

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

June 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

If counterfeit money is so easy to create today, how do you make sure that you've got the real thing?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 4:1-6; Gen 3:1-7

1. How did Satan demonstrate his tactics of doubt, denial and distortion? 3:1; 3:4; 3:5
2. What do you say to someone who says that testing is judgmental and therefore wrong? Vs 1; **1 Ths 5:21-22**
3. How are Christians supposed to test the spirits to see if they are from God? **Acts 17:11; 1 Cor 14:29**
4. If the first test is Christological (what a person says about Christ) how do you respond to a person that uses the term Jesus Christ but means something different? (i.e. gnostics, Mormons) **1 Jn:1-3**
5. What difference does it make that Jesus came in the flesh? (especially to gnostics) Vs. 2
6. What does it mean to "confess"?
7. Although many people accept intellectual truth to the knowledge of who Jesus is (**James 2:19**), what else is required to be saved? **Rom 10:9-10**
8. It is politically correct today to say that all monotheistic religions worship the same god. What would John, Jesus and Paul say about that? **1 Jn 2:23; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12**
9. If God took on human nature (incarnation – Phil 2:7-8) how does man take on the divine nature (regeneration)? **2 Pet 1:4; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Pet 1:23-25**
10. False teachers invariably devalue the work of Christ by championing some other form of salvation by works. **1 Cor 2:14; Col 2:20-23** What are some of those false works?
11. Why is the written word of God (Old and New Testament) a more reliable test for false prophets than human emotion and experience? **2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 Pet 1:25; Isa 40:8**
12. What part does the Holy Spirit play? **John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13**

APPLICATION

How can you be sure that you have the real Christianity?

Eureka! This simple Greek word—meaning “I have found it!”—became a life slogan for thousands of California gold prospectors in the mid-1800s. It summed up every treasure hunter’s dream and expressed the thrill of striking pay dirt. For James Marshall (the first to discover the precious metal in 1848) and the “forty-niners” who followed him, the term *eureka* meant instant riches, early retirement, and a life of carefree ease. But would-be prospectors quickly learned that not everything that appeared to be gold actually was. Riverbeds and rock quarries could be full of golden specks that were nevertheless entirely worthless. This “fool’s gold” was iron pyrite, and miners had to be careful to distinguish it from the real thing. Their very livelihood depended on it. Experienced miners could usually distinguish pyrite from gold simply by looking at it. But, in some cases, the distinction was not quite so clear. So, they developed tests to discern what was genuine from what was not. One test involved biting the rock in question. Real gold is softer than the human tooth, whereas fool’s gold is harder. A second test involved scraping the rock on a piece of white stone, such as ceramic. True gold leaves a yellow streak, whereas the residue left by fool’s gold is greenish black. In either case, a miner relied on tests to authenticate his finds—both his fortune and his future depended on the results.¹

¹ MacArthur, J. (2007). *1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary* (151–152). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.