

of like passions with their worshippers. In the heathen writers many stories are told of things done by gods which are, according to our ideas, very immoral. In the great Babylonian

epic, in the story of the flood, the god Ea equivocates so plainly that, had he been a man, we should have called him a liar.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

Who wrote this epistle? To whom? What other books of the N. T. did he write? When was it written? Where?

5. From whom did the message come? What was it? What is meant by "light" and "darkness"? What did James say of God as the source of blessings? (Jas. 1: 7). Did Christ manifest this divine light? (John 1: 5-9; 3: 19). Darkness emblematic—Jas. 8: 22; Eph. 5: 11; 6: 12; Luke 22: 53; Matt. 6: 23).

6. What is meant by "walking in darkness"? What is meant by "doing the truth"? Obedience is the test of discipleship—I John 2: 4; John 15: 10, 14; 14: 21, 23; 2 Cor. 6: 14.

7. What is meant by "walking in the light"? How does walking in the light promote christian fellowship? How does the blood of Christ cleanse from sin? Read 1 Cor. 6: 11; Eph. 1: 7; Heb. 9: 14; 1 Pet. 1: 18, 19; 1 John 2: 2; Rev. 1: 5.

8. Does John believe in "sinless perfection"? Read 1 Kings 8: 46; 2 Chr. 6: 36; Job 9: 2; 15: 14; 25: 4; Prov. 20: 9; Ecc. 7: 20; Jas. 3: 2.

9. How do we escape the penalty of sin? To what is God faithful? Why would God be unjust not to forgive sin? How are we cleansed from unrighteousness? Pardon follows penitence—Ps. 32: 5; Job 33: 27, 28; Ps. 51: 17; Prov. 28: 13; Isa. 55: 6, 7. God's justice manifested in pardoning sin—Rom. 3: 26; Acts 13: 38, 39; Rom. 8: 1; Isa. 53: 11; Hab. 2: 4.

1. By what affectionate term does John address christians? (John 13: 33; Gal. 4: 9; 1 John 2: 12, 28; 3: 7, 18; 4: 4; 5: 21). What gave him a right to speak in this way? For what purpose did John write these words?

What comfort have we if we fall into sin? Read Rom. 8: 34; 1 Tim. 2: 5; Heb. 9: 15, 24; 7: 24, 25.

2. What is meant by a "propitiation" for sin? (Rom. 3: 25; 1 John 4: 10. Compare Ps. 5: 5; 7: 11; Ex. 23: 7; Heb. 2: 2 with 2 Cor. 5: 19, 21; Rom. 10: 4; 8: 1, 33, 34.) In what sense is Christ a propitiation for the sins of the whole world? (1 Tim. 2: 3-6; John 3: 16; Heb. 2: 9). Read John 1: 29; 4: 42; 11: 51, 52; 1 John 4: 14.

3. What is meant by "Knowing God"? What is the test of our knowing him?

4-6. What does John say of those who profess to be true christians and yet lead wicked lives? How is love to God made more perfect? (John 14: 21, 23; 1 John 4: 12; 1 Cor. 13: 13). Whom are we ever to imitate?

TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

(Senior).

- 1.—What does John say that God "is"? (5)
- 2.—What do those have who walk in the light? (5)
- 3.—What hope have we if we sin again after being forgiven? (5)
- 4.—How is our love to God perfected? (5)
- 5.—What is the only true test of a genuine disciple? (6)

(Intermediate).

- 1.—What are meant by "light" and "darkness"? (4)
- 2.—What cleanses from all sin? (4)
- 3.—What makes it just for God to forgive sins? (6)
- 4.—What assurance have we that our daily sins are forgiven if we confess them? (5)
- 5.—What is meant by one's walk? (6)

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

I. *Having an object in view in our work.* It is of the highest importance in order to our success in teaching, that we should have before us a distinct object. It is well to ask ourselves, what is our aim in teaching this lesson? Are we pursuing that course, which is likely to se-

cure the end we have in view. The Apostle here says that his object in writing these things to the churches was, that their "joy might be full." In chap. 2: 1 he says, that he writes with the object in view of keeping them from sin, "that ye sin not." Again, in chapter 2