

Another Word Jan 31, 2023

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I would like to extend a big thank you to Linda, Alan, Shelley, Brian, Lana, Miriam, and Paige for the wonderful worship service on the 29th. (The service was to be presented on the 22nd but was postponed because of the weather.) The prayers, readings, music, and message were wonderful.

Don't forget to sign up for our next Bible study that will begin February 21st. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering area.

There will be a leadership meeting Feb. 12th at 9:30am. All are welcome to attend.

Our scriptures for Feb 5th will be: Micah 6: 1-8, Lana Bell will be our serving Elder. My scripture will be Matthew 5: 1-12, "Who are they that follow Jesus?" We will also bring the message to Belmont Tower at 2pm. Please join us if you can.

Let us be in prayer.

Almighty God our loving Father, You dwell in mystery and majesty. Through the Holy Spirit You renew us and sustain us. And through Your Son Jesus, You reveal Your love of us. Through our faith, we seek your presence and ask that You come to us in our weakness that we will be transformed by Your strength. And, through Your spirit, may we learn to love You as well as our neighbor, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In Jesus' precious and perfect name we pray, Amen.

Owner's manuals come in all shapes and sizes. For something simple, say a small wall clock, the instructions may be just listed on the box. They may be as simple as, "remove from box, set the time, then insert one double "A" battery." But then there are owner's manuals for complicated items like a riding mower. Luckily, I kept mine. It has been invaluable for repairs, replacement parts, and maintenance; a life saver of sorts. (Hold that thought.)

Then there are the manuals that defy reason. I purchased a new trickle charger for my motorcycle. During the cold season, smaller batteries need help staying charged during times of inactivity. When I opened the box, I was struck by the size of the instruction manual. It was over 80 pages. You need to know that a trickle charger attaches to the battery and then you plug it in to an outlet; it's not really rocket science going on here. I was relieved to find that the first 2 pages were in English, the other 78 pages were in different languages. A simple one-page diagram could have replaced all 80 pages.

Sometimes in our rush to enjoy a new purchase, we rush ahead and assemble without consulting the manual only to find we have missed a couple of steps or have parts left over. And then, there are the times when the instruction manual doesn't go with the item. There's nothing worse than when it says, "Insert tab A into slot B," and there's no slot B.

What I think we can learn from all this is: we need instructions, we need to follow them, and just as important, the instructions need to be clear, concise, and correct.

I think that the same is true with our Christian life. Instructions and guidance are needed as we wind our way through the world. And yes, you guessed it, The Bible is our owner's manual. It contains everything we need to know about how our lives fit and interact with God, Jesus, and our neighbors.

Paul, writing to Timothy spells it out very well. He writes, “you have known the Holy Scriptures since your youth which has made you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All scripture is God inspired and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that (you) may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3: 15-17) Now, that’s some serious instruction.

First it says scripture is doctrine: in other words, it teaches what is true and what isn’t. Rebuking: scripture tells us how we all have “missed the mark and are sinners.” But then, Paul goes on to tell us how we can correct our lives through guidance, direction, and instruction to become righteous, and live in a way that glorifies God! In other words, we must study and know scripture in order to live fruitful lives.

So, I guess I can say that if you are connected to the right power source, are reading the right instruction manual, and consulting it daily for guidance and direction, your tabs and slots will always align properly.

In His Peace,

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