



abidingabove

MINISTRIES

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

August 2013

When you receive this newsletter I will be preaching in a Bible Conference in New Jersey. I am bringing a series of messages I have entitled *Joy in the Journey*. Please pray for me just now.

“ When you pay close attention to what’s going on in the world around us, you cannot help but wonder how long God will tarry in sending Jesus to rapture the church. ”

Yes, my friend, there will be a rapture. The Bible says in **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** – “*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*”

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

These verses speak of the rapture, a catching away of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Most conservative evangelical pastors and theologians think this rapture is very near.

The late Dr. Adrian Rogers used to say not that long ago, “*Friends, look around you, it is getting gloriously dark.*” He meant, as the present world system that is ruled by Satan grows darker, the coming of Jesus must be getting closer. We will see Him in all of His glory. He will outshine the darkness. So, glory to God, it is getting darker! The Lord is at hand!

Another verse from **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** – “*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

You might want to know more on this subject. Write to us and we will send to you a message I preached entitled “**The Soon Return of Jesus Christ.**” I believe it will be a blessing to you.

Many Christians are weary these days. There is a worldwide feeling among Christians that all seems to be in vain. People are tired. Pastors are wondering where they should stand in ministry in relation to the church growth movement that we see has changed many of our churches. Pastors wonder, “*Are these worldly changes or am I simply dated and stuck in my ways?*” The temptation is to move with the times.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

Right now, there are momentary successes in moving with the times. I remember once a friend of mine named Bob Sorrell saying at a pastor's meeting, "Some things that seem so right just have not had time to fail yet." I believe those are wise words.

Tell your pastor to hold on, fly straight, be slow to change, and stay in step with the Rock of Ages. But, maybe you could buy him a new suit if he is somewhat dated in appearance. Then too, some pastors make it hard on themselves, their families and their people thinking somehow they are more pleasing and acceptable to God. My friend, if you are caught in that trap of misery let me ask you, "How much do you have to do to finally please God and get His acceptance?" The answer is nothing! When you put your trust in Christ to save you by His grace, not only did He save you forever, He accepted you forever. It is finished! Know this my friend, you will be far more fruitful and less tired in ministry! Why? Because you have learned the secret of abiding in Him Who is your Life. You have learned to operate from your eternal position in Christ and from his indwelling Holy Spirit.

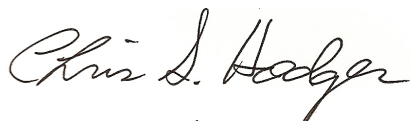
If you are a pastor reading this or a Sunday school teacher, go tell your people it is finished! You are saved and accepted by God the Father through the merits of God the Son and made real to you by God the Holy Spirit! Enjoy it! Walk in it!

The Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 1:3-6** - "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted** in the Beloved.*"

If you would like to know more on this subject, write to us and request a message I have preached entitled, "**How To Have Personal Revival.**"

My friend, we need you. Please consider us in your giving. We thank you now for what you give and for your prayers for us. You are special and we love you!

Still Abiding Above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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