

## THE OWNER'S MANUAL

The Bible is to the Christian what the Owner's Manual is to the owner of an automobile. Read it and heed it to keep in good operating condition and avoid breakdowns!

The Bible was written by 40 authors over a period of approximately 1,500 years. Some of these men never heard of the others, they lived centuries apart so there was no collusion among the forty. And yet they have presented a Book that has the most marvelous continuity of any book that has ever been written.

It is a God given Book. In the Bible God says over 2,500 times, "God said" or "the Lord said" or "Thus says the Lord." It is a Divine-Human Book. God used holy men to record His Words: "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." The result: "All scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Tim. 3:16)

The Bible and Church. What is church all about anyway? Whose idea was "Church"? Well, it's God's idea, of course. Church is the gathering of God's people. Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18) So what is church all about? It's about God; getting to know God: God's Person, God's Priorities, God's Plans for time and eternity.

So, where do we find answers to questions about God? In the Bible - the Divine Library of 66 books. The Bible is the textbook for serious searchers of truth. So when we go to church we should expect to hear Bible truths. Speakers who deal in speculation, human philosophies and myths can be heard everywhere outside the church. When we go to church we should expect to hear what our Creator says about His creatures; what the Heavenly Father has to say to His children; what the Shepherd has to say to His sheep; what the Great Physician has to say about my illnesses; what the Divine Teacher has to say to His students. That is why Jesus says 15 times: "He that has ears to hear, let him hear ." Seven of those times He adds: "what the Spirit says to the churches."

The seeker after God never sits in judgment upon God's written revelation of Himself, but humbly submits to the Divine Decrees of the Word of the Creator-Father-God. So, get out the Owner's Manual and have a check-up!

"Holy Bible, Book Divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine;  
Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am.  
Mine to comfort in distress, Suffering in this wilderness;  
Mine to show by living faith, Man can triumph over death.  
Mine to tell of joys to come, And the rebel sinner's doom;  
O thou Holy Book Divine, Precious Treasure, thou art mine!"

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