

JOHN'S PURPOSE IN WRITING THIS LETTER

- 1. John had a polemical purpose He was writing to attack and refute the doctrinal errors that had leaked their way into the church
- 2. John had a pastoral purpose He wanted to cultivate assurance of who Jesus Christ is, assurance of salvation, and genuine fellowship with God and with one another as his "little children."

Satan always has made sure that numerous spiritual con artists thrive at their trade.

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For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satay disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their destiny will be according to their works.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15



I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Acts 20:29-30

A QUESTION WITH ETERNAL RAMIFICATIONS

Have you bought into Christianity or is your faith a cheap, phony substitute?



THE DOCTRINAL TEST

- 1. Do you believe everything starts with God?
 - To have fellowship with God we must begin with God and His authoritative revelation of Himself, not ourselves.



THE DOCTRINAL TEST

- 1. Do you believe everything starts with God?
- 2. Do you believe God is separate from everything?

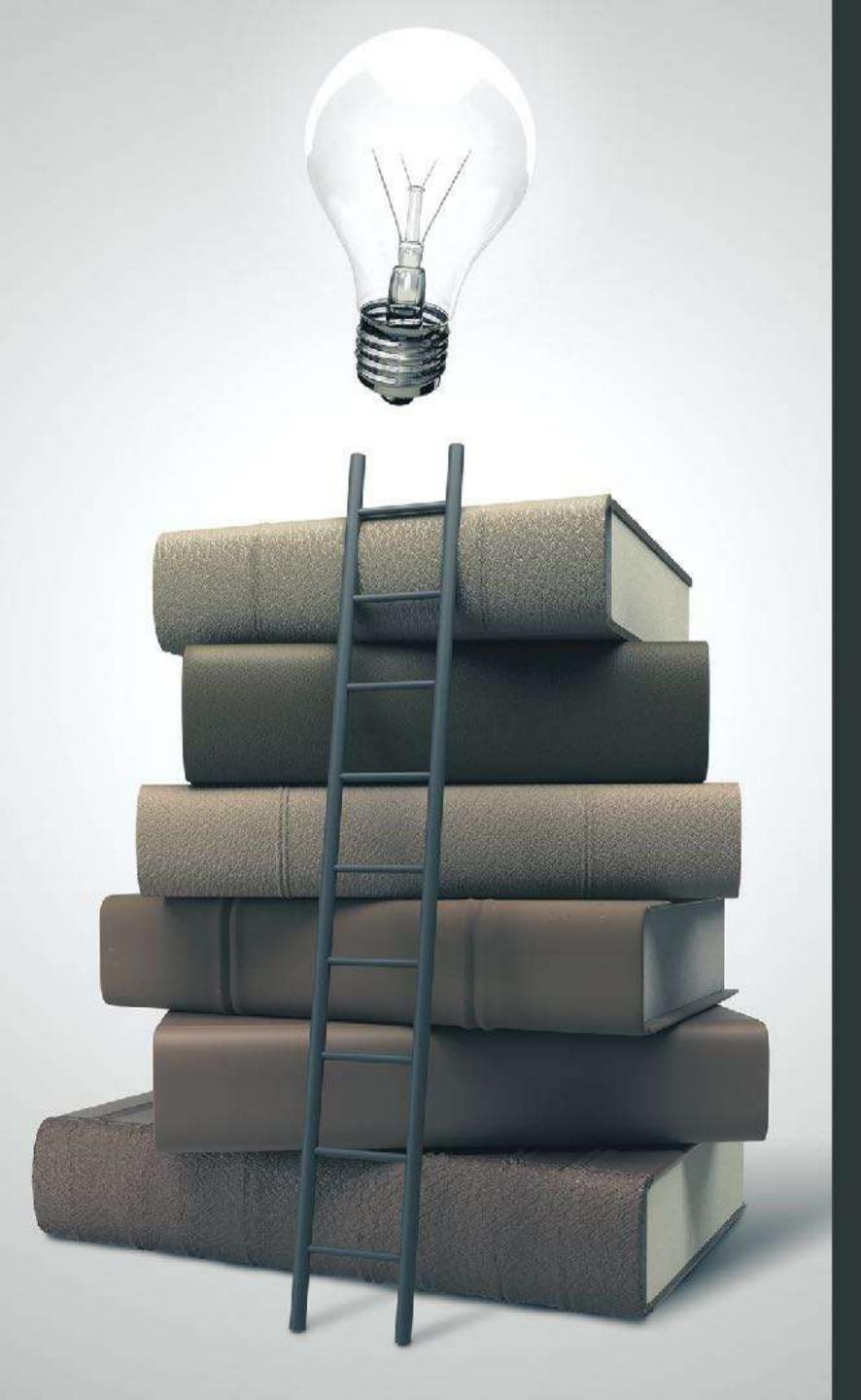
What does it mean that "God is light"?

- 1. It could be a description of the visible manifestation of God's glory
- 2. It could be a reference to God's self-revelation to man. Light enables us to see
- 3. It could refer to God's moral perfection



THE DOCTRINAL TEST

- 1. Do you believe everything starts with God?
- 2. Do you believe God is separate from everything?



THE ETHICAL TEST

1. Are you still groping in darkness?

The False Teachers Have No Fellowship

- 1. They have no love (1 John 1:7)
- 2. They hate the brothers (1 John 2:9,11)
- 3. They claim sinlessness (1 John 1:8)
- 4. They deny that Jesus came in the flesh (1 John 1:10)



THE ETHICAL TEST

- 1. Are you still groping in darkness?
- 2. Are you still deceiving yourself?

The Evil Progression of the False Teachers

- 1. Ignoring sin (1 John 1:6)
- 2. Denying the effects of sin (1 John 1:8)
- 3. Saying you have not actually sinned (1 John 1:10)



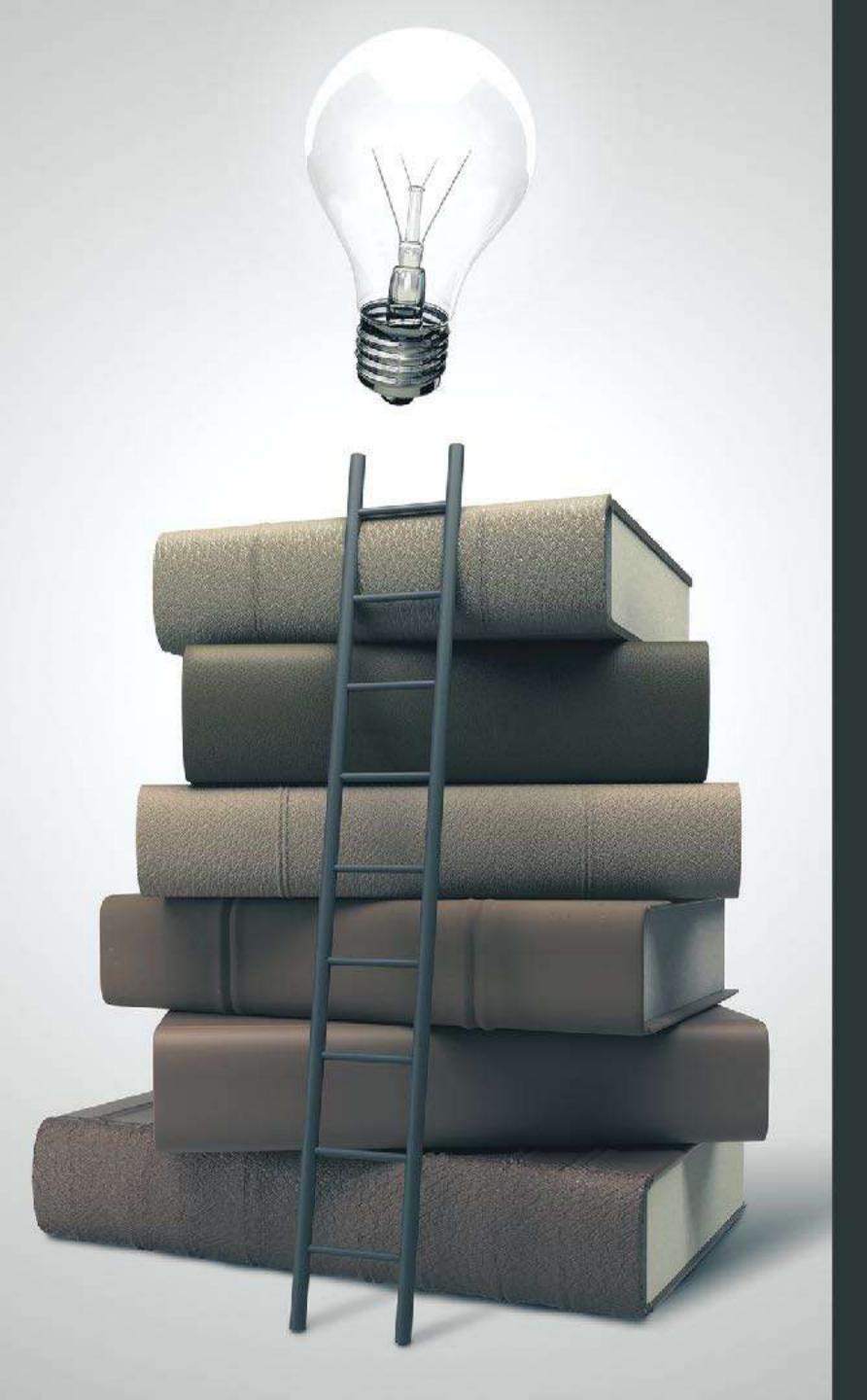
THE ETHICAL TEST

- 1. Are you still groping in darkness?
- 2. Are you still deceiving yourself?



THE RELATIONAL TEST

- 1. Do you have a close fellowship with God?
 - "Confess" is in the present tense
 - "Forgive" and "cleanse" are in the aorist tense



THE RELATIONAL TEST

- 1. Do you have a close fellowship with God?
- 2. Do you have a close fellowship with other believers?

Your eternal destiny rides on passing this test.

