INTRODUCTION

- 1. I want to begin this morning with an exercise in discernment by reading to you a story.
- 2. And as all stories begin with "Once upon a time," this one begins this way too.
- 3. Once upon a time, long, long ago on a faraway planet, (Kenneth Copeland) there lived a good God.
- 4. This God was very much like you and me—a Being who stands about six feet two inches to six feet three inches tall, weighs a couple of hundred pounds, and has a hand span of about nine inches. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 5. This God's wisdom and power were so great that He literally had the ability to speak things into existence. In fact, this God could actually visualize beautiful images in His mind and then turn them into reality (Charles Capps) by utilizing a special power called the "force of

faith." (Kenneth Copeland)

- 6. One day, this God had a cosmic brainstorm. He decided to use the force of His faith to create something superb and special. (Charles Capps)
- 7. He decided to bring a whole new world into existence. (Jerry Savelle)
- 8. This was not going to be just any old world; it was going to be the most fantastic world imaginable. In fact, this world would become so wonderful that it would actually feature an exact duplicate of the mother planet where God lived. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 9. After carefully visualizing every detail of this wonderful, wonderful world, God went into action. Releasing the force of His faith like a whirlwind, God spoke into existence the planet He saw in His mind's eye. (Charles Capps) And boy, was God excited!
- 10. Looking down with fondness on this classic new creation, He named the planet "Earth." And this was only the beginning.

- 11. Suddenly, a host of brilliant new ideas began to flood into God's creative consciousness.
- 12. He began to visualize vast oceans and springs abounding with water.
- 13. He saw magnificent mountains and fertile fields. His mind produced flashes of thunder and lightning. Plants, flowers, and trees blazed in rapid succession through His thoughts.
- 14. Now on a roll, God began to visualize life replete with beautiful birds and creatures of every size and shape imaginable. Yet this was merely the beginning.
- 15. For after five days of vivid visualizations, God's mind moved into yet another dimension.
- 16. On day six, His imagination went wild and, in His mind's eye, God saw the crowning jewel of His creation.
- 17. As the details developed within His fertile mind, God suddenly found Himself focused on an exact duplicate of Himself. (Charles Capps)
- 18. Throwing all caution to the wind, God spoke, and suddenly, out of the pristine soil of planet Earth, there

- arose another god—a god spelled with a small "g" but a god nonetheless. (Paul Crouch)
- 19. As the image of this little god (Paul Crouch) took form, God saw that He had literally outdone Himself.
- 20. For there, before His very own eyes, stood another god—an exact duplicate of Himself, including size and shape. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 21. God had finally done it! He had thought the unthinkable and, by His word of faith, God had created a creature that was not even subordinate to Himself. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 22. And boy, was God ever glad. For now He had a colleague whose nature was identical to His own—a god who could think like Him, be like Him, and do almost but not quite everything that He could do.
- 23. God called His carbon copy "Adam," and He gave him dominion and authority over the entire creation. (Kenneth Hagin)
- 24. As a matter of fact, this creature had so much power that his Creator could do nothing in the earth realm

- without first obtaining his permission. (Fredrick Price)
- 25. Adam was truly a super being! He could fly like the birds and swim underwater like a fish. And that's not all. Without a space suit Adam could literally fly through the universe.
- 26. In fact, with just one thought, he could literally transport himself to the moon! (Benny Hinn)
- 27. Yet even after creating a super being like Adam, God was not fully satisfied with His accomplishments.
- 28. Somehow, He just knew that a piece of the puzzle was still missing. So putting His mind into overdrive, God began brainstorming once more.
- 29. And then, in a flash, it dawned on God! Why hadn't He thought of it before? Adam was made in His image, so obviously he was as much female as he was male, right? So, why not double His pleasure and double His fun? Why not separate the male part from the female part?
- 30. Not wanting to waste a single moment, God charged into action! Causing a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, God opened him up, removed the female part from the

male part, and made a being of surpassing beauty. He made woman—man with a womb—and He called the womb-man "Eve." (Kenneth Copeland)

- 31. This time God had clearly gone too far: He had actually brought into existence the very beings that would one day get Him kicked off of the very planet He had created.
- 32. As incredible as it may seem, these super beings would one day turn on their Creator and relegate Him to the status of the greatest failure of all time.
- 33. You see, long before God had visualized planet Earth into existence, He had also created a whole other world full of beings called angels.
- 34. One of these angels was a being of such breathtaking beauty and brilliance that he was named "Lucifer," the Morning Star.
- 35. Lucifer had great ambitions.
- In fact, he wanted to take control of everything God had ever visualized into existence; he wanted to become exactly like the Most High.

- 37. Well, because of his treason, Lucifer was cast out of heaven and renamed "Satan," the deceiver.
- 38. Tumbling down from the mother planet where God lived, Satan landed on the replica that God had spoken into existence.
- 39. He landed on planet Earth, the very planet on which Adam and Eve would one day live.
- 40. There, he lay in wait for the opportunity of the ages, the opportunity to get back at God.
- 41. And then, one day, opportunity came knocking.
- 42. Not long after God had spoken Adam and Eve into existence, Satan spied them standing naked in the middle of the garden of Eden.
- 43. Satan instantly transformed himself into a serpent and cunningly tricked the two little gods into committing cosmic treason.
- 44. For just the price of an apple, Adam and Eve sold their godhood to Satan.

- 45. The devil, through Adam, became the god of this world. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 46. Alas, not only did Adam and Eve lose their nature as gods, but they were actually infused with the very nature of Satan himself. (Kenneth Hagin)
- 47. Adam had become the first person to be born again; he was "born" with the nature of God and "born again" with the nature of Satan. (Kenneth Hagin)
- 48. In one blinding instant, the first man and woman who had ever lived were transformed from divine to demonic.
- 49. Immediately, they became susceptible to sin, sickness, suffering, and, more importantly, spiritual death.
- 50. In fact, Eve's body, which like Adam's was originally made to give birth out of her side, underwent a radical transformation—from that moment on, she and her female offspring would bring forth children from the lower region of their anatomies. (E.W. Kenyon)
- 51. In that fateful moment, Adam and Eve were summarily barred from Eden, and God was banished from the

earth.

- 52. Satan now had legal rights to the earth and all her inhabitants, (E.W. Kenyon) and God was left on the outside desperately searching for a way to get back in. (E.W. Kenyon)
- 53. God, in a flash, had become the greatest failure of all time.
- 54. Not only had He lost his top-ranking angel, as well as at least a third of His other angels, but now, in addition, He had lost the first man He had ever created, the first woman He had created, and the whole earth and the fullness therein! (Kenneth Copeland)
- 55. But as they say in baseball, "It ain't over till it's over!" God was not yet ready to throw in the towel. He had that winning attitude and refused to let go.
- 56. Realizing that He needed man's invitation to get back into the earth, God immediately went to work.
- 57. And after thousands of years God finally found an "old boy," named Abraham, who took the bait and became the vehicle through which God, if He was lucky, may one day win back the universe He had lost. (Kenneth

Copeland)

- 58. You see, through Abraham would eventually come a Second Adam who would reverse the consequences of Satan's deception.
- 59. This Adam, if all went according to plan, would return to man his godhood and to God His good earth.
- 60. Well, in time, God got Abraham to strike a deal with him.
- 61. In fact, God and Abraham became blood brothers (Frederick Price) and forged a covenant that would gain Abraham health and wealth, and regain for God a foothold in the world He had created. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 62. God's plan was to make Abraham the father of all nations and to produce from his seed another Adam who would regain the turf that was lost by the first Adam.
- 63. In keeping with His Word, God made Abraham very, very wealthy.

- 64. And then, once again, He proceeded to visualize.
- 65. Through God's mind raced images of a brand-new Adam—a man who would one day restore to Him His rightful place in the universe, and who would forever banish His archrival, Satan, from the kingdom.
- 66. And then it happened! One fine day, the image of this Savior coalesced in God's mind.
- 67. Without hesitation, God began speaking into existence the picture of the redeemer He had painted on the canvas of His consciousness. (E.W. Kenyon)
- 68. Excitedly, God positively confessed, "The Messiah is coming, the Messiah is coming!" (Charles Capps)
- 69. As God's Spirit hovered over a little woman named Mary, the confession began to take shape before His very eyes. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 70. The spoken Word became legs, arms, eyes, and hair. And then, presto! There, before God's very own eyes, emerged the body of the Second Adam. (Kenneth Copeland)

- 71. The Second Adam was named Jesus. And as Abraham's descendant, Jesus was wealthy and prosperous. He lived in a big house, (Kenneth Copeland) handled big money, (Benny Hinn) and even wore designer clothes. (John Avanzini)
- 72. In fact, Jesus was so wealthy that He actually needed a treasurer to keep track of all His money. (John Avanzini)
- 73. Jesus, who was a whiz at speaking things into existence, showed His disciples how to master the art of positive confession. (John Avanzini)
- 74. Thus, they, too, experienced unlimited health and unlimited wealth.
- 75. The fact is that some of His followers caught on so well that they became rich beyond comprehension.
- 76. The apostle Paul, for example, had so much money that government officials would work feverishly to try to get a bribe out of him. (Frederick Price)
- 77. Jesus also overcame every trick and temptation that Satan could throw His way.

- 78. Despite the fact that He never claimed to be God,
 Jesus succeeded in living a life of sinless perfection.
 (Charles Capps)
- 79. When all was said and done, Jesus passed the test that the first Adam had failed. And then, at the prime of His life, Jesus entered a garden—a garden much like Eden, where the first Adam had lost his godhood.
- 80. In this garden, called Gethsemane, Jesus moved into the final stages of a process that would transform Him from an immortal man to a satanic being (Kenneth Hagin) and would, in turn, re-create men as little gods (John Avanzini) who would no longer be subject to the scourge of sin, sickness, and suffering. (Kenneth Copeland)
- As part of the process, Jesus would have to die a double death on the cross. He would have to die spiritually as well as physically.
- 82. If physical death had been enough, the two thieves on the cross could have atoned for the sins of mankind. (E.W. Kenyon)

- 83. No, the real key was spiritual death and suffering in hell.
- 84. And then, one day, upon a cruel cross, the crystal Christ—the paragon of virtue—was transformed into a defiled demoniac.
- 85. The lamb became a serpent (Benny Hinn) and was ushered into the very bowels of the earth.
- 86. There, Christ was tortured by Satan and his minions. (Benny Hinn) And all hell laughed. (Frederick Price)
- 87. Little did Satan know, however, that the last laugh would be on him. For just as Adam had fallen for Satan's trap in Eden, now Satan had fallen for God's trap in hell. (Charles Capps)
- 88. You see, Satan had blown it on a technicality. He had dragged Jesus into hell illegally. (Paul Billheimer)
- 89. The truth is that Satan had completely forgotten to take into consideration the fact that Jesus had not actually sinned.

- 90. You see, Jesus had merely become sin as a result of the sin of others.
- 91. Alas, Satan and his demonic hosts had tortured the emaciated, poured out, little wormy spirit of Christ without legal rights. (Charles Capps)
- 92. And this was exactly the opening God had been looking for.
- 93. So seizing the moment, God spoke His faith-filled words into the bowels of the earth.
- 94. Suddenly, the twisted, death-wracked spirit of Jesus began to fill out and come back to life. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 95. He began to look like something the devil had never seen before.
- 96. There, in the sinister presence of the evil one himself, Jesus began to flex His spiritual muscles.
- 97. As a horde of whimpering demons looked on, Jesus whipped the devil in his own backyard.

- 98. He snatched Satan's keys and emerged from hell as a born-again man. (Charles Capps)
- 99. God had pulled off the coup of the ages. Not only had He tricked Satan out of his lordship, using Jesus as the bait, but He had also caught Satan on a technicality through which Jesus could be born again.
- 100. But that's not all! You see, because Jesus was re-created from a satanic being to an incarnation of God, you, too, can become an incarnation—as much an incarnation as Jesus Christ of Nazareth! (Kenneth Copeland)
- 101. And, as an incarnation of God, you can have unlimited health and unlimited wealth—a palace like the Taj Mahal with a Rolls Royce in your driveway. (Kenneth Copeland)
- 102. And if I could shock you (and maybe I should), you, my friend, are a little messiah running around on earth! (Kenneth Copeland)
- 103. All it takes now is to recognize your own divinity. You, too, can harness the force of faith.

- 104. Never again will you have to pray, "Thy will be done."(Kenneth Hagin) Rather, your word is God's command.(Frederick Price)
- 105. By simply using your tongue, you can literally speak whatsoever you desire into existence; (Benny Hinn) and then you can live happily ever after on this planet of prosperity.¹
- 106. What I just read to you sounded like a fairy-tale.
- 107. But in fact it was the beliefs of teachers like Kenneth Copeland, Charles Capps, Jerry Survelle, Paul Crouch, Kenneth Hagin, Fredric Price, Benny Hinn, E.W. Kenyan, John Avanzini, and Paul Billheimer.
- 108. These are some of the most powerful and prolific prosperity preachers operating within the church today—"teachers" who are systematically turning the truth into mythology.
- 109. Other teachers that are included in the list who echo this kind of teaching are T.D. Jakes, Joyce Myers and Joel Osteen who said, "Our words are vital in bringing our dreams to pass. It's not enough to simply see it by faith or in your imagination. You have to begin speaking

¹ This material is taken from Hank Hanegraaff's book "Christianity In Crisis: The 21st Century", pp.22-27.

words of faith over your life. Your words have enormous creative power. The moment you speak something out, you give birth to it. This is a spiritual principle, and it works whether what you are saying is good or bad, positive or negative."²

- 110. John says in 1 John 4:1 (NASB) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- 111. We are not to believe everything we hear but test what is being taught because there are false teachers "who secretly introduce destructive heresies," Peter says in 2 Peter 2:1.
- 112. And "many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words" (2 Peter 2:2-3).
- 113. Jude said in Jude 1:12-13 (NASB) that "These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild

² Ibid., Hanegraaff, p.13.

waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever."

- 114. As from the fairy-tale I just read, you can see how dangerous they are.
- 115. Yet many people watch them on TBN.
- 116. They listen to them on the radio.
- 117. They attend their meetings.
- 118. They support their "ministry."
- 119. And this is the very thing John warns about in 1 John 4:1.
- 120. John ends chapter 3 with mentioning the Holy Spirit.
- 121. He says, "The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."
- 122. Then in chapter 4, verse 1, he says, "do not believe every spirit."

- 123. There are other spirits besides the Holy Spirit.
- 124. They are demons, fallen angels, Satan's emissaries.
- 125. And they indwell unbelievers.
- 126. Jesus said in Matthew 7:15 (NASB) "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."
- 127. In 1 John 4:1, John gives us the command and the reason.

Notice first...

LESSON

I. The Command (v.1a)

- A. Do Not Believe Every Spirit
 - 1. This is an appeal to true believers
 - a) John refers to them as "beloved"
 - b) "Beloved" (agapetos) means, "only dear."3

³ Swanson, James. <u>Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)</u> 1997 : n. pag. Print.

- c) They were the "objects of [his] affection."4
- d) "Believe" (pistis) is a command that is used in the present tense to indicate that some were believing the false teachers, the gnostics.
- e) John says, "Stop!" "Do not believe them!"

2. There needs to be discernment

- a) 1 Corinthians 12:11 refers to a spiritual gift of discernment called "the discerning of spirits."
- b) Some have this gift and some don't but all believers are called to discern between truth and error.
- c) Paul's prayer for the Philippians was for discernment. He says in Philippians 1:9-11 (NASB) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having

⁴ Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. <u>Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains</u> 1996: 293. Print.

been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

- d) We are to "test all things" according to 1
 Thessalonians 5:21
- e) John MacArthur comments on this verse in his study Bible by saying "this call for careful examination and discernment is in response to the command of v. 20. One is never to downgrade the proclamation of God's Word, but to examine the preached word carefully (cf. Acts 17:10, 11). What is found to be "good" is to be wholeheartedly embraced. What is "evil" or unbiblical is to be shunned."⁵

Not only is there a need for discernment among God's people but...

- 3. You need to ask God for discernment
 - a) Proverbs 2:1-6
 - b) David said in Psalms 119:18 (NASB) "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things

⁵ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

from Your law."

The command then is to not believe every spirit but to...

- B. Test the Spirits (v.1b)
 - Don't believe everything you hear---don't be simple-minded
 - 2. "Christians are to have a healthy skepticism regarding any teaching, unlike some among John's congregations who were too open minded to anyone claiming a new teaching regarding the faith."
 - 3. The Psalmist said in Psalms 19:7 (NASB) "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."
 - 4. He said in Psalms 119:130 (NASB) "The unfolding of Your words gives light; <u>it gives understanding to the simple</u>."

⁶ Ibid, MacArthur, pp.1970-71.

- 5. False teaching ranges from the most intellectual to the experiential:
 - a) Zane Hodges teaches that conversion to Christ involves "no spiritual commitment whatsoever."⁷
 - b) Charles Ryrie in his popular study Bible called the Ryrie Study Bible teaches in order to be saved you do not have to have a "willingness" to yield to Christ's lordship."8
 - c) Phil Johnson, who is the Executive Director of Grace to You, the ministry of John MacArthur, wrote in an article called "My Visit to the Anaheim Vineyard" of an encounter with the experiential nonintellectual emotional movement of many charismatics. He writes, "The first thing I noticed were the dancing girls. The last time I visited the Vineyard, there had been no dance team. But now there were eight or twelve girls in flowing, gossamer gowns, and they danced around the aisles during all the musical numbers. Their moves were carefully choreographed, and the girls split

⁷ Hodges, Zane. The Gospel Under Siege, p.14.

⁸ Ryrie, Charles. Balancing the Christian Life, pp.169-70.

up in groups of about four and moved around the auditorium as the music played."

Next he tells the gist of what the pastor said to the congregation: "In a moment I'm going to call down the Holy Spirit. Things like you've never seen will begin to happen. People will laugh. Some will shake and quiver. Others may make strange animal noises. Don't be alarmed by anything you see; it's just the Holy Spirit working in His own special way. We don't put limits on how God can and cannot work. He may even surprise us with something new tonight. So no matter what you see happen, don't be alarmed. And above all, don't try to rationally evaluate the things you will see. God isn't trying to reach your mind; He wants to reach your heart. Analyzing spiritual phenomena through the grid of human logic or religious presuppositions is the quickest way to quench what the Spirit is doing. Subjecting the revival to doctrinal tests is the surest way to put out the fire. Don't try to find reasonable explanations for what is happening; just turn your heart loose and let the Spirit flow through your emotions. Only

then can the Spirit have His way in your life."

After this "a woman from the church staff led prayer and said, 'Holy Spirit, we give You permission to be who You want to be in our midst. We refuse to critique with our minds the work that You want to do in our hearts. We refuse to subject Your work to our little doctrinal tests."

Following the prayer he writes "when the signal was given for 'ministry time' to begin, people flooded to the front to be prayed for by the ministry team. The rest of the service was entirely chaotic. Among the things we witnessed were these: several people were 'pogoing in the spirit,' three women were lying on the floor, rather indelicately going through imaginary birth pangs, while a male minister stood over them, shouting 'Birth it! Birth it!, four teenage girls lay tangled together on the floor experiencing some sort of share convulsions, and overweight and unkempt man ran around the perimeter of the floor waving his arms and flinging sweat, the lone woman dance team wannabe was still in the corner, seemingly oblivious to all

around her, still going through her crude ballet-like emotions, various people wept, laughed, ran around the room, barked like dogs, and roared like wild animals."9

What did the apostle Paul say about this kind d) of behavior to the Corinthians? In 1 Corinthians 14:22-33 (NASB) So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. 23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you. 26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue,

⁹ Johnson, Phil. Article "My Visit to the Anaheim Vineyard." 1994.

each in turn, and one must interpret; 28 but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. 30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; 33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

- Examine what preachers are teaching in light of God's Word
 - a) Be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 (NASB)

 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
 - b) Peter said in 1 Peter 1:10-11 (NASB) As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made

careful <u>searches and inquiries</u>, 11 <u>seeking</u> to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

John 1:35-42 (NASB) Again the next day C) John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and *said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" 39 He *said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He *found first his own brother Simon and *said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be

called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

II. The Reason (v.1b)

John says the reason for testing the spirits is because "many false prophets have gone out in the world."

A. False Prophets Are in the World

- Peter said they are among the people 2 Peter
 2:1 (NASB) But false prophets also arose among
 the people, just as there will also be false
 teachers among you, who will secretly introduce
 destructive heresies, even denying the Master
 who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon
 themselves.
- 2. Jesus said to "Beware of false prophets" in Matthew 7:15

B. False Prophets Are in the Church

- 1. They are among you (2 Pet.2:1)
- 2. They rise up from within Paul said to the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20:29-31 (NASB) I know that after my departure <u>savage wolves will come in</u>

among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

- 3. Thomas Watson said, "Error damns as well as vice; the one pistols, the other poisons." 10
- 4. John Flavel said, "By entertaining of strange persons, men sometimes entertain angels unawares: but by entertaining of strange doctrines, many have entertained devils unaware."¹¹

CONCLUSION

- 1. The church must "test the spirits."
- 2. She must be discerning. You cannot open the door to everything under the sun.
- 3. There has to be a standard!

¹⁰ Thomas, The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations. 1997

¹¹ Ibid., Thomas.

- 4. There is! It's the Word of God!
- 5. Everything must be examined in light of what God says.
- 6. That examination begins by discerning whether you're saved or not.
- 7. You may listen to some of these teachers I have mentioned.
- 8. You need to stop.
- 9. They are leading you into hell.
- 10. Their whole theology is a fairy-tale.
- 11. It's no different than the Mormons or JW's.
- 12. Be a Berean.
- 13. Test what is being taught.
- 14. Let's pray.