

## Bible Study 101

*This puzzle was given to me at a retreat, and I refused to accept the answer key. I insisted at the time that we already had the answer key - the Bible. Hopefully I won't regret my rash actions. If you haven't opened your Bible in a while, this is a fun way to get started. If you already regularly read scripture, you should enjoy the challenge. Hopefully the answer key will be available soon, but one never knows!*

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on it while fishing from his John boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that will be really easy to spot, that's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister of scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing some of the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the alpha delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all in plane view, hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that the books like Samuel and Timothy may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.