

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

April 2013

I pray you and your family had a lovely Easter, as you reflected on the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Picture a cabin in the wilderness on a snowy mountainside, cold, gray, dismal, and dreary. Now, picture this same scene with just a touch of firelight painted in the windows, it is now warm and cozy looking.

When the followers of Christ looked in and saw that empty tomb, it gave them hope! Why? Because He had risen just as He said He would, and this meant all of the other things He said concerning Himself would also come true. If you check, you'll find that **Muhammad's** tomb still houses his remains. **Confucius** is still buried in his, and **Buddha's** bones are still in the grave where his followers put them. But Jesus' tomb is empty and He is our answer to sin and death!

My friend, because of the resurrection, we are absolutely certain that Jesus has power over sin and death. And because Jesus overcame death, we do not have to be afraid to die. We must continually remember that we died with Christ and when He was raised, we were raised. Christ is free from death and since we are in Him, we are free from eternal death.

Paul says in **Romans 4:25** – “...*who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*”

You and I have been **justified**. To simplify that word **justification** many theologians over the years have defined it this way, God now sees you forever... just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned. Not perfect in ourselves, but perfect in Christ Jesus!

**Ephesians 2:4-6** – “*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> **and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...**” This is how God will forever see His true children. The resurrection of Christ proves our resurrection with Christ. God the Father's acceptance of God the Son back into heaven proves that He accepted His death as payment for all our sins.*

We love to sing this, but maybe we do not really see how deep the Father's love for us really is, ***“Grace, grace, God’s grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God’s grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!”*** The cross is the continual reminder.

Please pray as I lead a group of people on a 10-Day Holy Land Tour April 30th through May 9th. We have been looking forward to this trip for a long time and I can't wait to report back to you what it was like...**to walk where Jesus walked.**

My friend, it is through your love and support of Abiding Above Ministries, and the “Abiding Above with Chris Hodges” broadcasts, that we are able to continue sharing the “*Good News*” of Jesus Christ! On April 1st, we became partners with Oneplace.com. This is an online internet broadcast forum...so login to [Oneplace.com](http://Oneplace.com) and locate us under the [All Ministries](#) tab on their homepage. We look forward to your visit.

The screenshot shows the Oneplace.com website interface. At the top, there is a banner for 'THE MOMENT' reality series. Below the banner is a navigation bar with 'All Ministries', 'Español', 'Devotionals', 'Downloads', 'Topics', 'Articles', and 'Newsletters'. The main content area is titled 'Abiding Above with Chris Hodges'. On the left, there are 'MINISTRY LINKS' for 'Listen', 'Read', and 'Download / Buy / Subscribe'. The 'Latest Broadcast' section features a 'PLAY' button, the title 'God Speaks To Us Through His Blessings', the date 'Wednesday, April 03, 2013', and a description: 'When we count our blessings we will be reminded that God is in control.' There are also 'MP3' and 'PODCAST' buttons. Below the broadcast information are social media sharing options: 'Like', 'Send', 'Tweet', '+1', 'Email', and 'More...'. On the right, there is a portrait of Chris Hodges and a 'Donate to this Ministry' button with a 'Visit Ministry's Website' link.

Thank you for your love and your support!

Abiding Above,

Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3