

## *Introduction*

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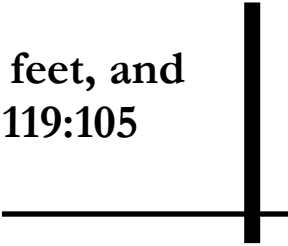
Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church  
Young People's Fellowship

### *How to study the Bible*



**“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and  
a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105**

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## Scripture Portion: Psalm 119: 89-104

The Bible is a unique book. It is a composite library of 66 books, of which 39 comprise the Old Testament and 27 the New Testament.

Any careful student of God's Word will quickly discover that there is a method behind the arrangement of the books, and a unity about the Bible that is nothing less than Divine. The Bible is inspired, authoritative and entirely trustworthy. Psalm 119:160

Consider the following:

### 1. THE BIBLE - ITS FORMATION.

The Old Testament may be divided into four sections: The *Pentateuch* (Genesis to Deuteronomy); the *historical* books (Joshua to Job); the *poetical* books (Psalms to Song of Solomon); and the *prophetical* books (Isaiah to Malachi). In the New Testament the *historical* books are Matthew to Acts; the *doctrinal* books are Romans to Jude; and the great book of *prophecy* is The Book of Revelation.

The 66 books of the Bible were written by some forty different writers, who lived in different countries, spoke different languages and came from different backgrounds.

The writers included a king (David), a doctor (Luke), a herdsman (Amos), a tax collector (Matthew), a theologian (Paul), a scribe, (Ezra) and a fisherman (Peter), etc.

Their writings were spread over a period of 1600 years, so there could be no collusion or communication. Think of it – 40 different writers, spread over 55 generations, producing 66 books; and yet when these books are placed together there is a perfect unity and harmony about them all.

## **2. THE BIBLE - ITS INSPIRATION.**

God is the Author of the Bible, but He employed many human writers. These forty writers claimed to be writing down the words of the Lord. 'Thus saith the Lord...' and similar expressions occur hundreds of times in the Bible – compare Exodus 20:1 and 24:4. In the twenty-seven chapters of Leviticus there are fifty-six assertions assigning its authorship to the Lord Himself. The same is true of the historical, the poetical and the prophetic books of the Old Testament. What about the New Testament? The Old Testament is woven into the New Testament. Literally scores of Old Testament sayings are quoted in the New Testament, and the Lord Jesus, the Gospel-writers, Paul, Peter, James and John all accepted the divine authority and authorship of the Old Testament – look up 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.

## **3. THE BIBLE - ITS PERFECTION**

It is commonly held that the Bible is full of errors and contradictions. Let us understand that there are many things in the Bible about which we need fuller light; but let us also state confidently that the Bible is

accurate and reliable. What seem to be discrepancies are often cleared away after careful and prayerful investigation. *There is not one single proved inaccuracy in the whole Bible.* (Psalm 119:160.)

#### **4. THE BIBLE - ITS REVELATION.**

The revelation of truth we have in the Bible is progressively given, and by the time we get to the Book of Revelation we have a perfect and complete body of truth.

In the 66 books there is everything we need to know about ourselves, sin, death, Heaven, Hell, about God and His nature, about Christ and His love, and about redemption. The revelation in the Bible is complete.

One message runs right through the Bible – the message of God's great love for sinful humanity; of the gift of His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; of His provision of salvation, and of His righteous claims perfectly satisfied at Calvary.

The entire Canon of Scripture culminates in “...the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (Titus 2:13).

**THE BIBLE IS A WONDERFUL BOOK . TELL ME DID YOU READ YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**