



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

July 2014

If there was ever a nation that stood out from all the rest in the history of the world, as being blessed by God, it is the United States of America.

The world's people see us as a miracle, and that we are, a miracle from Jehovah God of the Bible. We are a miracle from God, not for our pleasure but for His Divine purposes. Never has there been a nation, so young in history that has been able to accomplish in a short period of time all that we have.

Think about the Wright Brothers, two American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane, and making the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight on December 17, 1903.

***Only 66 years later...***

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 landed the first humans on the moon. Americans, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, took this historic spaceflight and then, six hours later, on July 21, Armstrong was the first to step onto the lunar surface.

Think about the millions of Americans that witnessed and read about both of these events... ***happening...in their lifetime.***

**Psalm 33:12** – *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.”*

Those first pilgrims left Great Britain and came here, not seeking to get rich, but so they could be free in their worship of God, and they were protected and blessed by God. God ‘caused’ them to be successful! God made their minds and their hands to prosper.

***Eventually colonies were formed...***

Disputes between Great Britain and these colonies led to the American Revolution. On July 4, 1776, as the colonies were fighting Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War, delegates from these 13 colonies unanimously issued the Declaration of Independence.



Chris Hodges  
President & CEO

In 1783, the war ended with the recognition of independence of the United States from the Kingdom of Great Britain. This was the first successful war of independence against a European colonial empire. We recently celebrated this freedom with our annual Fourth of July Celebration. We have so much to be proud of and so many things for which we should be grateful and thankful.

All of us know, something has happened to America and continues to this day. Sometimes we talk about it with great concern and passion in our voices. Sometimes we want to dismiss it from our minds and try to think, speak, and appear positive. Great leaders emerge in times like these. They stand and cry out to the masses to return to the first things, you have left your first love.

To the Church of Ephesus, this was written, *“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. But this I have against you, that you have left your first love.”* **Revelation 2:2-4**

Since we were children, we have know this greatest commandment, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and foremost commandment.”* **Matthew 22:37-38**

This is what is promised if we do not leave our first love, *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”* **John 14:21**

I want to encourage you my friend, plan to finish well. Take an assessment of all that you have and all that you do and see it in light of the above scriptures. As an individual, strike out and walk intimately with the One who created you and the One you will live with for all eternity. Everything and everyone must be placed in their proper place in your life, and that is a distant second. May God be glorified in your life!

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support! We certainly need you!

Abiding above,



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