

# TEST IT FIRST

## SCRIPTURE:

*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. (1 John 4: 1)*

## MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Coolant testing bulb

## MAIN MESSAGE:

Do not be afraid to test what is taught. The Scripture is the ultimate authority on all matters. If what you are taught doesn't line up to God's Word, you are to reject it. But what if you never check? You'll never know.

**SONG:** "Do All in the Name of the Lord"

## LESSON:

I was never really big on working on cars, even though my father did everything within his power to instill in my brothers and I a basic working knowledge of them. When he was rebuilding an engine, at least one of the boys were there with him - ok, only some of the time. We would hand him tools when asked and be allowed to be involved with small tasks. I can't say it all really sank in because there are too many stories of gas tanks run dry, oil left unchanged, and even one where the antifreeze and the oil got mixed up. Needless to say, there was a very good reason why my father believed in buying "junk" cars for his boys to drive. He knew the possibility of us destroying a vehicle or two was pretty high.

One of the lessons I did learn about cars was that sometimes they have a tendency to overheat, especially if something within the cooling system is not working well. Spending my high school days in western Pennsylvania and my middle school days around Ft. Worth, Texas, taught me to make sure the car always needed to have antifreeze, and good antifreeze at that. If the temperature got too cold for the antifreeze, you were going to be in for a chilling walk, if too hot, smoke would let loose like a signal on the old western frontier. That's where the coolant bulb tester came into play.

There are a few different models available today; however, at the most basic function, the coolant bulb tester is designed to let you know what temperature for which your cooling fluid is best suited. If you lived in a place where the temperature would get really cold, you would need to make sure your fluid could handle that cold, and if warm, could it handle the heat? A great headache could be avoided by simply testing the fluid!

The same could be said when referring to testing what preachers, teachers, friends, relatives say against the Bible. God intends for us to be well studied in the Scriptures so that we can tell the difference between what is sound teaching and what isn't. Testing doesn't mean dismissing. It means having your own faith based upon your own study of God's Word. What are some teachings your family has heard in the last week? Do they pass the test of the God's Word?

**PRAYER:** Help us never to become lazy in our own studies, always prepared to test what we hear by Your Word.