



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

December 2017

As I write this newsletter, I am sitting by our Christmas tree. There are no presents underneath it yet, but I know my family and I will be thoughtfully buying one another gifts and exchanging gifts with our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. As I look across the living room into the entrance hallway, on a little table, there is a manger scene carved and constructed out of olive wood from Bethlehem. Long ago, in 1993, I traveled to the Holy Land with Adrian and Joyce Rogers for a 10-day tour and I bought this manger scene in a little shop there. We get it out every year as we spend the month of December remembering the birth of Jesus, Who is God, made visible in the flesh. If you want to know “what God is like” read about Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It’s all right there in Jesus.

Jesus came from heaven to earth, specifically, the Bethlehem manger, just as the prophet Micah foretold.

*“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.” (Micah 5:2)*

We live in such a wonderful time! We can read God’s Word looking back over thousands of years and see that exactly what God said, He did!

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

Now, meditate on this during this Christmas season, ... we need not beg God to do something. Why? God already has! Praise the Lord! We absolutely must remember these things in these last days:

1. God has already sent Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem.
2. Jesus has already died for our sins at age 33.
3. Jesus was resurrected just like He said He would be.
4. Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

5. God sent Jesus to Bethlehem and God sent the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, right here and right now. The same Holy Spirit that was in Jesus is the same Holy Spirit that is in you, right here and right now.

“... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

My friend, Satan does not want the scales to fall from our eyes so that our hearts might be enlightened.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints ...” (Ephesians 1:18)

The world-system, the flesh (self), and the devil are blinding not only those that remain apart from Christ, but also God’s dear children. God’s children who have not come into the realization (eyes of the heart enlightened) that God has completed His part of what He said He would do, long ago. By the Holy Spirit in us, He works through us, just like He worked through Jesus those 33 years on earth.

This Christmas season, let’s pay close attention to what we pray. Could we be begging God for what He has already provided in the manger in Bethlehem and on the cross in Jerusalem?

My friend, what is conveyed in this newsletter is the reason for the forming of Abiding Above Ministries. Our purpose is to share the simple gospel with the lost, and to help believers grow spiritually with simple Bible lessons. Our literature ministry, the radio and the internet are our means of declaring Biblical truth to all people.

We need your prayers and financial support. As you think of year-end giving, please consider helping us. All monies are going straight into helping thousands see *“Christ died for you and you died with Christ.” (John 3:16; Galatians 2:20).*

Abiding above,



President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3

P.S. – **PS:** We thank you in advance for the help you give us here as God leads you.

Just a reminder that the last date for contribution credits for the 2017 year will be December 29th.