



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

January 2017

Happy New Year 2017!

I know you had a wonderful Christ-filled Christmas and New Year's Day! Yes, our society is becoming increasingly secular, but that does not affect our power of choice to keep Christ in Christmas and make Him first in all that we do throughout each year.

Let's influence our society for Jesus Christ in 2017!

One way this can be done is to purpose in our hearts to say a word for Jesus wherever we go. This does not have to be done in an abrupt and obtrusive way. When He is your Life, it is the most natural thing to speak of Him. The Bible tells us to, ***"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*** 1 Peter 3:15

Billy Graham, speaking to the Southern Baptist Convention said this, ***"For too long we have been cursing the darkness; it is time for us to rise above the darkness, it is time for us to rise above the tares and to influence the world for Jesus Christ."***

Let's encourage one another to abide above the darkness in 2017, so that we may not lose our light and witness. Jesus said, ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*** Matthew 5:16

My friend, as we abide above, Jesus, Who is our life, will shine through all that we say and do. Our speech either increases the darkness or reveals the light of our heavenly Father. Let's be in 2017, who we already are in Christ, children of God's Holy light.

My friend, God alone and what God provides for us is all that we need.

He is the great I Am, and we are in Him. He lives inside of us, making real what He has already accomplished for us at the cross.



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

This reminds me of the old hymn, **At the Cross**;

“At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.” Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Aren't you glad that God takes you just the way you are and that all your burdens have been placed upon Jesus? You are saved for all eternity! You can know that God will bring Himself glory from your consecrated life. Remember, God never makes duplicates; He only makes originals and 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.”*

Have you visited our website lately? www.abidingabove.org

We have updated our website, and it is our prayer that this site will continue to be a blessing and encouragement to you and that you will take advantage of passing along our web address to someone else.

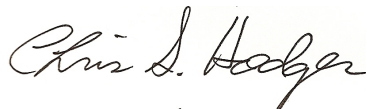
We are a Ministry of Encouragement...

We are the instruments of God... **to share the gospel with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.** We are accomplishing this purpose through the ongoing work of Abiding Above Ministries.

Yes, my friend, God continues to work through your faithful prayers and gifts to reach people around the globe, and we thank you for helping us do this. As a faith-based ministry, we are solely supported by the gifts of God's people...you. In today's economy, we need you now more than ever to help us continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for making this your ministry and serving along with me. I'm praying right now that God blesses you and causes others to look upon you with favor in your family life and your business life.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3