

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

February 2012

I pray this newsletter finds you resting on the One from Whom all blessings flow. That's right, my friend. You are already blessed! It's not that you're going to be, but that you are right now!

The Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 3:1** – *“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** ...”*

This literally means *“**in the heaventies.**”* My friend, God sees us in the realm of heavenly possessions and experiences, into which the Christian is brought, because of our association with the risen Christ.

You might ask, “How can this be true?” You must see through the eyes of God. God sees you in light of eternity that has no beginning and no end. Our problem is that we see God and ourselves according to time. This limits our understanding of vast portions of scripture that speak of the true believer in the heavenly realm (**In Christ**).

Let me illustrate this way. A child of God dies; you attend the funeral. Where is he? He is not in the body, but in heaven. When did he go to heaven? When he died?

God teaches us in His Word that the true child of God is already in heaven, **“in Christ,”** at His right hand! So, before the man died, God was seeing him **“in Christ,”** in heaven.

Colossians 3:1-3 – *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

But Christ, according to this verse, when did I die? The answer is - when you were crucified with Christ.

Galatians 2:20 – *“I have been (**crucified with Christ**); it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

Your position, my friend, in God's eyes (in light of eternity) is in heaven, or you might say, your standing is in heaven. But, your condition is still here on earth (in light of time), or you might say, your state is here on earth.

What I have just described helps us understand why God would say in His Word:

1. *“Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*
2. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus** ...” Romans 8:1*
3. *“But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:13*
4. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one **in Christ Jesus**.” Galatians 3:28*
5. *“But of Him you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30*

My friend, I know this has to be meditated on. I pray you will. Your body is your earth suit here in time. Your spirit and soul is in your body. When your physical body dies, your spirit and soul go to heaven. So, God sees you in both places, in heaven at His right hand and on earth. He would have you live on earth out of your resources in heaven, “**in Christ**.”

How? By letting the Holy Spirit Who lives in your human spirit have all there is of you. Surrender to His control moment-by-moment. This is how to live a heavenly life on earth. This is Abiding Above.

I need your help as never before. We have signed a new contract with Bott-Radio Network (WCRV 640 am). We are increasing our airtime and the number of days we will broadcast. Please help me in this.

You can know what I just shared in the above newsletter is what causes genuine revival. When men, women, boys and girls, for the first time see themselves the way God sees them, and the way He teaches us in His Word, there is spiritual growth. It’s like the grass that goes dormant in the winter. It looks dead but it is very much alive. It’s just dormant. Then spring comes and you begin to see the green come through. Our radio broadcasts are designed to lovingly cause Christians to begin to grow again spiritually.

Come see me sometime at First Baptist Lakeland. God bless you and make you a blessing.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
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Colossians 3:1-3