

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 Study ..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Worship ..... 10:00 A.M.  
 Training Class .... 5:00 P.M.  
 Worship ..... 6:00 P.M.

##### *Wednesday:*

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

### Contact Information



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P.O. Box 680872  
 Prattville, AL 36067



**Phone Numbers**

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**E-Mail Address  
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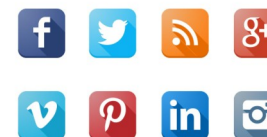
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## *Weekly Bulletin* November 19, 2017

### I-ddiction

*by Dee Bowman*



I don't know whether or not Al Gore invented the internet. I only know that it has had the most profound influence of any innovation since Gutenberg invented moveable type for the printing press. Like most other inventions, that influence is both good and bad. The modern day computer, dressed up in its finest internet garments, has made its way into business, medicine, business, politics, as well as other lesser areas of life. It has been good for most of these fields of endeavor, but it has brought decay and deterioration to some areas.

The internet has come to dominate us. We are in the clutches of I-ddiction. We are I-ddicted.

One of its most pervasive entries has been in the field of entertainment where, in my opinion, it has done more harm than good. We have become immersed in a sea of entertainment in this generation. We have to have it. Every day. Its influence is everywhere—it's seen in how we walk and talk, how we dress, how we say what we say, and a host of other things. Even religious leaders today are little more than entertainers. Almost everything we do is influenced by who and what is popular.

Perhaps the most significant and onerous contribution I-ddiction has

brought to today's world is its unabashed provision of pornography. Pornographic participation as easy as tapping a tab. What was once available only with considerable effort is not just easily obtained, but because moral restraints are so relaxed, almost-pornographic scenes appear virtually everywhere in some form or the other— in the movies, in some commercials, even occasionally on news programs. It's almost as if today's media is accepting the use of pornographic scenes; there are but a few restraints. Those who have studied pornography's influence say it is a multi-billion dollar business.

The social media craze is another sign of today's I-ddiction. Its influence is astounding. And it's not only addicted people of the world—those who have little or no spiritual inclinations—but it has captured the imagination of numerous Christians, who almost without realizing it, have become I-addicted. I've been home with people after a preaching service when they hardly entered the house before they grabbed the I-pad, Kindle or I-phone to face the day and twitter some time talking about stuff which has little or at least relatively little benefit. It almost insults the guest when someone can't go to the refrigerator without taking the instrument of their satisfaction with them. And the conversation? There are only fragmented sentences, calculated to recognize your presence, not converse with you. After all, we've got to look at the real screen of life, don't you know?

I-ddiction is dangerous, both in potentiality and reality. It can gradually erode away spirituality by robbing one of time for prayer, meditation, or private worship. Or, it can openly and unabashedly take you places you shouldn't go by offering a satisfaction once reserved only for those who could find the street with the red lights. Furthermore, the social media addict tends to suffer a break-down of his restraints. People will put pictures on Facebook they would not even post on the mirror in the bedroom. The I-ddict will say things on the social media pages he would not dare say in a face-to face conversation. Gossip proliferates at a staggering rate in the social media. Innuendo and half-truths are told with impunity and without any feelings of conscience. And what's sad is that most of the people using the social media don't even know what it's doing to them.

And what about what I-ddiction and the family? Fathers, in far too many homes, take a back seat to the instructions given to their family on

Facebook or Twitter. In too many homes, both the parents and the kids are I-ddicts. Mothers are often so busy with their social media friends that they have little time to be keepers at home, much less develop caring and loving relationships with the children. Grandparents who may have little to do with the internet don't even have enough acceptable parlance to carry on an intelligent conversation with their grandchildren. And sadly, even some of them have become I-addicted because it's about the only way they can have a relationship with the grandchildren.

I worry about what I-ddiction is going to do to us. Remember the story about the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11? When God saw that man's pride had totally consumed him, do you remember what He decided to do about it? He confounded their language. We are, in my most humble estimation, headed headlong into a re-play of the attitudes that caused the proposal for the Tower of Babel. English is the language of the world in this I-generation. It won't be long, methinks, until everyone will be even more highly influenced by what is on the internet. And don't you think the Devil knows that? And don't you think he'll use that?

But there's another side to the story we're telling. The internet is not inherently evil, nor are the social media outlets it has spawned. The internet and its social media companions provide probably the most potentially effective medium for the propagation of the gospel ever before known. Almost everybody almost everywhere has an I-pad, Kindle or cell phone. That means the social media can take the gospel anywhere we want it to go any time we choose. And at little if any cost. Sure, it takes a little nerve, but just because it does is no excuse for not making God's gospel available for any who will hear it anywhere in the world. And it doesn't have to be some formal web-page, either. It can be a simple Facebook-to-Facebook conversation by two people who're looking for God. In fact, that may well be at once the most effective and yet the most neglected way of getting out the message of salvation to a lost world. It's how it was done in the New Testament—they just went everywhere preaching the word.—person-to-person. Will people hear? Not many. But how do we measure the value of one soul? Mostly, it's just a matter of facing the facts and putting the information out there for the “whosoever will come.”

By the way, do you know anyone who is an I-ddict?