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## Read the Instructions

By Taylor Braswell on March 22, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** 1 Thessalonians 4

My first car was a 2000 Chevrolet Malibu. My Meemaw bought the car new. After she died, my cousin wrecked the car and then it was given to me. The Malibu was purple and looked like it was specifically designed for only Meemaws to drive (no offense to all the Meemaws out there). The Malibu had many problems, which led to my dad and I working on it constantly. If you are serious about working on your own car, you need a repair manual. A repair manual gives instructions on how to fix your car! Every time the car was broken, we would reference the manual to get instructions. Imagine what would have happened if I looked at the manual once and thought I could fix every problem with my car from then on.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul reminds the church of the instructions he gave them from Christ. Paul uses the words *walking* and *sanctification* for a reason! The Christian life cannot be stagnant. Yes, when you are saved God declares you righteous once and for all, but your life after this point does not stay the same. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Christ! Paul reminds the church that their lives should be set apart and look different from the world around them. As Christians, we need to daily get instructions from God! If we listen to pastor Jeff give a sermon once a week and neglect our own personal time in God's Word, we will forget our instructions. Paul commands us to love one another and encourage each other with these instructions! Just like I cannot read a service manual once to fix my car forever, you cannot read the Bible once and daily become more like Christ. Brothers and sisters, talk to others about what God is doing in your life and ask other Christians to meet with you so you can be reminded of God's instructions to you. If you are reading this, I am so encouraged that you have a Bible reading plan! We should want everyone we know to have a Bible reading plan as well.

**PRAYER:** Father, give me a daily desire so meditate on Your Word. Sanctify me through Your Spirit and use me to encourage and love others around me.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 1 Thessalonians 5

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