

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

February, 2013

The father's name was John Griffith, he had lost all he had in the stock market crash. So he moved his family to Mississippi where he took a job as bridge operator for a railroad trestle.

In 1937, he was involved in a horrible accident. One day his 8 year-old son, Greg, spent the day with his Dad at work. The boy poked around the office and asked dozens of questions - just like little boys do.

The bridge John operated was over a river and whenever a ship came he had to open the bridge to allow the ships to pass. On this day, the day that his son Greg went to work with him, a ship came so John opened up the drawbridge. After a moment or two, he realized his son wasn't in the office and as he looked around, to his horror, John saw his son climbing around on the gears of the drawbridge. He hurried outside to rescue his son but just then he heard a fast approaching passenger train, the Memphis Express, filled with 400 people. He yelled to his son, but the noise of the now clearing ship and the oncoming train made it impossible for the boy to hear him.

All of a sudden, John Griffith realized his horrible dilemma. If he took the time to rescue his son the train would crash killing all aboard, but if he closed the bridge, the boy would be crushed in the gears. John would sacrifice his son. He made the horrible decision, pulled the lever and closed the bridge. It is said, as the train went by John could see the faces of the passengers, some reading, some even waving, all of them oblivious to the sacrifice that had just been made for them.

My friend, this is a perfect picture of what God the Father did for you and me by sending God the Son to be our Substitute, **dying on the cross for us and as us**.

We see in **1 John 2:2** - *"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

That word **propitiation** means **satisfaction**. This means that it pleased, it satisfied God's wrath to crucify Jesus. **Isaiah 53:10** - *"But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief ..."*

One commentator said, *"All God's purposes shall be realized through Him. Seeing the multitudes of those who have been redeemed by His blood He will **be** amply **satisfied**."*

My friend, you are His child; God's wrath on you has been satisfied by the death of His Son Jesus. You see, God saw you on the cross with Jesus when He was crucified.

That is what Paul meant when he said in **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."*

You see, God is not like any negative authority you have had in your life. God is perfect in all that He does. There are no mistakes with God. God can't be impatient, sarcastic, over demanding, unfair, practicing favoritism, etc. Humans do that, but God never has. Why? God is always perfect in all that He does every single time! Be very careful not to associate a perfect God with negative authority in your life. God is not like lost or carnal people in your life. God is eternal; He has no beginning and no end. God is Holy; He is eternally separate and distinct from all impurity. God is unchanging in His being or in His promises. God is infinite; God is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or his creation. God is all knowing, this includes the past, the present, and the future.

My friend, these are only a few things to be known about God. There are so many more. This is where we get our strength and our comfort. He is God! Nothing can happen apart from His permissive will. If God allows something, He will work in that circumstance to bring something good from it!

Please be praying as I preach an upcoming revival in Mississippi, and also as I preach an old fashioned Tent Revival in Downtown Memphis. Pray that people will be saved and believers will clearly see who they are *"In Christ Jesus."* It is my prayer that God personally blesses you and makes you and your family a blessing to many more until He calls you to Himself one day.

Only one life, twill soon be past.  
Only what is done for Christ will last.  
And when I am dying, how glad I will be,  
that the light of my life was burned out for Thee.  
- C.T. Studd



My friend, come along and travel with us to Israel, April 30th - May 9th, 2013. There is still time for you to sign-up, so you don't want to miss this opportunity. Please contact us by phone (901)-590-9890 or E-mail us at [calsip@abidingabove.org](mailto:calsip@abidingabove.org) for information on this upcoming and exciting trip to Israel.

Abiding above,

Handwritten signature of Chris S. Hodges in cursive script.

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