

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 June 9, 2024

The Bible Is Your Manufacturer's Instruction Manual

by Alex D. Ogden

The above sentence sermon was seen outside a religious meetinghouse some years ago. I was first told of the sign by another who remembered it a little differently. They thought it had said, *The Bible Is Your Manufacturer's Owner's Manual*. I thought it was a good sentence sermon and thus I fixed it up and printed it in the bulletin I then edited. When I saw the sign for myself and saw the sign actually said the Bible is our *Instruction* manual, I began to realize the Bible is not our owner's manual. The thought of a manufacturer's owner's manual is for something to be the creation of a company and they then sell that item to an individual who learns how to use it by the owner's manual (so called because they are now the owners of the item). But stop and think about it for a moment. We are the creation of Jehovah, no disagreement there, but the Bible has not been given to us as an owner's manual because we do

Contact Information

	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 680872 Prattville, AL 36067
	Phone Numbers	(334) 868-0801
	E-Mail Address Web Address	prattmont@gmail.com prattmontchurchofchrist.org

not own ourselves. Paul said, “...ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body” (1Corinthians 6:19-20). We do not belong to ourselves but to the Lord and, therefore, the Bible cannot be thought of as our owner's manual.

But the thought of the Bible being given to us as our *Instruction* manual is a very good one. The Lord created us and placed us on this earth. But man needs guidance in how to live his life. Jeremiah the prophet put it this way, “*O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*” (Jeremiah 10:23). Man needs guidance or instructions in how to live his life. It's like many of the gifts our children receive for their birthdays or other occasions. Special instructions are included to aid the parent in the assembly and operation of the toy. Without some type of instruction, many toys would be useless. Likewise, without instruction from our Creator our life on this earth would be totally useless, without any real value.

The Bible gives us full and complete instruction in how to live our life here on the earth in preparation of an eternal life with the Father in heaven. Notice the words of the apostle Paul, “*Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Although it is not in man to direct his own steps, our Creator has supplied us with a manual to instruct us in how to live our life here and how to prepare for an eternity with Him in heaven.

The Bible instructs us how to become a child of God, a Christian. It shows us the love our Creator has for us, His creation, by the sacrifice He made of His only begotten Son, Jesus. This

immeasurable love of God motivates us to become all He would have us to be. Thus, we follow His instructions to become one of His children. He tells us to believe in Jesus as His Son and as the Messiah promised throughout the Old Testament (cf. John 3:16). He tells us to believe in His Son to such a degree that we will repent of our sins (Acts 17:30), confess our faith to others (Romans 10:10), and be buried with His Son in a watery grave called baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). If we will follow His instructions found in the Bible, we will become a Christian, a child of God.

The Bible also instructs us of our responsibilities as a child of God. It shows us the responsibilities we have as individual Christians as well as the responsibilities we have as we work together as a congregation. If we will follow the instructions found in the Bible we will individually become mature children of God (Ephesians 4:11-16) and as a congregation we will become strong and influential, like the church in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 1:7,8).

The Bible instructs us how to live in every relationship we may enter into in this life. It gives instructions pertaining to our relationship to our government (Romans 13:1-8), the relationships of the home (Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:1-7), economic relationships (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25), social relationships (Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:12; Colossians 4:5), and of course our spiritual relationship with the Father (Ephesians 4:1-16).

Since the Bible is our manufacturer's instruction manual, doesn't it make sense to study it more often and thoroughly than we do? Why not dedicate yourself to a regular study of God's word?