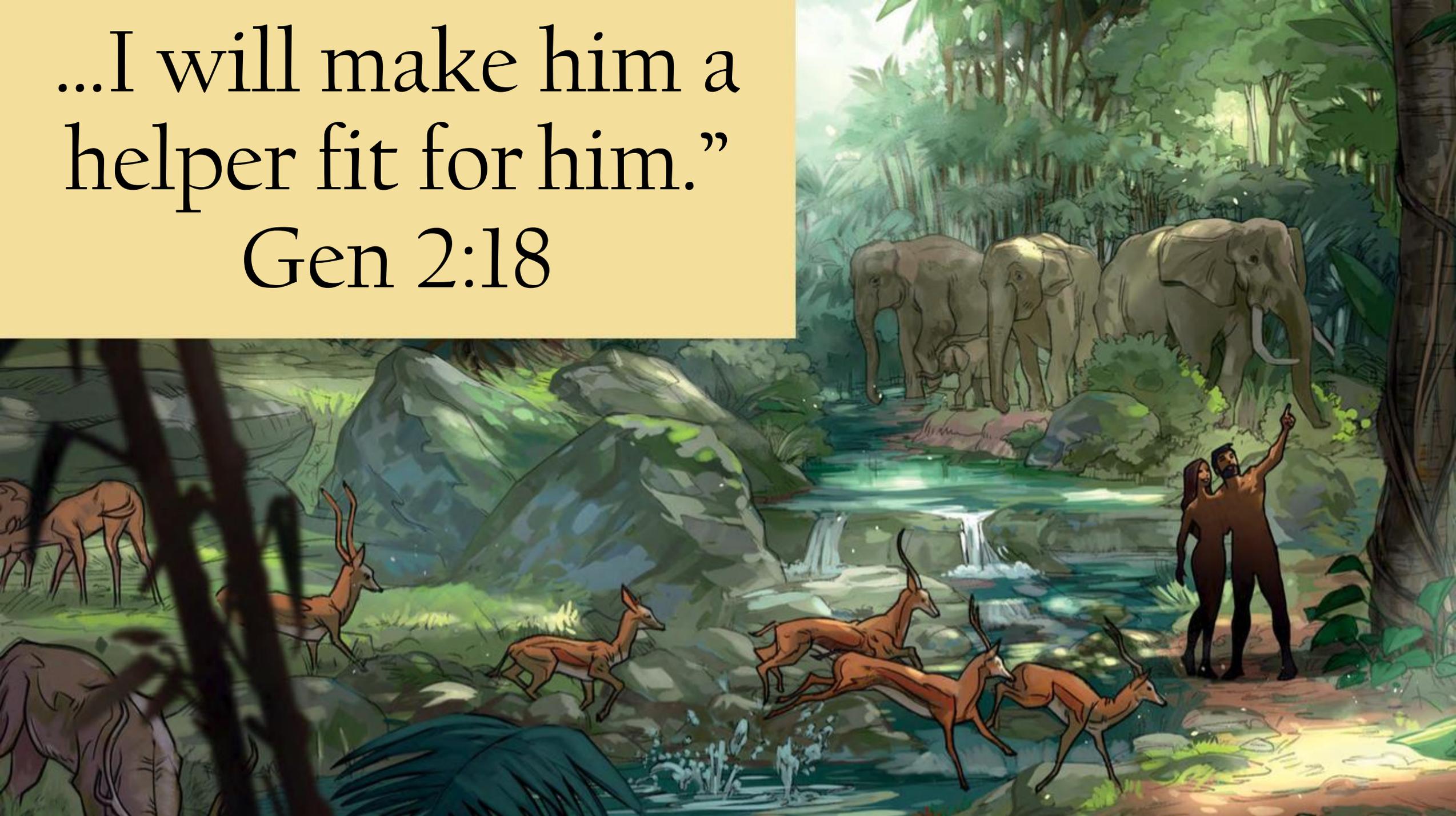
The man will have
it better
with a wife.

The man will be
more glad
with a wife.

The man will have
more happiness
with a wife.

The man will have
more pleasure/
be more pleased
with a wife.

...I will make him a
helper fit for him.”
Gen 2:18



I will give
what is best
for man.

I will
perfectly meet the needs
of man.

I will give the man
superior happiness,
pleasure.

God instructed the man
on what he must do
to retain this very
good state.



God blessed them. And God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth
and subdue it, and have dominion over the
fish of the sea and over the birds of the
heavens and over every living thing that
moves on the earth.” Gen 1:28-31

And God said,

“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food... And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Gen 1:28-31

And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” Gen 2:16-17

On what *basis*
did God make his appeal
for Adam to obey Him?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

not be pleasing me?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

not be doing what I said?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

be disobeying me?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

not be doing as you
should?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

be doing what is wrong?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

not be glorifying me?

All of these are true...
but on what *basis*
did God make his appeal
for Adam to obey Him?

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

die

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

die,

and dying would be
terrible for you!

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

die to all of the good, and all of
the joy & happiness that you
currently have.

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

die to the relationship that we
have, which is the source of all of
your goodness, joy & happiness.

For when you eat from it
you will certainly...

die to what is best for you...

and what is best for you is what I

have created you for...

my design, my purpose, my glory.

Yes, when you eat from it,
you will be dishonoring me,
disobeying me, displeasing me
and certainly not glorying me...

...But what is best for you and for
your ultimate joy & satisfaction
is not at odds with
my honor and glory...

...what is for
your ultimate joy & satisfaction
is intrinsically linked
to my honor and glory.

When you are trusting me, obeying my word, submitting to my design and will...
...it will be best for you the creature,
and you will have true and lasting
joy, pleasure, satisfaction &
fulfillment...

When you are trusting me, obeying my word, submitting to my design and will.. it will also be to the Creator's glory, and I will be honored, praised & glorified by it!

When we are trusting God,
walking with God, obeying
God...we will be most **satisfied**
and have true and **lasting joy**
(even in the midst of crisis and suffering).

When we are trusting God,
walking with God, obeying
God...he will be most glorified,
honored and praised.

God in His infinite wisdom
and love did not put his desire
for glory at odds with our
desire for joy...

God in His infinite wisdom and love designed it so that the deepest, highest, truest possible joy & satisfaction would be found in glorifying him.

**God's pursuit of praise (glory) from us
and our pursuit of pleasure (joy) in him
are one and the same pursuit.**

**God's quest to be glorified and
our quest to be satisfied reach their goal
in this one experience: our delight in God,
which overflows in praise.**

The stunning implication of this discovery is that **all the omnipotent energy that drives the heart of God to pursue his own glory also drives him to satisfy the hearts of those who seek their joy in him.**

With all his heart and with all his soul,

God joins us in the pursuit of our everlasting joy because **the consummation of that joy in him redounds to the glory of his own infinite worth.**

John Piper (Desiring God)

God made his appeal to Adam on the basis **that Adam should do what is ultimately good for himself**, the creature. God made his appeal that Adam should trust that God knows how to provide for & instruct in what is ultimately good for the man.

God spent the 1st-2nd chapters of Genesis displaying His resume to Adam, showing him that God can & will truly fulfill his deepest longings for true joy, gladness, fulfillment & satisfaction.

Adam and Eve had every reason to believe that God's way, God's will, God's word, God's design and God himself would fulfill their deepest longings for true joy, gladness, fulfillment & satisfaction.

Until this point
they each had been experiencing
full, perfect, unbridled
joy, gladness, fulfillment &
satisfaction...at the hands of and in
the presence of their creator.

In the 3rd chapter of Genesis, God's arch enemy Satan moves in on the man and woman to present his argument for superior joy, happiness, satisfaction.



“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

Gen 3:1



You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God... Gen 3:4-5

You will not die to this
'lousy situation' that God has provided
for you...God knows that when you eat
from it you will actually have it even
better off, and he is against your good
& against your joy.

If you eat from it, you will be able to
decide for yourself what is best and
what will truly make you happy.
You won't need to rely on God for
that! You will be like him and you will
be able to create your own enjoyment!

In the end,
Adam & Eve went the way that
they believed would turn out for
their ultimate good,
their superior pleasure,
their increased satisfaction.

In the end,
Adam & Eve did not believe that
God was **for**, or **could** or **knew**
how to provide their ultimate
good, their superior pleasure,
their increased satisfaction.

In the end, what was the result?

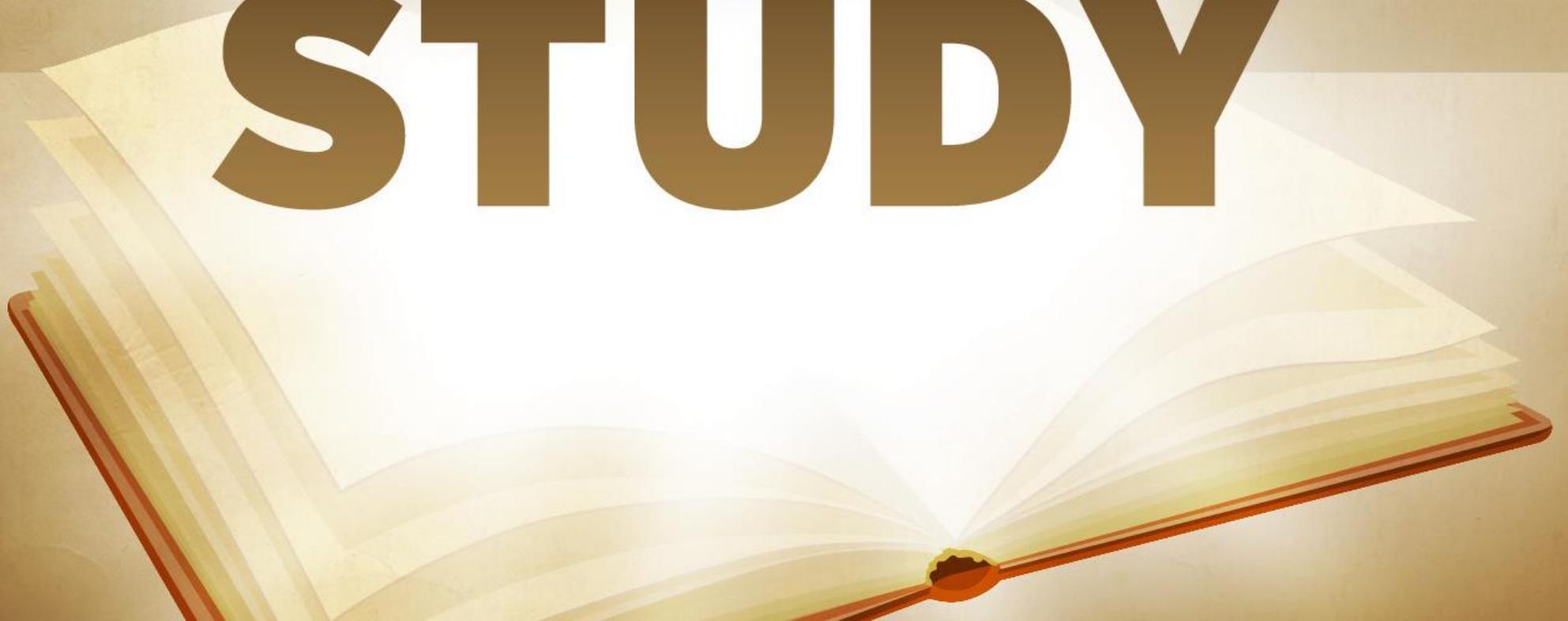
Did Adam & Eve gain
superior pleasure, joy,
fulfillment? Ultimate good?

In the end,
was it God's word
or Satan's word...

which could lead Adam & Eve
to superior pleasure, joy,
fulfillment? Ultimate good?

What does this have to do

**BIBLE
STUDY**



If your motives for studying the Bible are simply because;

“I should.”

“God wants me to.”

“God has told us to.”

“I’ll feel guilty if I don’t.”

You will find that you will lack the desire, passion and interest needed to follow through on a consistent and meaningful basis.

If your motives for studying
the Bible are because;

“His Word will show me
the path to ultimate joy.”

If your motives for studying
the Bible are because;

“His Word is where I can learn
about how to have
true satisfaction.”

If your motives for studying
the Bible are because;

“His Word will show me how
to live a life of eternal
significance.”

If your motives for studying
the Bible are because;

“His Word will navigate me
away from the lesser joys that are
trying to rob me of true joy.”

You will not only find the desire,
passion and interest needed to
follow through on a consistent
and meaningful basis...

But you will also be glorifying
your Father in Heaven like
never before...

Because you will be showing
that you believe that your
ultimate good, your eternal joy
is found in Him, and in His
will and in His design.

And...

God is most glorified in us,
when we are most satisfied
in Him.