Intro: As a basis for our study notice Mat. 22:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” Let us notice some lessons from this text.

I. **The Text Implies The Scriptures Are The Standard Of Life.**
   A. Man needs a standard.
      1. Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
      2. Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
      3. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
      4. Just like the man needs a standard of life just like he needs standards of time, weights, measurements, money, etc.
   B. That standard is the scriptures.
      1. Psa. 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
      2. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
      3. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
      4. 2 Pet. 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

II. **The Text Implies That We Err If We Deviate From The Scriptures.**
   A. We can not change them.
      1. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”
      2. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
         a. Rev. 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”
         b. Rev. 22:15 “For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whatsoever loveth and maketh a lie.”
      3. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
      4. Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”
   B. Examples
      1. Num. 20
         a. Moses smote the rock.
         b. Erred by going beyond.
      2. 1 Sam. 15
         a. Saul saved Agag and the best of the sheep and oxen.
         b. Erred by falling short.
III. THE SADDUCEES ERRED BECAUSE THEY KNEW NOT THE SCRIPTURES.

A. They erred not knowing.
1. They should have known the Scriptures.
2. If they had they would known a number of passages teaching the resurrection.
   a. Exo. 3:6, 15-16 “Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.... And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt.”
   b. Job 19:25-26 “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.”
   c. Psa. 16:10 “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
   d. Psa. 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”
   e. Ecc. 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
B. They erred not knowing the power of God.
1. Our God is omnipotent.
   a. Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
   b. This power is expressed in three ways.
      (1) Creation
      (2) Redemption or Salvation (create in us a new man).
      (3) Sustaining power.
         (a) Physically.
         (b) Spiritually.
   2. Once the omnipotence of God is recognized, it is easy to believe in His power to do any supernatural work.
   3. Acts 26:8 “Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”
C. They erred not knowing there will be a different type of life in the resurrected state.
1. Mat. 22:30 “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”
2. 1 Cor. 15:49 “And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”
D. The source of their error was ignorance.
1. This is true of many.
   a. Mat. 13:15 theirs was a willful ignorance. “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
   b. Acts 3:17 “And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.”
   c. 1 Cor. 2:8 “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
2. One of the biggest delusions is the dependence on human reasoning.
   a. 1 Cor. 1:19-21, 25 “For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the
disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.... 22Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

b. 1 Cor. 2:5 “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

3. Man must know the truth.
   a. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   b. John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

IV. SOME OTHERS WHO KNOW THE SCRIPTURES ALSO ERR.

A. It is not for ignorance.

B. Other reasons are involved.

1. Want their own will.
   a. Mat. 19:16-22 the rich young ruler. “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”
   b. Jonah
   c. Lady said, “How can we be Christians and have our own way?”
      (1) Mat. 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”
      (2) Mat. 26:39 “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt.”

2. Prejudice
   a. Mat. 13:15 “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
   b. Acts 7 (vs. 51-54) “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. 54When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”
   c. Preconceived ideas cause some to color the scriptures.
      (1) The Jews were unable to understand the great commission. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
      (2) It took a miracle to get them to understand that it also applied to the Gentiles, Acts 10:11, 44-45 “And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:... 44While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
3. Knowing only a fragment of the scriptures.
   a. Psa. 119:160 (ASV) “The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever.”
   b. Acts 20:27 “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”
   c. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Conclusion: We thus see the importance of knowing the Scriptures so we do not err, falling away from God. Only by a knowledge of the Scriptures will we be saved.