

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

December 2011

Thank you so much for praying for our men's retreat, "*Though None Go with Me.*" We had a wonderful time as my friends, Terry Brimhall and Larry Browning, hosted us at a lake house on the Tennessee River. It was so beautiful. The fall colors were brilliant as we looked from the windows and deck of the Brimhall home. We enjoyed a pleasant ride on a pontoon boat, where we had plenty of time to fellowship with one another and discuss the teaching sessions.

I used power point presentations to teach the subject, "*The Believers Identity in Christ.*" Basically, this teaches a person who they were in Adam, the first man, what God did with our state of depravity, and the positive message of who you are now. This is all based on the full message of our crucifixion with Christ.

One participant said to me between one of our sessions, "*I feel like I have been robbed. I have never heard anyone teach on this particular truth!*" Another participant said, "*If this truth was made clear among believers in our local churches, there would be Spirit-filled children of God, walking about, every where you go, here in the Bible belt.*"

I closed our weekend with this message, "*Though None Go with Me.*" This message makes clear to us the demands our Lord made concerning discipleship. I encouraged these men to be willing to step out of the religious crowd and identify with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death on the cross.

Luke 14:27 - "*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*"

My friend, we are to take up that cross, the cross where you were crucified with Him, and choose to live with the truth of these verses in mind:

Galatians 2:20 - "... *It is no longer "I" but Christ.*"

Mark 12:30 – Jesus said, "... *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.*"

Matthew 10:37 - "*He who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*"

These are strong words from our Lord. We know He loves us, so let's heed these serious words and ask ourselves this question, *"Have I ever disciplined someone? When will I?"* God would have us to make other disciples as we live our daily lives "being" a disciple of Jesus Christ.

At the close of an evangelistic meeting, a cynic approached Dwight L. Moody, and said; *"Mr. Moody, during your address this evening I counted eighteen mistakes in your English."* Looking at his critic, Mr. Moody said: *"Young man, I am using for the glory of God all the grammar that I know; are you doing the same?"*

My friend, never think for any reason you cannot be a fully devoted disciple for Christ. Simply be who you already are in Christ and God will take you just the way you are and bring Himself glory from your consecrated life. Remember, God never makes duplicates; He only makes originals. You are one of God's originals. Give all you know of you, to all you know of Him, and hear those words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

I pray you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with your family and friends. Here in America we have so much for which to be thankful. It is quite amazing, how under the hand of God, this nation with its short history is such a blessing to so many around the world. Let's continue, my friend, to see the gospel spread to the ends of the earth.

I ask you to pray for us as we negotiate more airtime for radio, and other forms of media, that we may continue to encourage believers in who they are in Christ, and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and all to the glory of God.

Please consider us in your year-end giving. We surely need you. This is always a critical time for this ministry.

Pray for me as I preach for my dear friend in ministry, Rev. Al Pihringer. Al is the pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church in Southaven, MS.

My family and I pray, that you and your family will have a wonderful Spirit-filled Christmas!

Abiding above,



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