



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

December 2013

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, as we share the gospel with those who are lost, and encourage those who are saved and trying to find meaning in the Christian life.

Because of you, we are able to do this through every form of media that goes out all over the world. It continues to amaze us what God does as we trust Him day-by-day as a ministry. We are prayerfully planning to increase the number of radio stations we are on during 2014! Our simple radio spots, which are being heard across the nation, point people to our website where they can listen to our entire sermon collection, sign up for free Bible lessons, and hear and read a clear presentation of the gospel.

“*Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year!*”

Christmas is a most wonderful time of the year! We pray you and your family will walk along in God’s Holy Spirit all through the holidays. Sometimes we forget the deep significance of the coming of Jesus to Bethlehem. Everything changed when He came and fulfilled all God sent Him to do! My friend, we moved from law to grace. Thank God for His most wonderful gift!

It is important to understand that how you view God is crucial to how you see yourself and others. **Matthew 1:23** - “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” My friend, God revealed to us in the Old Testament that He would come as both man and God in the person of Jesus Christ. “**God with us!**”

We read in **Hebrews 1:1-2** – “God, who at various times and in various ways ***spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...***”

God's truth was obviously not given all at one time, and the varying stages of revelation show that He has worked in different ways at different times. We see this clearly in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

John says, “For the law was given through Moses (***Old Testament***), but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (***New Testament***).” **John 1:17**

Jesus fulfilled the demands of the Old Testament Law of Moses. We are not under law, we are in grace because we are in Christ Who fulfilled the demands of the law **with us**.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

You see, the people of Old Testament times had a covenant view of God. Within five specific covenants, there are two types, conditional and unconditional. A conditional covenant is one in which God has required the people to fulfill certain obligations **before** He fulfills His promise(s).

A key phrase or formula to look for would be one such as, "**IF** you do this ... **THEN** I'll do this."

Exodus 19:5 – “Now therefore, **if** you will indeed obey My voice and **keep** My covenant, **then** you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.”

You could say conditional covenants are "**IF**" covenants like the Mosaic Covenant.

It was a temporary contract that detailed God's laws for the nation of Israel, and **it was to only continue until** the coming of the Promised Seed Jesus Christ

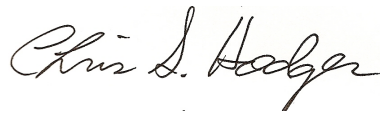
Paul says in **Galatians 3:16** – “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”

So, the people in the Old Testament had a covenant view of God, rather than a parent-child view of God the Father. If, obey, keep, **(then)** you shall be.

Then Jesus came! Everything changed! Jesus fulfilled the demands of the law and we are in-lawed to Christ because we are in Christ! It is longer if you keep the law, instead you are forever in Christ! It is finished!

Celebrate this Christmas with the full understanding of the birth of our Savior Jesus!

Abiding above,



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