

Introductory Sermon
Study Guide



*"A Lamp for My Feet:
The Transforming Power of the Word of God"*
Dr. Mark Strauss, January 8/9, 2010

God's Word is:

1. Water to Sustain Us, *Psalm 1:3*
2. A Lamp to Guide Us, *Psalm 119:105*
3. A Sword to Change Us, *Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Discussion Questions:

1. Read *Psalm 1*. Verse one says that "blessing" comes to those who avoid the advice or counsel of the "wicked" and "sinners." These are people who hold values that are not biblical. What values being affirmed today in our society are contrary to God's values found in the Bible? Be specific: What values are taught on television, movies and the media concerning issues like honesty, integrity, sexual purity, sexual faithfulness, truth, kindness, etc?
2. In *Psalm 1* God's Word ("his law") is compared to a stream which waters a tree (the believer). How does this analogy help us understand the need for us to read and study the Bible? What benefits will we derive from it?
3. *Psalm 119* is the longest psalm in the Bible and a great passage about God's Word. Read through the psalm and identify some of the blessings to be gained from studying God's Word.
4. Read *Hebrews 4:12*. What do you think it means that God's Word cuts like a sword? In what ways is God's Word "dangerous?" In what ways does our spiritual life sometimes need to experience radical surgery?
5. Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17*. According to these verses, the Bible is more than just a book of nice stories and good moral lessons. It is God's inspired Word - his message to us. The phrase translated "inspired by God" is an unusual word in Greek which means something like "God-breathed." According to verse 17, what benefits can be gained from studying God's inspired Word?

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